



PLSAS

2021 Legislative Platform

(Board Approved December 14, 2020)

Our mission is to educate all learners to reach their full potential as contributing and productive members of our ever-changing global community.

COVID-19 Relief and Support

- Mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by allowing school districts (SD 2)
 - to use the greater of the 2019 or 2020 pupil counts for general education pupil counts to determine funding.
 - to use the greater of the 2019 or 2020 free and reduced-price counts to determine compensatory and other categorical funding.
- Extend the 2019 supplemental Safe School Aid to support students as mental health needs are at an all-time high. The funding will expire at the end of the 2020-21 school year. (SD 5)
- Delay the World's Best WorkForce (WBWF) assessments requirements for the 2020-21 school year. (SD 1)
- Create incentives and alternatives to attract, develop and retain teachers, particularly teachers of color and teachers in shortage areas. (SD 2)
- Close the digital divide by ensuring all students have access to reliable internet and technology devices needed for distance learning. (SD 1)

Stabilize Educational Funding

- Provide a 2% increase to the basic formula and index the formula to inflation. This allows the school board and administrators to support student academic, social and emotional learning. (SD 1, 2, 5)
- Increase state equalization aid for all education-related levies, particularly those related to operating referenda, debt service and local option revenue. Local levies must be affordable so voters can support the district. (SD 2, 6)
- Increase special education and English learning funding to eliminate the funding shortfall in these programs which causes schools to redirect general education funding. (SD 1, 2, 5, 6)

Support Innovation and Reduce Mandates

- Allow districts flexibility to continue using practices established in the MN Safe Learning Plan such as online or hybrid learning instruction, discretion with seat time requirements and calendar adjustments and flexibility with assessments to promote personalized learning. (SD 1, 4, 5, 6)
- Refrain from enacting new underfunded or unfunded legislative mandates.