

2019 Supplemental Legislative Platform

All public school children must have equal access to a high quality education regardless of where they live in Minnesota.

OTHER FUNDING INITIATIVES

Expand Student Opportunities

- Continue state efforts to **expand access to high-quality broadband services statewide**. Too many regions of the state are still in need of reliable broadband service. In an era when the internet has become central to educational opportunity, all students must have access to broadband service.
- **Increase access to career and technical education** by providing more funding and encouraging local business partnerships. Minnesota is experiencing a skilled worker shortage and students—especially non-college bound students—must have access to programs that will prepare them for careers that do not require a college degree.
- **Increase funding for English language (EL) learners**. The future economy will depend on all students successfully participating in the work force. The current funding for EL services is inadequate and requires districts to shift significant funding from their general fund to support their EL learners.

Promote Funding Fairness

- **Provide funding for districts not participating in Alternative Compensation (Qcomp)** – the alternative compensation program – for school districts not currently participating. All districts are required to perform the duties prescribed by the Teacher Development and Evaluation statute and those districts without funding under the Alternative Compensation (QComp) law are forced to use general fund dollars to accomplish these tasks.
- Create a funding stream that provides **additional revenue to districts with low levels of referendum and categorical revenue**.

COMMON SENSE POLICY RELIEF AND REFORM

- No additional mandates unless fully funded.
- Target increases to early learning programming to the most at-risk children for the most effective use of limited resources. Protect early learning programming by making the current school readiness plus funding permanent.
- Remove the cap on Pathway II early learning scholarships. Split any new funding equally between Pathway I and Pathway II.
- Allow school districts to use increases in compensatory funding where most needed to meet the needs of their students.
- Allow school boards to renew existing voter-approved operating referendum as was the law prior to the mid-1990s.
- Eliminate the school levy ballot language -- "BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE. " -- when an expiring bond combined with a proposed referendum increase reduces or does not increase total school levy property taxes.
- Find a legislative solution that allows high school teachers teaching concurrent enrollment courses to continue to do so after the Higher Learning Commission enforces the requirement that teachers have 18 college credits in the content area.
- Oppose the creation of *new* tax credits related to private school tuition and scholarships that would divert scarce resources away from adequately funding Minnesota's E-12 public schools, which is the legislature's constitutional obligation.
- Eliminate unnecessary student tests that provide no appreciable value for students or instructional staff.