



## PLSAS Legislative Platform

### February 2017

### Adequate, Equitable and Stable Funding

Adequate, equitable and stable funding is essential to ensuring equitable academic outcomes for our students.

- Increase the basic formula allowance by at a minimum of 2.0 percent per year and index them to inflation. Recent increases in the basic formula have done little to make up for the significant loss of buying power due to inflation over the past two decades.
- Increase the state's share of special education funding. The amount of revenue school districts must divert from their general funds to pay for mandated but unreimbursed services exceeds \$600 million per year. It is crucial that this shortfall in state funding for special education be funded.

### Tax Relief and Equalization

Current property tax policy reduces educational opportunity for many students. Without significant commercial and industrial development to expand the tax base and lower the overall taxpayer cost, the cost for school levies falls heavily on the local home and small business owner.

- Increase state assistance to low-property wealth school districts for local school operating and building bond levies by increasing the equalizing factors for the referendum equalization and debt service equalization programs and indexing equalization to inflation.

### Enhance Local Control to Support and Encourage Innovation

One size fits all mandates stifle innovation and creativity and consume staff time and resources.

- Expand the innovation zone law and provide per student funding to allow school districts to try new instructional models, personalize student learning and increase collaboration with post-secondary institutions and businesses.