



Agenda
School Board Work Study
Session
Monday, February 10,
2025
7:00 PM

1. Roseville Area Schools Legislative Platform
Speaker(s): Chris Hester
2. SF No. 634 and School Board General Elections
Speaker(s): Chair Todd Anderson
3. Anti-Racist Leadership Professional Development
Speaker(s): Delon Smith and Jake Von De Linde

Agenda Topic: Roseville Area Schools Legislative Platform
Meeting Date: February 10, 2025
Contact Person: Chris Hester

Background:

The board will review a draft of the district's 2025 legislative platform. The legislative platform was developed by a subcommittee of board members and district staff.

Recommendation:

Action Required

Informational – No Board Action Requested



ROSEVILLE AREA SCHOOLS 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1 ESTABLISH FUNDING PRIORITIES

- Increase the basic formula by a minimum of 3 percent above base in each year of the new biennium
- Provide an ongoing funding stream for the state-mandated costs for unemployment insurance for hourly school employees
- Stabilize the compensatory funding formula by establishing a district-specific hold harmless provision, ensuring districts can equitably support their students without an abrupt funding loss
- Increase the percentage reimbursement for cross-subsidy aids in the special education and multilingual learner programs
- Strengthen initiatives such as the Grow Your Own and Teacher Apprenticeship programs to recruit and retain teachers of color in shortage areas and maintain/expand pathways to teacher licensure



2 ENHANCE STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING

- Provide funding to increase mental health support for students
- Recommend the Minnesota Department of Education appoint an Assessment Design Working Group using street data* that will be innovative, comprehensive, value-added, and can define success

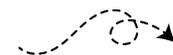
3 ENSURE SAFE SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

- Increase operating capital formula and expand the allowable uses of LTFM revenue to include security modifications
- Financially support districts' efforts to embrace cutting-edge safety including, but not limited to, maintaining infrastructure, fortifying cybersecurity, and minimizing liability exposure
- Increase the Safe Schools Levy



*Safir, S., & Dugan, J. (2021). Street data a next-generation model for equity pedagogy and school transformation. SAGE Publications.

For more information about Roseville Area Schools, visit isd623.org or scan this QR code





ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1 ESTABLISH FUNDING PRIORITIES

- The basic formula includes an annual inflationary increase of at least two, but not more than three percent. The existing language will continue to fall short of keeping pace with inflationary operating costs.
- A district-specific hold harmless provision would provide stability while allowing required time to evaluate additional formula adjustments. Adjustments could include continuing to allow for paper applications, accounting for declining enrollment trends, and avoiding abrupt revenue losses.
- The state currently provides 44% of the cross-subsidy shortfall school districts are required to pay in order to cover all special education costs.
- Roseville Area Schools partners with the University of St. Thomas to offer an adult pathway for staff with a bachelor's degree to earn a master's degree in special education. The district is also exploring partnerships to create an undergraduate pathway to licensure, primarily through an apprenticeship model. Since the district aims to recruit from its current workforce and seeks candidates who reflect its student population, many potential candidates are paraprofessionals who may not yet have a bachelor's degree.

2 ENHANCE STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING

- Roseville Area Schools recognizes the significant impact of social emotional learning on student mental health. The goal is to fully fund community partnerships, chemical health education, and nurture relationships that provide a sense of belonging.
- Street data allows us to examine the lived experience and the impact of education of those most affected.

3 ENSURE SAFE SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

- Cybersecurity is crucial for protecting a school district's data and operations, as cyber threats and potential breaches can lead to significant financial costs, including system recovery, legal fees, and increased security measures.
- Safe Schools levy is currently \$36 per pupil unit or approximately \$285,000 annually. The funds are used to offset the cost of school resource officers, security, cameras, and cybersecurity monitoring.



Agenda Topic: SF No. 634 and School Board General Elections
Meeting Date: February 10, 2025
Contact Person: Chair Todd Anderson

Background:

[Senate File 634](#) was introduced in the Elections Committee on January 30, 2025. The bill would require that general elections for school districts in Minnesota be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered years. Under current legislation, school boards are allowed to change the year of their general elections by resolution.

Roseville Area Schools is one of several districts that hold odd-year elections.

Recommendation:

Action Required

Informational – No Board Action Requested

Odd-Year Districts as of 12-1-2024

1. Anoka-Hennepin x
2. Bloomington x
3. Duluth (want to move to even)
4. East Central
5. Fridley
6. Hinckley-Finlayson
7. Holdingford (considering a move to even)
8. Hopkins x
9. Inver Grove Heights (considering a move to even)
10. Minnetonka x
11. Mounds View x
12. Mountain Lake
13. Ogilvie (considering a move to even)
14. Pine Point
15. Richfield x (considering a move to even)
16. Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan x
17. Roseville x
18. Rothsay
19. Rush City
20. South Washington County x
21. Spring Lake Park
22. St. Anthony-New Brighton
23. St. Louis Park x
24. St. Peter x (considering a move to even)
25. Wayzata x
26. West St. Paul-Mendota Heights-Eagan (considering a move to even)
27. Westonka

Edina moved to even year in 2024.

St. Paul moved to even year in 2024.

Hastings moved to even year in 2024.

Barnesville moved to even year in 2023.

Thank you Chairs and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Greg Abbott and I represent the Minnesota School Boards Association, as well as the Association of Metropolitan School Districts.

We are in opposition to Senate File 634 because we feel it is an unnecessary mandate that erodes local control of school districts. School districts already have a clear and established process to determine their school board election years, making this bill not necessary.

The history of school districts choosing between odd and even-year elections goes back to the 1990s, when the Legislature wanted to move May school board elections to November. As part of the agreement, schools were granted the flexibility to choose even year OR odd year elections, whichever election cycle best suited their local community. At the time 168 chose odd-year elections, while 172 opted for even year elections.

In 2005, the federal government passed the Help America Vote Act. It required special voting machines like the Automark, moved elections to an optical scan system, which required public testing of equipment, renting the machines – it made the process more complex and more costly. In the past 20 years, all but 27 school districts out of 331 have moved to even-year elections including two school districts in cities of the first class.

This bill would force the remaining 25 school districts into even-year elections, breaking the contract set when school elections were moved from May to November. It is also an unnecessary mandate that erodes the decision of the local community.

Those 25 districts have stuck with an odd-year election because they believe keeping these nonpartisan races out of a very partisan even-year election system gives people a better understanding of who is running and keeps the focus of odd-year elections on school issues.

This mandate is not needed when only 25 out of 331 districts remain in odd year elections. The legislature has trusted school districts for over 30 years to make a local decision on whether to have odd-year or even-year elections. There is no evidence that this flexibility has created problems or confusion. A mandate to force the remaining districts into even-year elections is **unwarranted and disrupts a system that is already functioning well.**

MSBA believes the legislature should keep that trust with our locally elected school board members.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on this issue.

Agenda Topic: Anti-Racist Leadership Professional Development
Meeting Date: February 10, 2025
Contact Person: Office of Educational Equity

Background:

The Office of Educational Equity will lead professional development with board members around anti-racist leadership.

Recommendation:

Action Required

Informational – No Board Action Requested