

MSBA Government Relations

Vision 2023 on the Political Horizon



MSBA Government Relations Team



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The Government Relations team advocates on your behalf on education issues at the state Capitol.

We monitor legislation, share updates with you, our members, and provide avenues for you to advocate on your district's behalf.

Elections Matter - DFL Trifecta

- Democrats Control House of Representatives 70-64
- Democrats Control Senate 34-33
- Milestones



Constitutional Officers Re-elected

Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan

Attorney General Ellison

Secretary of State Simon

State Auditor Blaha

Leadership Matters

House Leaders

- Rep. Hortman, Speaker of the House
- Rep. Jamie Long, Majority Leader
- Rep. Lisa Demuth, Minority Leader

Senate Leaders

- Sen. Kari Dziedzic, Majority Leader
- Sen. Bobby Jo Champion, President
- Sen. Mark Johnson, Minority Leader

Education Leadership Matters

House Education Committee Chairs

- Dave Pinto, Children & Families Policy and Finance
- Rep. Laurie Pryor, Education Policy
- Rep. Cheryl Youakim, Education Finance

Senate Education Committee Chairs

- Sen. Steve Cwodzinski, Education Policy
- Sen. Mary Kunesh, Education Finance

Budget Forecast Matters

- \$17.6 Billion Surplus for 2024-25 Biennium
- Almost \$12 Billion One-Time Funds
- Structural Balance for 2024-25 Biennium is \$6.327 Billion
- Structural Balance for 2026-27 Biennium is \$8.430 Billion
- Inflation Projection
 - \$1.552 Billion in 2024-25 and \$3.309 Billion in 2026-27
- Governor's Budget Released in January

MSBA Platform for 2023

Constitutional Obligation to Fully Fund Education



LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM FOR 2023


The Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) is a statewide organization and a leading advocate for public education, serving 331 public school districts with 2,450 locally elected school board members. School boards lead and govern school districts small and large – from 76 students to 37,626 students – 866,438 statewide, which represents 16 percent of Minnesota's total population. Our student demographic profile is 36 percent students of color, 32 percent qualify for free or reduced-priced meals, and 17 percent receiving special education services. Minnesota's student population is growing in diversity, special education needs, and poverty. Our districts' and students' needs are growing.

MSBA's mission is to support, promote, and advocate for local school boards so all students are valued and achieve their potential.



MSBA Platform for 2023 - Finance

Fully Fund Public Education



MSBA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM FOR 2023

Minnesota's Legislature has a constitutional duty to provide a general and uniform system of public schools. Legislators play a critical role in appropriating funds and oversight to ensure every student benefits from an excellent public education.


The MSBA platform recognizes the 2023 Legislature will determine the operating budgets for the next two years for every school district in the state. For this budget year, critical choices must be made to stabilize and increase public education funding, especially as federal ESSER revenue ends. Education funding has many pieces. One critical piece is the per pupil formula, which currently is underfunded by \$1,263 per student due to inflation. The perpetual underfunding of special education is the second critical piece, which causes an additional underfunding of approximately \$765 million or \$833 per pupil to be subtracted from the general fund. The third, equalization, ensures the quality of a child's education will not vary according to property wealth of their community. These critical pieces impact all public school districts and are the cornerstone of MSBA's legislative platform:

- Increase the **basic education formula** by 5% each year; indexed to inflation to address:
 - Critical staffing shortages including teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, social workers, nurses, and bus drivers
 - Mental health support and violence prevention
 - Interrupted learning and recovery efforts due to COVID
 - The disparity in academic achievement among student populations
- Fully fund the **special education cross-subsidy**:
 - Underfunding of special education reduces learning opportunities for all students
 - Solve the shortage of special education staff and training
- Increase equity of eroded **equalization** formulas:
 - Operating referendum
 - Local optional revenue (LOR)
 - Debt service formulas
 - Equalize and increase state schools levy
- Tools to **transform and innovate** our schools:
 - Flexibility in how schools define "instructional hours"
 - Provide more flexibility in allowing schools to become online learning providers
 - Increase career and technical opportunities and funding
 - Explore new funding eligibility mechanisms for free and reduced lunch
 - Build a statewide plan for computer science education and funding
- **Flexibility in funding** new and renovated facilities:
 - Transfer of revenue from Long-term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) to Operating Capital
 - Flexibility in health and safety funding for renovation of buildings
 - Revise cannabinoid edible law to ban possession or use on school property and school events as well as restrict the sale of THC products within a certain distance from schools.
- **Empower** local decision making:
 - Allow local school boards to renew an existing operating referendum
 - Resist new, statewide unfunded mandates
 - Increase legal life limits on Type III vehicles
 - Allow a board to leave a school board vacancy open under certain conditions
- **School personnel licensure**:
 - Allow districts to train and hire short-call substitute teachers
 - Expedite teacher licensure process

- Increase the **basic education formula** by 5% each year; indexed to inflation (\$343 per pupil or \$1 billion)
- Fully fund the **special education cross-subsidy** (\$883 per pupil or \$765 million statewide)
- Increase **equalization** formulas
 - Debt service (\$65 million)
 - Referendum equalization (\$80 million)

MSBA Platform for 2023 - Policy

Innovation



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- Increase career and technical opportunities
- Free and reduced price lunch
- Computer Science education and funding

MSBA Platform for 2023 - Policy

Licensure



LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM FOR 2023

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Big Issues to Watch

- Paid Family and Medical Leave
- Unemployment for Unlicensed/Hourly Workers
- Continuing Contracts for ECFE/ABE Teachers
- THC Edibles
- Universal Meals
- Non-exclusionary Discipline
- Potential PELSB proposals

Stay Informed

Keep in Touch with MSBA Government Relations

Denise Dittrich – ddittrich@mnmsba.org – 507-380-7928

Kim Lewis – klewis@mnmsba.org – 612-309-1451

Weekly Advocate – Monday as a part of *The Weekly Update* email to your inbox

The Friday Chatroom – 30-minute Zoom at 9:00 am with Denise and Kim

MSBA Advocacy Roadmap

Putting Passion for Public Education into Action



MSBA Advocacy Roadmap





Be Informed

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Know Your School District

- ✓ Develop your district's story and be prepared to share with others
 - Special education and EL cross-subsidies
 - Other areas of underfunding
 - Staffing shortages
 - District demographics (FRL, Transportation, Students of Color, Technology Access, Property Tax Wealth)



Be Informed

Engage in the Legislative Process

- ✓ Get to know who represents your district (state and federal)
- ✓ Be familiar with the education committee process (House and Senate)





Legislative Updates

Legislative Updates

Ask for the Change You Need

- ✓ Establish an annual legislative agenda/platform
- ✓ Host a legislative candidate forum
- ✓ Establish a parent or community legislative advocacy group



Legislative Updates

Learn Key Messages on Important Issues

- ✓ Leadership Conference (January)
- ✓ Day at the Capitol (March)
- ✓ Advocacy Tour (September)
- ✓ Delegate Assembly/Submit Resolutions (December)
- ✓ Friday Chat Room (every Friday during session)





Stay
Connected

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Every Monday Read the Weekly Advocate in *The UPDATE*

- ✓ Weekly updates on capitol highlights and action items for you to share with your board

Attend the Friday Chat Room

- ✓ Weekly legislative update at 9AM via Zoom



Stay Connected

Sign-up for MSBA eClippings

- ✓ Daily news articles on schools and education sent to your inbox

MSBA Website

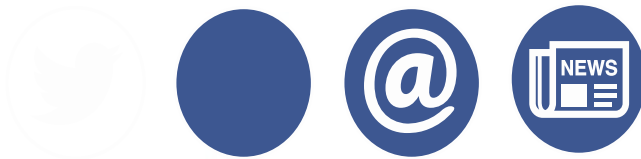
- ✓ Resources for advocacy, webinars and more



Stay Connected

Engage in Social Media

- ✓ Follow your district's legislators
- ✓ Follow MSBA
- ✓ Like, retweet and post



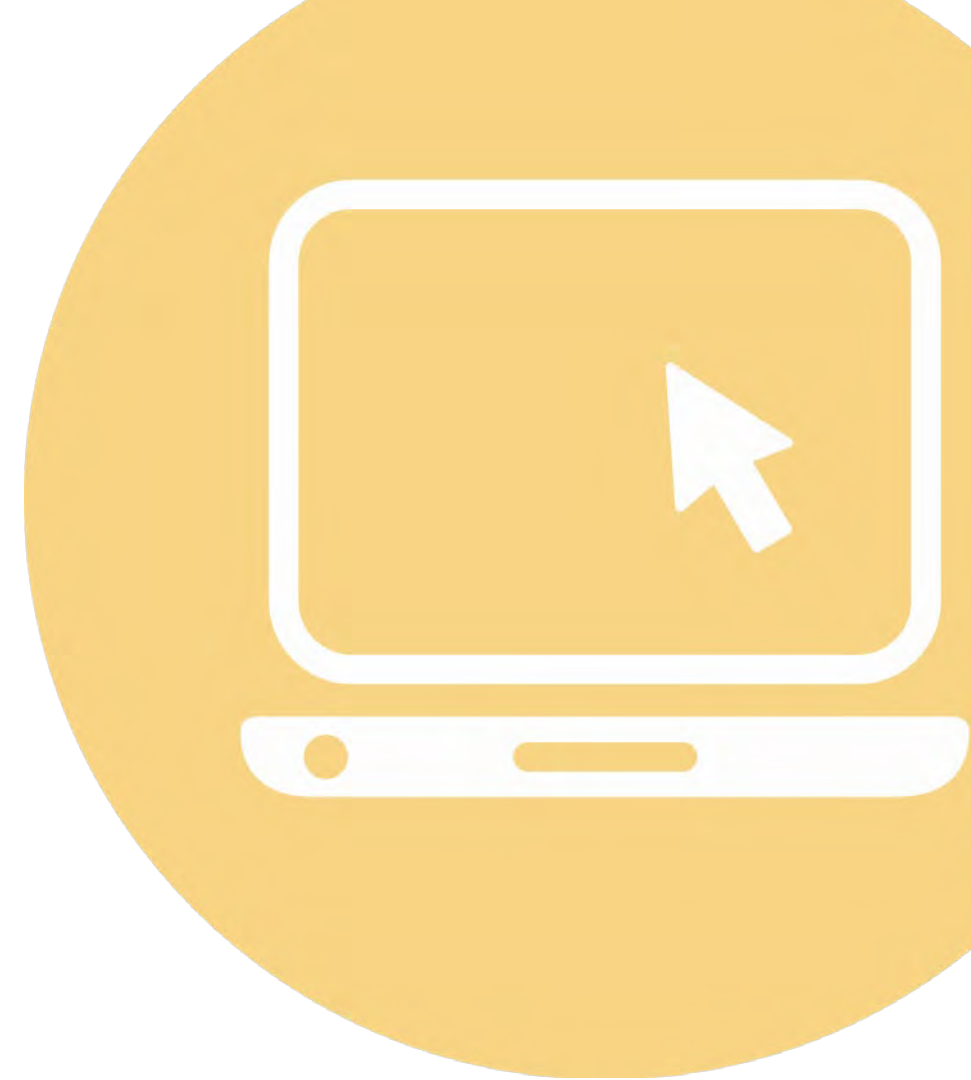


Take Action

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Host a School Visit or District Showcase

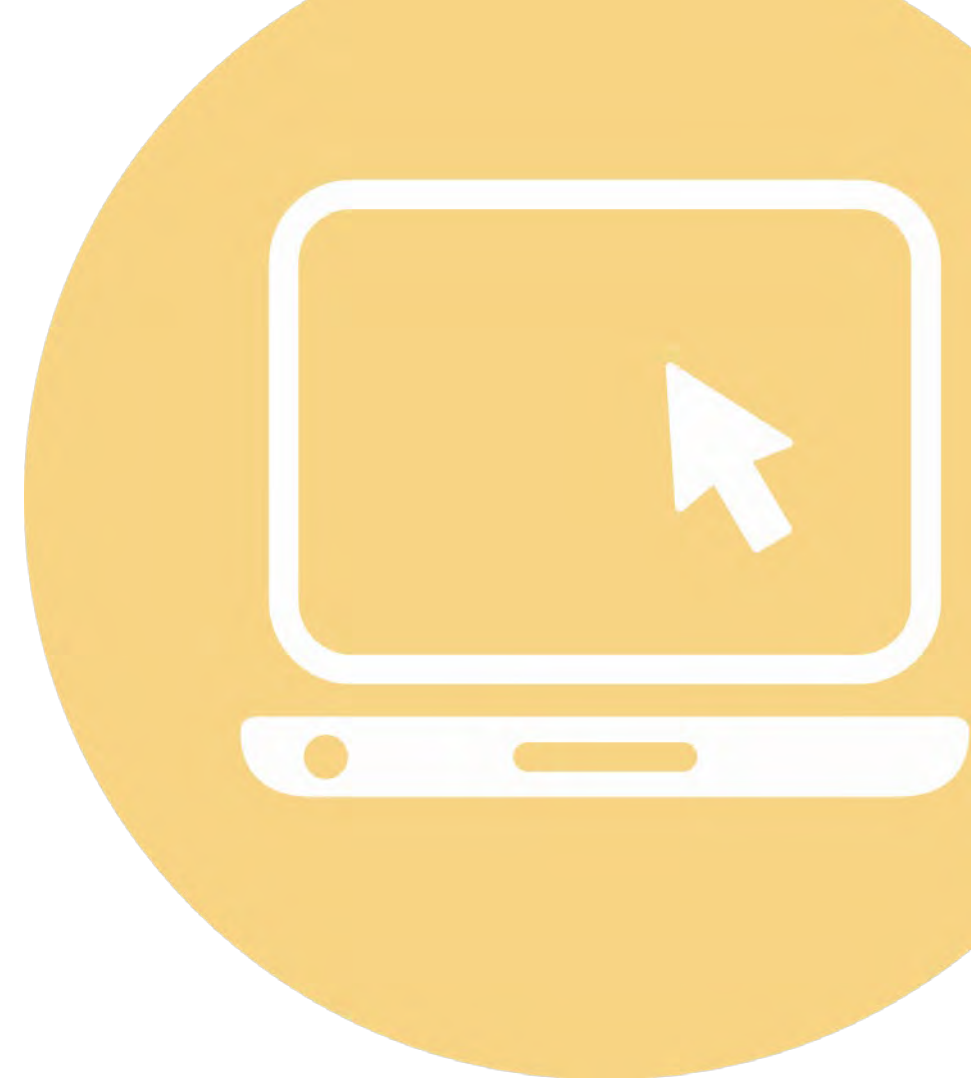
- ✓ Invite district legislators to visit a school or showcase a school/district program
- ✓ Host a legislative breakfast or event
- ✓ Publicize event with photos of the legislators



Take Action

Community Outreach

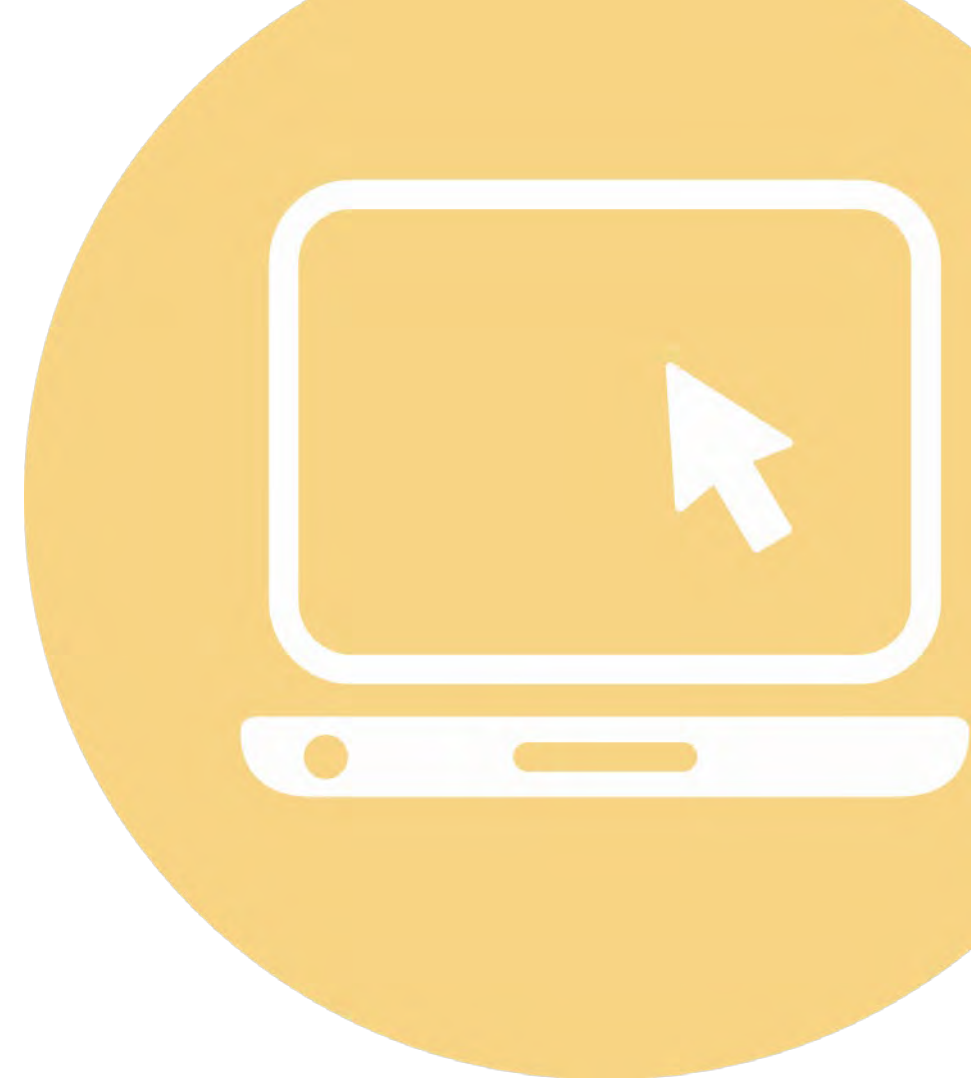
- ✓ Publish your legislative platform on your website and share with legislators and community
- ✓ Write press releases
- ✓ Pass a board resolution
- ✓ Write a letter to the editor
- ✓ Respond to legislative alerts



Take Action

Visit the Capitol

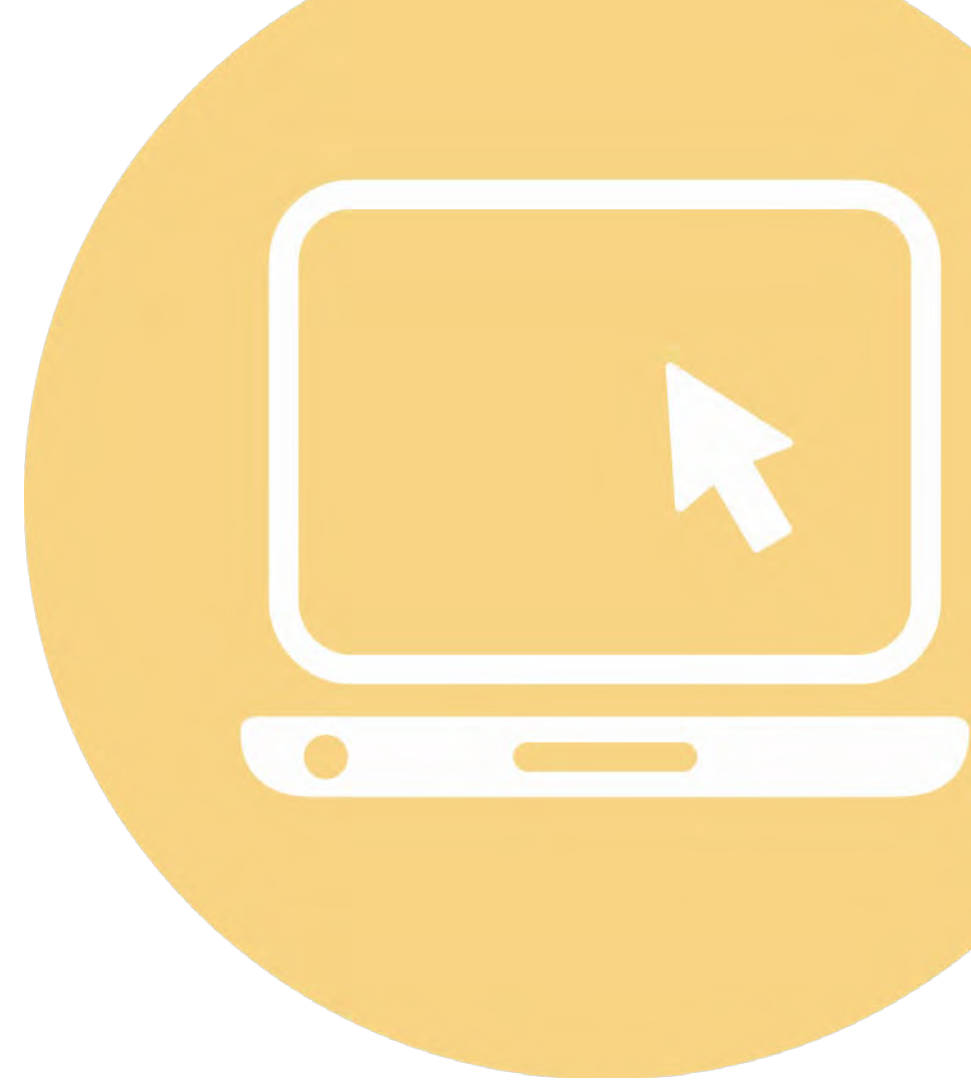
- ✓ Appointments with local legislators
- ✓ Tell your district's story
- ✓ Share your district's agenda/platform
- ✓ Testify



Take Action

MSBA Day at the Capitol

- ✓ A day for school board advocacy
- ✓ Meetings with legislators
- ✓ Committee meetings and testimony



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