



2020 Legislative Priorities

South Washington County Schools

South Washington County Schools believes in a shared responsibility for educating our kids. A successful partnership between the district, the community and the state legislature is critical to ignite a passion for lifelong learning for all students.

District 833 is focused on personalized learning to engage, motivate and empower each student to help narrow down the achievement gap. Therefore, we ask for flexibility in state statutes to allow us to better serve our families, staff and students.

Below are some issues to consider that we believe will benefit South Washington County Schools and districts across Minnesota.

Online Learning



Amend the Online Learning Option Act to 1) require students who wish to take online courses to first apply to the school district in which they reside and 2) provide flexibility for districts to choose online learning sites to avoid overcrowding at certain schools.

Flexibility



Allow districts the **flexibility to use lease levy funding** to add common spaces to accommodate growth, such as restrooms, cafeterias, etc.

Funding



Further strengthen education funding by **indexing both the state's cross-subsidy reduction aid and the base funding formula to inflation.**

Increase Local Control



Allow locally-elected school boards to **renew existing operating referendums** at least once.

School Safety



Enhance **school safety** and **mental health** support by making the one-time additional safety funding permanent.

Support Opportunities for All Students

- Provide more flexibility with state-required assessments so districts can offer an assessment that is more applicable to college and career readiness.
- Increase state funding to lower the cross-subsidy requirements for the English learner programs.
- Provide more guidance on cultural competency expectations for teacher relicensure and for other education staff.
- Provide pathways for new teachers through alternative licensing programs to better recruit out-of-state teachers, military veterans, teachers of color, professionals from other fields, etc.

Working in Partnership

District 833's administrators and representatives are scheduled to visit with lawmakers at the capitol during the 2020 legislative session. District leaders are also available for one-on-one conversations or public hearings. To schedule a meeting, please contact Dayna Pottratz at 651-425-6201 or dpottrat@sowascho.org.

2020 School Board

Tracy Brunnette • Melinda Dols • Patricia Driscoll
Louise Hinz • Simi Patnaik • Katie Schwartz • Sharon Van Leer
Keith Jacobus, Superintendent