



## DETROIT LAKES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### AGENDA WORK SESSION

Monday, February 13, 2023 - 5:30 PM

Laker Transitions Building, 1104 West River Road, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

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*The mission of the Detroit Lakes Public schools is to fill our sails with Laker PRIDE.*

District Office ~ 702 Lake Avenue, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 ~ 218.847.9271 ~ Website: [www.dlschools.net](http://www.dlschools.net)  
Superintendent: Mark Jenson Director of Finance & Operations: Jason Kuehn Education Director: Renee Kerzman

#### BOARD MEMBERS:

**Amy Erickson, Vice-Chair**  
1380 East Shore Drive  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
218.841.2944

**Ethan Walz**  
21762 244<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
218.371.7619

**Michelle Okeson**  
24842 County Rd 113  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
218.841.6065

**Mary Rotter- Treasurer**  
23625 Pebble Beach LN  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
651.335.0396

**John Steffl, Chair**  
22370 Steffl Road  
Callaway, MN 56521  
218.850.5060

**April Thomas, Clerk**  
25592 Almquist Road  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
651.271.1818

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**Student Representatives: Quinn Rogstad- [24rogstquin@detlakes.k12.mn.us](mailto:24rogstquin@detlakes.k12.mn.us), Nick Buboltz- [25bubolnich@detlakes.k12.mn.us](mailto:25bubolnich@detlakes.k12.mn.us)**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**  
Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair
- II. **ROLL CALL**  
Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**  
Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair
- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**  
Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair
- V. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**  
Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair
  - A. Ribbon Cutting
  - B. Legislation
  - C. Narcan
  - D. 2023-2024 Academic Calendar
- VI. **MEETING ADJOURNED**  
Presenter: Steffl, Board Chair

I pledge allegiance to the flag  
of the United States of America,  
and to the Republic  
for which it stands,  
one Nation under God,  
indivisible,  
with Liberty and Justice  
for all.





# 2023 Legislative Agenda

Education Minnesota is calling for more for Minnesota's students and educators at the Legislature in 2023—more quality time together, healthier learning spaces and more great educators who are compensated like the experts they are and reflect the diversity our state.

Our union of more than 85,000 educators in E-12 and higher education supports a package of bills designed to recruit, develop and retain the best group of teaching professionals in America. Without great educators, our students cannot receive the world class education they deserve.

We're aiming high because the needs are urgent. Chronic underfunding by the state and two years of historic inflation are putting extraordinary pressure on educators and students. This year we can't settle for less than what students and educators need and still expect our schools to stay strong.

Fulfilling the promises of full funding will cost billions of dollars, but if Minnesota is serious about making sure every student can pursue their dreams, no matter where they live or what they look like, our elected leaders must get serious about funding what works.

## Students and educators benefit from more high-quality time together

- Reduce class sizes and/or improve educator-to-student ratios in public schools.
- Immediately increase the per-pupil funding formula to compensate for two years of historic inflation and pin future formula increases to the inflation rate.
- Increase access to time in college by renewing Minnesota's commitment to public higher education by returning to statutory levels of funding for state colleges and universities.
- Fully fund services for all members of the school community, including E-12 students in special education and English language learners.
- Provide dedicated due process time to special education teachers to meet students' needs and to hold meetings with families.
- Increase "prep time" for effective lessons for all teachers.
- Eliminate unnecessary policies and mandates that cost valuable time during the school day.
- Create a universal child care and early learning program, using mixed delivery, where low-income families pay nothing, and no family pays more than 7 percent of family income.

Updated Jan. 11, 2023

[www.educationminnesota.org](http://www.educationminnesota.org)

Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers,  
the National Education Association and AFL-CIO (AFL-CIO 3345)



THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

## **Healthy spaces for educators and students are a requirement for academic and professional success**

- Fully staff mental and physical health teams by hiring more licensed school counselors, social workers, psychologists, nurses and other support professionals.
- Provide all students with free meals.
- Offer a curriculum that reflects the diversity of Minnesota and makes all students feel welcome and engaged, no matter what they look like, where they come from or how they identify.
- Eliminate racial and cultural biases in standardized testing that create barriers and anxiety for students.
- Ensure students in Minnesota's colleges and universities study in safe, healthy buildings by funding the backlog of Higher Education Asset Preservation and Renewal Account, or HEAPR, requests.
- Give more students and their families easy access to full-service community schools, which offer a range of services and supports for their health and well-being.

## **Provide every student with access to great educators, including educators who reflect the diversity of race, place, gender and age of Minnesota**

- Recruit and retain high-quality educators through competitive salaries and benefits, commensurate with other professions with similar educational requirements, as well as education debt forgiveness.
- Reform the teacher pension system to make the profession more attractive to new educators and, for current teachers, provide a fair, high-quality benefit that permits a dignified retirement even before age 66.
- Address the critical staff shortages facing our schools in licensed and non-licensed positions, including by ensuring all education support professionals earn at least a living wage of \$25 an hour.
- Fund 16 hours of paid training for all paraprofessionals who work directly with students.
- Enact specific policies to attract and retain teachers of color, including paid student teaching, mentoring and other programs and protections.
- Ensure all teachers are trained on cultural relevancy, special education needs and literacy before entering the classroom.
- Advance and expand collective bargaining proposals, including expressly permitting educators to bargain for class sizes and mental health support for students and staff.
- Allow Tier 1 teachers to join the bargaining unit of teachers with Tier 2, 3 and 4 licenses.
- Provide 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave for educators and all other families.
- Reduce the cost of health care for educators and all public employees.
- Provide contract parity, including salary and benefits, between K-12 teachers and licensed early childhood, early childhood family education (ECFE) and adult basic education (ABE) teachers.
- Provide Minnesota's youngest learners with access to well-prepared teachers by requiring pre-K teachers in public schools to hold the appropriate state license. For current teachers without state certification, fully fund their time and tuition to earn a license.
- Provide all students with access to professional media specialists who can teach the differences between reliable information and misinformation and disinformation flooding social media.

The governor recommends an additional \$13 billion over the biennium for education – pre-K through grade 12. Highlights include a 4% and 2% per-pupil formula increase (capped at 3%), tying the formula to inflation, reducing the special education and ELL cross-subsidies, universal free meals, funding for student support personnel, expansion of public PreK programs, and the creation of a new Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

More details will be available when the recommendations are introduced as legislation. Detailed spreadsheets and district runs will be available soon.

### **Governor's Education Recommendations**

**Formula Increase:** The governor recommends increasing the per-pupil formula by 4% in FY24 and 2% in FY25 and tying future increases to inflation (based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers or CPI-U) for FY26 and later (capped at 3%). Appropriates \$274.1 million in FY24, \$444.7 million in FY25, \$642.7 million in FY26, and \$816.4 million in FY27.

**Special Education Cross-Subsidy:** The governor recommends reducing the special education cross-subsidy by 50%. Cross-subsidy reduction aid would increase from 6.43% to 47.30% in FY24 and later years. Appropriates \$328 million in FY24 and \$394 million in FY25.

**English Learner Cross-Subsidy:** The governor recommends reducing the English learner cross-subsidy by 25%. Appropriates \$13.4 million in FY24 and \$15.4 million in FY25.

**District Renewal of Current Voter-Approved Operating Referendums:** The governor recommends that school districts be allowed to have one automatic renewal of a current referendum of the same length as was originally approved by the voters.

**Universal Free Meals with Community Eligibility Provision (CEP):** The governor recommends providing no-cost school breakfast and lunch, beginning in FY24, to students enrolled in schools that participate in the federal School Breakfast Program and National School Lunch Program in Minnesota that also participate in the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) if eligible. Appropriates \$189 million in FY24 and \$198 million in FY25.

**Unemployment Insurance Aid:** The governor recommends providing \$161.7 million per-year beginning in FY26 for reimbursement aid to school districts and charter schools to cover increased unemployment insurance expenses. Reimbursement will be paid during the fiscal year following the year in which the expenses were incurred and will be based on a district's incremental unemployment insurance costs relative to a base period. If the overall eligible cost exceeds the annual appropriation, reimbursement aid will be prorated. With the implementation of reimbursement aid, school districts will only be eligible to levy for the net remaining unemployment costs through the reemployment levy after subtracting the unemployment aid in each fiscal year starting in FY25.

**Proposals to address teacher and staff shortages, increasing diversity, and retention:** The governor proposes several initiatives to address teacher and staff shortages.

- Expanding the current Grow Your Own (GYO) program by \$6 million annually beginning in FY24.
- \$1.5 million annually for GYO grants focused on early childhood educators.
- \$10 million for GYO grants focused on teacher shortage areas at \$10 million annually.
- \$14.665 million for student-teacher stipends.
- \$490,000 in FY24 and FY25 and \$700,000 in FY26 and later for student scholarships to address a licensed teacher shortage in Minnesota's school-based early childhood and family education.
- \$7 million FY24 to support the development of a career pathway for students interested in pursuing education-related professions.
- \$1.4 million in FY24, available for up to four years, to fund the costs of first-time teacher licensing fees and licensure exams.
- \$9.94 million in FY24, available for four years, to expand statewide teacher induction and mentoring programs, including sustained training for mentors, principals, and other school leaders.

**Existing Voluntary PreK/School Readiness Plus slots:** The governor proposes to make permanent funding for the current 4000 slots for voluntary PreK/School Readiness Plus. Appropriates \$16.97 million in FY24 and \$19.06 million in FY25.

**Expansion of Public Pre-K for Eligible 4-Year-Old Children:** The governor recommends a full-day public prekindergarten program for eligible four-year-old children using a mixed delivery model comprised of school-based, Head Start, licensed child care centers, and family childcare programs. This would expand voluntary pre-K to 22,000 more children in FY26 and 25,000 children in FY27. Appropriates \$434 million in FY26 and FY27.

**Student Support Personnel:** The governor recommends \$22.2 million in FY24 and \$26.2 million in FY25 for an aid entitlement to fund additional school-based student support personnel, including counselors, social workers, school psychologists, school nurses, and chemical dependency counselors. Aid would be paid to school districts on a 90% current-year appropriation and 10% prior-year appropriation basis. Each school district participating in the support personnel program would receive \$22 per student enrolled on October 1 of the prior school year or \$35,000, whichever is greater. Intermediate school districts and other cooperatives enrolling students would receive \$6 per student enrolled in member districts on October 1 of the prior school year. The aid would be limited to the actual new costs of providing support services each year.

**Facilities Funding:** The governor recommends \$66 million in FY24-FY25 and \$79.8 million in FY26-27 to decrease facilities funding gaps. The proposal modifies Long Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) revenue through an allocation for eligible new facilities improvements and appropriations for excluded districts. The governor also proposes to extend additional revenue authority to cover all approved health and safety projects with costs over \$100,000 per site for any health and safety purpose not

already limited by a per-pupil funding limit and extend approvals to cover specific deferred maintenance projects with costs over \$100,000 per site or district to include roof replacement, sidewalks, and parking lots.

**Career and Technical Education Access:** The governor recommends \$30 million starting in FY24 to support the expansion of CTE programs. Funds will be available over four years through FY27.

- \$26.3 million will provide grants to school districts, charter schools, and intermediate school districts to expand or establish CTE programs.
- \$2.5 million will support a statewide CTE teacher mentoring and retention project, including licensure support for Tier 1 and Tier 2 teachers, and work-based learning adoption.

**Alternatives to Exclusionary Discipline Strategies:** The governor recommends \$5.2 million in FY24 and \$5.5 in FY25 to expand grants currently being administered by the MDE using funds appropriated in the 2021 legislative session and supplemented by funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

**Expand Rigorous Coursework:** The governor recommends \$3.1 million per year to maintain and modify an existing competitive grant program currently funded by American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to expand rigorous coursework opportunities.

**Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) Funding Pilot:** The governor recommends \$50 million in FY24 for a pilot program to increase effective partnerships between secondary and postsecondary institutions, provide districts with up to 88% in additional ADM for students taking PSEO courses, provide greater support to students in PSEO, and to collect data to understand possible changes around the funding and structure of dual credit opportunities.

**Minnesota Multi-Tiered System of Support (MnMTSS) and Collaborative Minnesota Partnerships to Advance Student Success (COMPASS):** The governor recommends \$20.2 million per year beginning in FY24 to fund the MnMTSS Framework, the state's systemic, continuous school improvement framework for ensuring positive social, emotional, behavioral, developmental, and academic outcomes for every student and COMPASS – Collaborative Minnesota Partnerships to Advance Student Success – the state's comprehensive school improvement model.

**BOLD Literacy:** The governor recommends \$35 million annually to implement BOLD Literacy, Minnesota's birth through grade 12 action plan for literacy achievement. Funding will provide support for teachers and instruction and intervention strategies, all delivered through the Minnesota Multi-tiered System of Support Framework. Additionally, the proposal includes comprehensive early literacy reforms and policy changes to address the literacy achievement gap.

**Competency-Based Education Expansion:** The governor recommends \$32 million in FY24 to engage a cohort of school districts, stakeholders, and partners who implement student-centered, flexible, personalized, and competency-based practices. Funds will provide grant awards to expand successful practices.

**Special Education Separate Sites and Programs Aid:** The governor recommends \$4.3 million in FY24 and \$5 million in FY25 and later for additional funding to Special Education Settings 4 and higher sites, including special education cooperatives and intermediate school districts, to support the needed capacity of programs to provide services and supports to students with disabilities with the highest needs. Funding would be allocated based on the number of students with disabilities at an approximate rate of \$1,689 per average daily membership (ADM) in addition to state special education aid.

**Special Instruction and Services Extended to Age 22:** The governor recommends funding to extend special instruction and services for children with a disability until age 22.

**Early Childhood Health and Developmental Screening Aid Increase:** The governor recommends additional funding to support a 30% increase in Early Childhood Screening Program aid.

**Compensatory Spending at Generating Site:** The governor recommends increasing the percentage of compensatory revenue that must be spent on qualifying programs at the generating sites from 50 percent to 80 percent. This proposal has no cost as it does not change overall state aid.

**Foster Student Transportation:** The governor recommends funding for transportation costs to enable students placed in a family foster care home to remain enrolled in their school of origin. The proposal is estimated to cost \$540,000 in fiscal year FY25.

**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Center Staffing and Grants:** The governor recommends \$30 million in one-time grants to school districts and charter schools to implement culturally relevant practices outlined in the mission and vision of the EDI Center, MDE's Strategic Plan, and the Governor's Due North Plan.

**American Indian Education Aid:** The governor recommends \$6.3 million in FY24 and \$7.1 million in FY25 to increase American Indian education aid and extend it to districts formed as joint powers.

**Building and Cyber Security Grant Program:** The governor recommends \$50 million in FY24 to provide Minnesota school districts and charter schools funding to improve student, building, and cyber security. Funds would be used for a non-competitive, first-come, first-served Building and Cyber Security Grant program and would be available until June 30, 2027.

**Information Technology Resources:** The governor recommends \$1.8 million in FY24, \$3.3 million in FY25, and \$4.9 million in FY26 and beyond to invest in modernization of the MDE's technology infrastructure.

**Ed-Fi Data Collection System and Data Reporting:** The governor recommends \$595,000 in fiscal year FY24 and \$2.6 million in FY25 to modernize data submission systems for school districts and charter schools through the expansion of the Ed-Fi data collection and integration system.

**Office of Inspector General:** The governor recommends establishing a new Office of the Inspector General (OIG) at the MDE to detect fraud and wrongdoing, ensuring that funds appropriated by the state and federal legislatures and distributed by MDE reach their intended beneficiaries, schools, teachers, children, and families. Appropriates \$2 million per year.

#### Proposals in Other Budget Areas

**Department of Children, Youth, and Families:** The governor recommends the creation of a new state agency, the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), starting July 1, 2024. Core programs related to early learning, child care, child protection, family supports, and youth programming will be moved to this new agency. This is included in the Governor's proposals for [the Department of Minnesota Management and Budget](#) (details begin on page 35).

**School Building Bond Agricultural Credit:** The governor recommends increasing the School Building Bond Agricultural Credit to 80% of the property's net tax capacity multiplied by the school debt tax rate. This is included in the Governor's proposals for [Tax Aids, Credits, and Refunds](#).

**School Linked Behavioral Health Grants:** The governor recommends \$16 million in FY24-25 and \$26.5 million in FY26-27 to increase funding for School Linked Behavioral Health grants and Intermediate school-linked behavioral grants. This is included in the Governor's proposals for the [Department of Human Services](#).

**Solar for Schools:** The governor recommends \$61.5M in FY24 to expand on the current Solar for Schools statewide pilot program to reach every school building, outside Xcel Energy service territory, with solar energy.

**Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program:** The governor recommends \$138 million in FY24 and \$138 million in FY25 for the Border-to-Border Broadband Grant program. This is included in the Governor's proposals for the [Department of Employment and Economic Development](#).



## 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.





## LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM FOR 2023

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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 safe 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



Minnesota Association of School Administrators

# 2023 Legislative Priorities

## About Us

MASA members include more than 600 superintendents, directors of special education, curriculum and technology leaders, other central office administrators, service providers, business partners, and retirees.

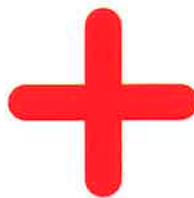
As advocates of a world-class education for Minnesota’s learners, MASA’s members serve as the leading voice for public education, shape and influence the state and national education agenda, and empower leaders through high-quality professional learning, services, and support.

**The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) believes a fully funded, equitable education system is needed to support all students with the opportunity for educational success.**

**Two funding streams provide the foundation for school district finances – the basic formula allowance and special education funding. Both funding streams are woefully underfunded - the basic formula allowance has not kept up with inflation, and the special education cross-subsidy continues to grow.**

**For the 2023 legislative session, we urge the governor and the legislature to prioritize education funding and **swiftly** pass an education funding bill early in the session that:**

**Increases the basic formula allowance by 5% per year for the next two years and links future increases to inflation**



**Fully funds the special education cross-subsidy**

MASA Executive Director  
Dr. Deb Henton  
deb.henton@mnasa.org

MASA President  
Dr. Matt Hillmann  
Superintendent  
Northfield Public Schools  
mhillmann@northfieldschools.org

MASA Legislative Committee Chair  
Dr. Kim Hiel  
Superintendent  
Fridley Public Schools  
kim.hiel@fridley.k12.mn.us

MASA Lobbyist  
Ms. Valerie Dosland  
Director of Government Affairs  
Ewald Consulting  
valeried@ewald.com



# 2023 Legislative Priorities

## ✓ Stable and predictable school funding

- Increase the Local Optional Revenue (LOR) and equalization of various levies
- Fully fund the English Learner program
- Link categorical funding streams to the basic formula allowance
- Establish a per-pupil funding formula for school based early learning programs
- Allow school boards to renew existing operating referenda
- Explore new application and eligibility processes for free and reduced-price lunch

## ✓ Address barriers to teaching and expand the teaching workforce

- Expand funding for new teacher and Grow Your Own initiatives and provide financial support for student teachers
- Allow broad teacher licensure, especially in science, special education, middle school, and school social work licensure areas
- Increase flexibility for the out-of-state license reciprocity process, including removing testing barriers
- Provide more options for school districts to hire short-call substitutes
- Improve pension benefits

## ✓ Support local control

- Fund existing mandates and oppose new unfunded mandates
- Require teachers who leave to teach in another school district during the middle of their contract to disclose this information

## ✓ Safe and supportive schools

- Increase safe schools funding to \$100 per pupil to support student mental health and increase the number of student support personnel professionals
- Expand safe schools funding to all cooperative school districts
- Establish a minimum level of \$100,000 per school district to ensure school districts receive adequate funding
- Allow school districts to use safe schools funding to increase cyber security efforts, update technology systems, and cover increasing insurance costs

## ✓ Create flexible learning environments

- Give school districts the option to adapt learning environments by allowing the flexibility to move away from seat time and towards competency-based education
- Permit school districts to determine their school calendars

## ✓ Remove barriers to improving school facilities and student transportation

- Expand the eligible uses of Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue and remove funding caps
- Reduce unnecessary and outdated requirements for school bus driver's licenses
- Expand lifetime use of Type III vehicles



### **Equity Statement:**

It is MASA's responsibility to prioritize and allocate the resources necessary for each learner to thrive and reach their greatest potential in any Minnesota public educational institution or system. We fervently believe that every student deserves an educational experience grounded in high expectations that is free from bias, prejudice, and discrimination. In our roles, we must continue to lead the work of removing barriers so that every student has access to a high quality, rigorous education to fully prepare them for whatever path they choose.

### ***Definitions***

**Educational Equity** - Educational practices, policies, and procedures that support academic fairness, inclusion, achievement, and opportunities to ensure that every child has access to resources, educators, and support they need to be successful.

**Race Equity** - Educational practices, policies, and procedures within a system or entity that focus on implementing equitable approaches to eradicate the overt and covert systems of power and privilege that have historically had significant adverse effects and impacts on populations of color. This includes the intentional shifting of policies, practices, attitudes, mindsets, and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes based on race.

### **MASA Belief Statements:**

- MASA believes public education is a cornerstone of American democracy.
- MASA believes it is the responsibility of the Association to actively support school leaders as they ensure equity in order to improve student outcomes for every student.
- MASA believes leaders must continuously improve their practices to ensure all students receive a "World Class Education."
- MASA believes a commitment to racial equity by the organization and its members is essential for the success of every student.
- MASA believes equity is a lens through which all decisions should be made.



Voice For Greater Minnesota Education

# 2023 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

MREA advocates on behalf of about 235 school districts, 30 education districts and additional associate members across Greater Minnesota to provide educational opportunities and close achievement gaps in Minnesota in these key ways.



## **PUBLIC EDUCATION REVENUE TO SUPPORT EDUCATOR RECRUITMENT & RETENTION**

Minnesota public schools are struggling to attract and retain the staff needed to meet growing student needs. State aid for public education is not keeping up with inflationary pressures. The current funding model leads school districts to rely heavily on property taxpayer support. This creates major disparities in educational opportunities across the state. MREA is advocating for a significant portion of the state's record budget surplus to be invested in Minnesota's public schools.

### **KEY ACTIONS NEEDED**

#### **ASSIST SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN RECRUITING AND RETAINING STAFF**

- Increase the basic formula allowance by 5% annually for fiscal years 2024-25.
- Implement a 40% special education cross-subsidy reduction aid program.
- Improve TRA and Health Insurance benefits by reducing employee contributions with targeted state aid.
- Fund targeted staff development and career pathway initiatives.
- Improve funding for student mental health support.
- Create revenue guarantees to ensure small schools and cooperative educational systems can generate meaningful revenue for categorical programs, such as safe schools.

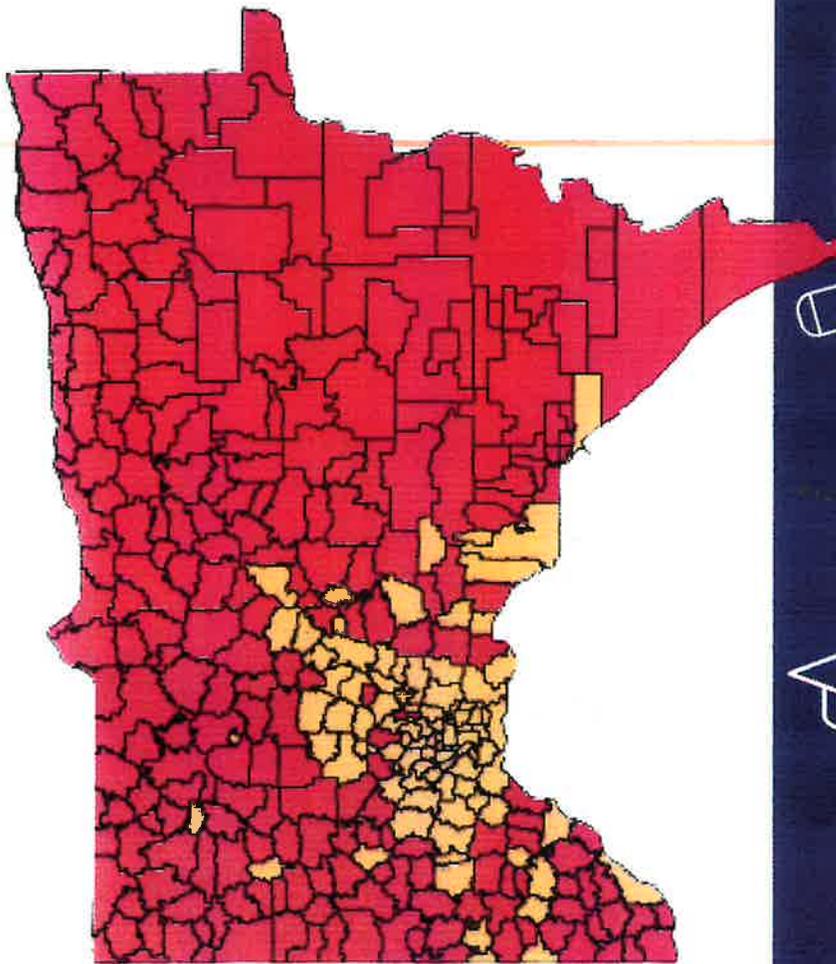
#### **IMPROVE SCHOOL FACILITIES**

There is a significant funding gap between school districts that receive Long Term Facility Maintenance Revenue (LTFMR) and the "Alternative Facility" districts. The Ag2School bond credit has been critical for local school facility support, and additional state legislative action is needed to address rural school facility needs, specifically:

- Improve Long Term Facility Maintenance Revenue (LTFMR) by allowing more items in the Health & Safety program including boilers, roofs, sidewalks, parking lot improvements and by increasing the LTFMR funding cap.
- Provide equal access to the \$65/pupil intermediate lease levy for rural education cooperatives.

#### **SUPPORT LOCAL CONTROL AND INNOVATION IN SCHOOLS**

- Oppose unfunded state mandates and "one-size-fits-all" approaches to education policy.
- Allow school boards to renew operating levies previously approved through voter referenda.
- Allow school boards to fill a school board vacancy without a general election.



 MREA Member School District



# How MREA serves YOU



## ADVOCATE

- Lobbyists at the Capitol every day advocating for you
- Weekly Advocacy Briefings during legislative session
- Interactive maps and analysis showing impacts of major changes
- Action alerts to help encourage engagement



## EDUCATE

- Professional development and networking at the Annual Conference
- Regional meetings and trainings to provide input and stay informed
- Member benefits providing learning opportunities
- Discounts on partner programs



## COMMUNICATE & CELEBRATE

- Weekly Insider Briefs with education updates relevant to rural districts
- Website with resources, news, and updates
- Celebration and sharing of accomplishments and best practices
- Awards for teachers and innovative school programs
- In-person visits to keep a pulse on district accomplishments & needs



MREA does a great job of cutting through the legislative clutter, identifying what applies to greater MN schools and letting us know what needs our attention. Their updates allow me to better articulate the impact of the bills and our next steps.

**DR. REGGIE ENGBRITSON**  
Superintendent, St. Louis County Schools



# MREA

Voice For Greater Minnesota Education

LEARN MORE AT [MREAVOICE.ORG](http://MREAVOICE.ORG)

CONTACT US AT

[INFO@MREAVOICE.ORG](mailto:INFO@MREAVOICE.ORG) | (833) MNVOICE



**Leading Advocacy for Greater Minnesota Students** Led by school board members, administrators, teachers and other education-focused partners, MREA elevates Greater Minnesota schools through advocacy, education and recognition.

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## **SPECIAL EDUCATION CROSS-SUBSIDY BUY-DOWN**

MREA joined many public education lobbying and parent advocacy groups to make a major push for buying down the special education cross-subsidy. Our collective work was effective, leading the Education Conference Committee to consider implementing a formula to pay each district for 40% of their local special education cross-subsidies.



## **AG2SCHOOL TAX CREDIT**

School districts across Greater MN are seeing the benefits of the MREA-led Ag2School agriculture credit for school facility bonds. The 2022 'agreed-to' Tax bill would have increased the 70% bond credit to 85% by 2025.

## **In 2022**

**During a non-budget session, with a record state budget surplus available, MREA helped position and prioritize rural education for:**

- Paying off the Special Education cross-subsidy
- Enhancing equalization for Local Optional Revenue
- Increasing funding for student mental health needs
- Improving the Ag2School Bond Credit
- Cooperative Facilities levy authority
- Additional funding for Concurrent Enrollment Teacher Credentialing
- Flexibility for short-call substitute teachers
- A fairer pension for teachers, retirees, and schools
- Continued funding for Voluntary Pre-K slots
- Continuing to defend against ever-present Unfunded Mandates

## **IN 2021**

**MREA helped position and prioritize rural education for the June budget-setting Legislative Special Session including:**

- 2.45 & 2% increases on the General Education Formula
- Pandemic Enrollment Aid
- Compensatory Aid Hold Harmless
- Opposing unfunded mandates
- ESSER funds more evenly distributed to rural school districts
- Continued Special Education cross-subsidy support
- Continued funding for voluntary Pre-K slots
- Cooperative Facilities levy authority
- Additional funding for concurrent enrollment credentialing
- Increased funding for Rural Career and Technical Education Consortia
- Enhanced debt service equalization for newly consolidating districts
- Allowing school boards to renew existing operating referendums



# Detroit Lakes Public Schools

K-12 Student / Staff

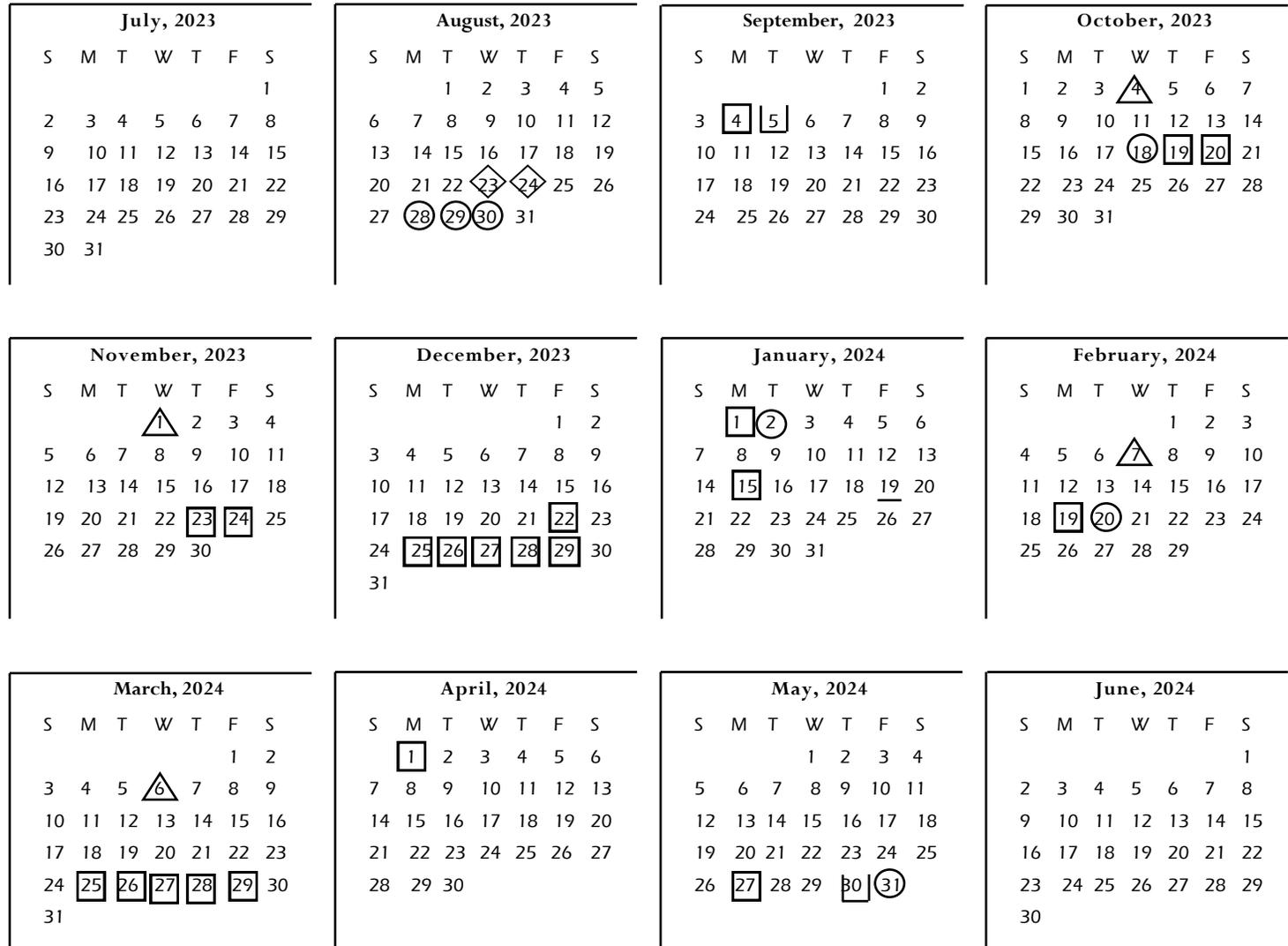
## 2023-2024

171	Student Contact Days
9	Teacher Inservice/Conference/Work Days
180	Teacher Contract Days

- 2023**
- Aug. 23-24 New Teacher Orientation
  - Aug 28-29 Teacher Workshop
  - Sept. 4 Labor Day—No School
  - Sept. 5 First Day of School (Gr. 6-12)
  - Sept. 7 First Day of School (Gr. K-5)
  - Oct. 4 Early Dismissal
  - Oct. 19-20 MEA – No School
  - Nov. 1 Early Dismissal
  - Nov. 6 Teacher Inservice—No School
  - Nov. 23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday
  - Dec. 22 Winter Break Begins
- 2024**
- Jan. 2 Teacher Inservice-No School
  - Jan. 3 Classes Resume
  - Jan. 15 Holiday –No School
  - Jan. 19 End of First Semester—HS (86)
  - Feb 7 Early Dismissal
  - Feb. 19 President’s Holiday-No School
  - Feb. 20 Teacher Inservice –No School
  - Mar. 25-1 Spring Break
  - May 27 Memorial Day
  - May 30 Last Day for Students

- ◇ New Teacher Inservice
- Teacher Inservice/Work Days
- Holidays
- ⊕ P/T Conf.
- End of Quarter/Trimester
- ┌ Beginning/Ending Days
- △ Early Dismissal Days

**DRAFT 2**



- Inservice days?
- Conference days?
- Early Dismissal days ?
- End of Trimester days ?
- Kindergarten Roundup?
- Graduation?
- Last day of school?



# Detroit Lakes Public Schools

K-12 Student / Staff

## 2023-2024

168	Student Contact Days
9	Teacher Inservice/Conference/Work Days
177	Teacher Contract Days

◇ New Teacher Inservice    ○ Teacher Inservice/Work Days    □ Holidays    + P/T Conf.  
 — End of Quarter/Trimester    ▭ Beginning/Ending Days    △ Early Dismissal Days

- 2023**
- Aug. 23-24 New Teacher Orientation
  - Aug 28-29 Teacher Workshop
  - Sept. 4 Labor Day—No School
  - Sept. 5 First Day of School (Gr. 6-12)
  - Sept. 7 First Day of School (Gr. K-5)
  - Oct. 4 Early Dismissal
  - Oct. 19-20 MEA – No School
  - Nov. 6 Teacher Inservice– No School
  - Nov. 22 Early Dismissal
  - Nov. 23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday
  - Dec. 22 Winter Break Begins
- 2024**
- Jan. 2 Teacher Inservice– No School
  - Jan. 3 Classes Resume
  - Jan. 15 Holiday –No School
  - Jan. 19 End of First Semester– HS (86)
  - Jan. 31 Early Dismissal
  - Feb. 16 Holiday– No School
  - Feb. 19 President’s Holiday-No School
  - Mar. 8 Teacher Inservice– No School
  - Mar. 29-1 Spring Break
  - Apr. 17 Early Dismissal
  - May 18 Teacher Inservice– No School
  - May 24 Teacher Inservice– No School
  - May 27 Memorial Day
  - Jun. 5 Kindergarten Round-up

- Conference days?
- Early Dismissal days ?
- End of Trimester days ?
- Graduation?
- Last day of school?

Make-up Days

- December 22
- January 15
- February 16
- April 1

