

2019 Legislative Platform

A ZIP CODE SHOULD NOT DICTATE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

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

SCHOOL LEVY PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR EQUITY IN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- **Increase state aid in low-property wealth school districts for local school operating and building bonds levies** by increasing the equalizing factors for the referendum, debt service and lease levy equalization programs. **Index all tiers of equalization to inflation** to prevent the erosion of the program.
- **Funding for this property tax relief related to school levies must be part of the state tax policy with resources coming from the tax committee budget target rather than the education target.**

INVESTMENTS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION EQUALS INVESTMENTS IN MINNESOTA'S PROSPERITY

- **Increase the basic formula by a minimum of \$250 per pupil in each of the next two years.** Recent increases in the basic formula have done little to make up for the significant loss of buying power due to inflation over the past two decades.
- **Increase the state's share of special education funding and reexamine the new special education funding formula to address unintended inequities among districts.** The amount of revenue school districts must divert from their general fund to pay for mandated but unreimbursed special education services is not sustainable and jeopardizes the quality of public education in Minnesota.
- **Create a constitutionally-dedicated revenue stream** by increasing the sales tax by one cent and reserving the resulting revenue for E-12 public education.

EXPAND STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Continue state efforts to **expand access to high-quality broadband services statewide.**
- **Increase access to career and technical education** by providing more funding and encouraging local business partnerships.

PROMOTE FUNDING FAIRNESS

- **Provide funding for Qcomp** – the alternative compensation program – for school districts not currently participating.
- Create a funding stream that provides **additional revenue to districts with low levels of referendum and categorical revenue.**