

# Talking Points – 2023 MSBA/MASA Day at the Capitol

## Finance Bills

**HF 439 and SF 448; increase of 5% and 5% on the basic education formula and future formula increases linked to inflation.** Authored by Rep. Norris and Sen. Gustafson.

- A 5% increase on the basic formula each year of the biennium invests in ALL Minnesota students, teachers, and support staff. In a budget-setting year, it is crucial legislators increase and stabilize the foundational operating revenue source for our students.
- This critical component of school funding has lost 18.4% per student to inflation over the past two decades. This is \$1,263 less per Minnesota student!
- Every district across the state has unique needs and challenges. This funding will allow school districts to take action on what their students need; mental health supports, violence prevention, closing opportunity gaps, addressing critical workforce shortages, reducing class sizes, responding to interrupted learning and recovery efforts due to COVID and stabilizing funding and services to students as ESSER revenue ends.
- Indexing future increases to inflation provides stable and reliable funding so that school districts can plan their budgets in the face of rising costs year after year. Not addressing the existence of inflation is a disservice to responsible budgeting. In eight of the last 12 years, inflation exceeded the increases in the basic formula allowance.
- Share what 5% increase would mean for your district.

**HF 18 and SF 28; fully funds school districts' special education services.** Authored by Rep. Wolgamott and Sen. Westlin.

- Every school district in Minnesota has a special education cross-subsidy and this issue has bipartisan support.
- The difference between a school district's special education spending and its special education revenue is called its special education cross subsidy and must come for a district's other general fund money.
- Under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and state law, special education services are required but have never been fully funded.
- Special education underfunding for FY2021 (most recent data) was approximately \$591 million which is approximately \$712 per student across the state.
- Share your district's special education cross-subsidy and what that means.

**HF 535 and SF 613; Board Approved Renewal of Existing Referendum.** Authored by Rep. Frazier and Sen. Cwodzinski.

- Allows locally elected school boards to renew an existing operating referendum at the same level after a public hearing.
- Local property taxes provide about 20% of education funding – these are critical resources for our districts.
- Voters already said “yes.”
- Explain to your legislators how this will save your local district time and money.

## Policy Bills

### **HF 1269 – DE1 House Education Policy Omnibus Bill**

- Additional course requirement for students to complete a course for credit in government and citizenship. Requires districts to adopt state arts standards. Adds media arts as a fifth arts area.
- Requires the use of non-exclusionary discipline in ALL cases.
- Prohibits all suspensions in grades K-3 under any circumstances.
- Explain how these policies will impact students and teachers in your district.

### **SF 1311 – DE3 Senate Education Policy Omnibus Bill**

- Additional course requirements and credits in the areas of civics and personal finance.
- Requires one credit in civics in either 11th or 12th grade and personal finance course for credit during their senior year.
- Requires the use of non-exclusionary discipline in ALL cases.
- Prohibits all suspensions in grades K-3 under any circumstances.
- Eliminates the teacher licensure pathway from Tier 2 to Tier 3.
- Explain how these policies will impact students and teachers in your district.

## Labor/Workforce Bills

**HF 1690/1691 and SF 1632/1633; Public labor relations modifications.** Authored by Rep. Jordon and Sen. Hauschild.

- This bill modifies the Public Employment Labor Relations Act (PELRA).
- Allows a temporary or seasonal school district or charter school employee to be counted as a “public employee,” for purposes of collective bargaining.
- Requires collective bargaining over e-learning days, class size, student testing, student to personnel ratios.
- Removes the number of personnel as a matter of inherent managerial policy that school districts are not required to meet and negotiate on.
- Allows community education and early childhood family education teachers to obtain tenure or continuing contract.
- Requires school districts to give unions more building access to employees.
- Requires school districts to provide unions personnel data.
- Changes teacher probationary periods from 120 days to 90.
- If your district has workforce shortages or challenges, share your story.

**HF 1348 and SF 1318; Education Service Professional (ESP) bill.** Authored by Rep. Tabke and Sen. Mann

- Requires paraprofessionals who work with students with disabilities to be given 16 hours paid time or time during the day to review students’ IEPs and annual paid orientation or professional development.
- Requires health insurance benefits for school employees at specific cost sharing levels (100% premium for single with 50% out of pocket maximum, and 85% of a family premium with 50% of out-of-pocket expenses).
- Requires schools using e-learning days to pay school employees their full wages during the e-learning period.

- Raises unlicensed staff wages to at least \$25 per hour.
- Explain how this may impact your district's unique budget.

**HF 847 and SF 680; Teacher preparation time requirements bill.** Authored by Rep. Keeler and Sen. Cwodziński

- It requires additional preparation time and requires the time to be provided in one or two interrupted blocks of time.
- Tell your legislators if this will impact your school schedules or your budget.

**HF 2 and SF 2: Paid Family and Medical Leave bill.** Authored by Rep. Richardson and Sen. Mann

- Creates the Family and Medical Benefits Insurance Division within DEED for administration of the program.
- Provides for prorated weekly benefit amounts for hourly workers or employees who use sick leave, paid time off, or other paid time off.
- Allows up to 12 weeks of benefits for an applicant's own pregnancy or a serious health condition, and up to 12 weeks of benefits to care for a family member with a serious health condition, for safety leave, or for bonding.
- Provides initial annual percentage rates for premiums from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, as: 0.7 percent for employers participating in both programs; cost is to be shared with employees.
- Significantly expands definition of "family member."
- Share how this bill will affect human resources in your school district.

**HF 19 and SF 34: Earned Safe and Sick Time.** Authored by Rep. Olson and Sen. Pappas.

- Requires employers to allow employees to earn, at a minimum, one hour of paid ESS time for every 30 hours worked, up to a maximum of 48 hours per year, unless an employer agrees to provide more.
- Accrual begins when a qualified employee begins employment and may be used as it is accrued.
- Employers must allow employees to carry over accrued but unused ESS time from year to year – not to exceed a maximum of 80 hours unless the employer chooses to provide a more generous policy.
- Significantly expands definition of "family member."

**HF 20 and SF 32: Unemployment for Hourly School Workers.** Authored by Rep. Greenman and Sen. McEwen.

- Adds unemployment eligibility for hourly, unlicensed school employees.
- Creates a new state aid to cover K-12 schools' added unemployment insurance costs.
- Let legislators know how this might impact your workforce?