

St. Cloud Area School District 742
Board of Education
2009 Legislative Position

Approved: February 11, 2009

NCLB testing

The State of Minnesota should use growth measures, as allowed by the federal government for all states, to determine adequate yearly progress of schools. Comparing grade level cohorts from one year to another is not a valid measure of student progress. We strongly believe in accountability, but testing used for accountability purposes should be valid and reliable. All mandates in NCLB, including testing, should be funded.

Levy authority

When the State does not provide at least an inflationary increase in funding, districts should have the authority to levy the difference.

Special education

1. Districts should receive special education funding based on the number of students who reside in the district, not on the number of students enrolled in the public schools, because districts must pay for all resident students with special education needs, no matter where they attend school.
2. The State of Minnesota must fulfill its original commitment to special education and finish funding the "cap gap". In addition, the State of Minnesota ought to increase its commitment to special education funding.

Bargaining reform

Labor and health insurance negotiations should take place on a state-wide or regional level. To maintain educational excellence, the State should provide adequate funding to assure that teachers and other staff receive fair compensation without requiring districts to make harmful cuts in educational programs and employees. The State, who is responsible for determining the level of funding should be responsible for settling contracts and provide all necessary funds.

Early Childhood Education

The State of Minnesota must increase funding for high-risk pre-K learners and their parents to enable their participation in quality programs that provide **standards-based curricula**, utilize **research-based instructional practices** and measure individual growth through **standardized assessments** in order to realize public and societal benefits that accompany school success.