

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

2023

Supporting all students and addressing inequity in education

On behalf of the students, educators, families and community members of Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191, the District 191 Legislative Committee asks the Minnesota State Legislature and U.S. Congress to take the actions described in this platform in 2023.

Reduce the cross subsidy for special education and English Learner funding

Provide a legislative exemption to allow local
control of property sale proceeds

Remove 15-day residency requirement for
students enrolled in online schools

Increase Safe Schools funding to expand mental
health supports

Provide targeted funding to increase diversity
among teachers

Make funding for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten
(VPK) permanent and increase access to school-
based pre-kindergarten programs.

Continue medicaid eligibility as a means of
direct certification for a student to receive free
school meals.





District 191 Legislative Platform

Reduce the cross subsidy for special education, English Learner funding

These services are essential for supporting the individual needs of students and are mandated by law. But in 2018-19, for instance, District 191 received about \$12.8 million less in funding than was spent to provide those services. Those costs were covered by the district's general fund — the cross subsidy — meaning less money for general education staff, programming and services.

Remove the 15-day residency requirement for online students

Under current law, a student who leaves Minnesota for longer than 15 consecutive days is automatically unenrolled from their school. In the age of online school options, this requirement should be removed for any student enrolled online whose permanent address remains in the state.

Increase funding for mental health

It's never been more important to address the mental health needs of students to ensure they are prepared to learn and grow. Increasing the Safe Schools levy will allow schools districts to hire staff to address those needs.

Provide targeted funding to increase diversity among teachers

In District 191 and across Minnesota, only about 4% of teachers are people of color. Studies show that all students do better when they are taught by a diverse teaching staff, and the lack of representation especially harms students of color.

Make funding for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) permanent and increase access to school-based pre-kindergarten programs

The benefits of access to preschool for students' future success is well documented. Funding should be approved to increase and stabilize access for more Minnesota families.

Provide a legislative exemption for District 191 property sale

District 191 is planning to sell one or more properties and is seeking a legislative exemption that would allow proceeds of the sale after paying off any remaining debt to be transferred to the district's general fund.

Continue medicaid eligibility as a means of direct certification for a student to receive free school meals

Removing the application for educational benefits as a barrier for many families will help ensure more students get the food they need without their families incurring debt.

ABOUT DISTRICT 191

Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 is a future-forward school district creating barrier-free pathways for learning for everyone in our community.

We believe learning is a lifelong pursuit, and create programs, services and opportunities that inspire this belief.

Each Student.

Future Ready.

Community Strong.

one91
Burnsville • Eagan • Savage

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