



# SAINT LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Legislative Platform 2024

The Board of Education of the City of St. Louis is dedicated to building a collaborative community of lifelong learners who are inspired to become caring, responsible, innovative and productive citizens. We are committed to ensuring all of our students are given the academic knowledge and critical thinking skills they need to thrive in the classroom and beyond.

### Trauma and Homelessness

SUPPORT

- State funding for DESE to provide grants for districts seeking health and mental health care, counseling, remedial reading, tutoring, social services and other student supports. This is particularly critical for districts with high numbers of homeless students.
- Factoring in the percent of homeless students in all equations regarding funding.
- A new category for weighted factors for transient students; those students with a high mobility rate and/or students who are classified as homeless of 25 percent. As an alternative, do not count a student's test scores for two years of state accreditation if the student moves more than two times in a year to different schools, either within or outside the district.
- State funding for DESE through a budget line item dedicated to helping districts provide trauma support, counseling, healthcare and mental health services for students who have been witnesses to or victims of violence.
- State funding for DESE to support district's efforts to help students who are homeless or lacking necessities including healthcare, food, clothing and housing.

### Virtual Programs

SUPPORT

- School districts in making decisions on Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP).
- School districts by ensuring they remain part of the decision-making process for virtual education courses being provided under MOCAP.
- Capping the amount paid per credit hour to the cost of what the district is paying for their in-district provider virtual education credit hours.
- Efforts to stop virtual provider from becoming virtual charter schools statewide and from becoming their own Local education Agency (LEA) attendance centers.

### Proposition C

SUPPORT

- Current Proposition C funding distributions on a weighted Average Daily Attendance (ADA) scale taking into consideration the percentage of district students designated Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL), Limited English Proficient (LEP) or with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

## Local Control

- Local school districts' authority to make the decisions about matters including, but not limited to, employee compensation and working conditions; class sizes; curriculum and instruction materials; professional development; program and employee evaluations; and school calendar (including starting dates). We strongly support local control.
- Local school districts' ability to develop their own reading intervention and remedial reading programs for students and oppose a "one size fits all" unfunded statewide mandated program.
- Additional state resources and investments to allow local school districts the flexibility to meet the unique needs of the students they serve.
- Plans calling for a pause for the opening of new schools in the City of St. Louis until a Citywide Plan for Education can be developed.
- Legislation and or regulations requiring a Community Need/Feasability Study before any new or expanded schools are allowed to open.
- Legislation that gives the State Board of Education the power to make a final determination on whether to allow new charter schools to open within existing local school districts.

## Formulas

- Fully funding the Transportation Formula and eliminating Magnet school transportation costs from the state's efficiency calculation. The mandates of the desegregation settlement agreement lead to inefficiencies that apply only to Saint Louis Public Schools.
- Funding for Professional Development that provides both a comprehensive and sustainable approach to improving the effectiveness in District personnel's ability to raise student achievement.
- Keeping the current dollar-value modifier calculation in the Formula and at no less than the current level.
- Funding Early Childhood Education (ECE) through an increased appropriation in the Foundation Formula and no decrease to the State Adequacy Target (SAT) paid on the Formula.

## Taxes and TIFS

- Legislation that requires equal representation and the unanimous support of all taxing jurisdictions for any tax abatement project or, include an opt-out provision.
- Collaboration with the City of St. Louis in revitalization efforts that will benefit District students and families.
- Legislation capping tax incentives in certain areas, or any legislation that provides greater equity and transparency in the tax incentive procedures.

## Empowerment Scholarship Accounts

OPPOSE

- Expanding ESA programs with additional taxpayer dollars.
- Changing or expanding any student eligibility for ESA programs and any statewide expansion.

## Funding

OPPOSE

- Inequities of providing State funding for charter school infrastructure and deferred maintenance as public school districts currently receive no such funding.
- Any new additional local funding sources for charter schools that would divert funding away from the Saint Louis Public Schools.
- Any legislation or proposals that would divert public monies or resources from the K-12 public schools to non-public education entities.
- Any amendment to the Missouri Constitution that would allow the distribution of state monies directly or indirectly to non-public educational entities or organizations.

## Local Control

OPPOSE

- Legislation or proposals that authorize any mandate regarding open enrollment.
- Legislation that censors educators from teaching the complete history of America including the uncomfortable issues related to race, economics, and equity. We support teaching all history for the purpose of education, knowledge, and understanding of our country's past and not for the purpose of blaming any particular group, culture, or political institution for any negative results from those past actions.

