

Edina Public Schools 2012 Minnesota Legislative Priorities



Edina Public Schools works closely with the Minnesota School Boards Association, the Association of Metropolitan School Districts, and the Minnesota Association of School Administrators in advocating for early childhood through adult learning education. The District recognizes that the priorities of these organizations also support the interests of Edina Public Schools. The District's major priorities for the 2012 Minnesota legislative session include the following:

1. Provide a plan for stabilizing funding for Minnesota school districts.

- Maintain current public education funding levels in the upcoming legislative session.
- Provide mechanisms for school districts to contain increasing costs.
- Pursue an alternative school funding model that will provide adequate and equitable funding for Minnesota school districts.

2. Increase the independence of school districts with accountability.

- Modify and reduce mandates that cause school districts to be overregulated.
- Allow school districts to have greater flexibility in determining their school learning year, including the mandated after-Labor Day start date.
- Focus on emphasizing statutory changes that will enhance the academic success of student learning.
- Reduce mandates that limit school districts in being innovative and creative in responding to today's world in a timely manner.

3. Create and maintain the highest quality educational work force.

- Modify the educator evaluation program to ensure the program aligns to researched best practices.
- Maintain and enhance the alternative teacher professional pay system.

4. Create a 2020 Educational Vision for the State of Minnesota.

- Understand and plan for the demographic and societal changes occurring in Minnesota.
- Understand and plan for the educational enhancements that must occur in public education.
- Align funding and policy to the educational vision of the State.