

# 2011 District 834 Legislative Platform

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## 2011 School Board

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**STILLWATER AREA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*We learn not for school but for life*

### **Mission:** *Our Core Purpose*

As Minnesota's first public school district and the premier educational choice in the St. Croix Valley, Stillwater Area Public Schools ensure a rigorous and relevant education where all learners are valued, positive relationships are developed and students are prepared for life-long learning in a global society.

To improve our education system and enhance the education of every learner, the School Board of the Stillwater Area Public Schools establishes the following priorities for the 2011 legislative session:

### **Stabilize Funding**

*Establish a K-12 public school funding formula that is adequate, equitable, predictable and less reliant on voter-approved local levies.*

- Promote greater taxpayer fairness by increasing the equalization factors for all levies.
- Allow school boards to renew an existing operating referendum by a majority vote of the school board.
- Special education funding should cover the full cost of the services.

The funding formula must closely align with the actual costs for all students to reach proficiency, and the dollars to meet those costs must be equitably distributed.

### **Enhance Local Control**

*Local control can be enhanced and cost pressures reduced by implementation of a moratorium on any new mandates and repealing or temporarily waiving existing mandates that are not outdated or funded.*

- Allow local levy authority to provide revenue for transportation services above the statutory requirements. These expanded services could include:
  - o Transportation for students living less than two miles from school
  - o Hazardous transportation
  - o Transportation for in-district enrollment choice
- Eliminate the maintenance of effort requirement for safe school revenue.
- Amend appropriate laws to ensure school districts are able to retain the most effective teachers.

### **Invest in Early Education**

*Support increased access to expanded early childhood education and kindergarten opportunities.*

- Support full funding for all-day, every-day kindergarten.
- Ensure every pre-school child has access to an early learning program.