

**2011 Legislative Platform  
Roseville Area School District 623  
Legislative Action Committee**

The guiding principle for the Roseville Area School District Legislative Action Committee is the support of stable and adequate funding for public schools. We believe educating our children is critical to the health and future of our community and to the economic future of the state of Minnesota. We believe these are non-partisan issues, and our state legislators should cooperate so that decisions are made in the best interest of children.

We call on the governor and legislature to:

1. Provide non-partisan leadership to oversee statewide educational policy development and implementation and ensure that Minnesota meets its constitutional obligation to provide a uniform, thorough, and efficient system of public schools.
2. Establish a non-partisan, independent Education Research Center in order to:
  - a. Ensure that educational policy decisions are research based and non-partisan.
  - b. Provide educators, early childhood through post secondary, with recommendations about current research-based “best practices” for assessment, content standards, and instruction.
3. Enhance local control and reduce cost pressures by implementing a moratorium on any new mandates and repealing or waiving existing mandates that are unfunded or outdated.
4. Repay the state aid payment and property tax shifts.
5. Support programs that increase achievement at all age levels, such as school readiness, extended day, and programs to close the achievement gap.
6. Support programs that ensure that each student is prepared to succeed in a 21st century global society and economy.
7. There have been no increases in education funding from the state for 4 years. We continue to support providing schools with stable and adequate funding and adopting a schedule to phase in comprehensive education funding reform based on the New Minnesota Miracle. In particular we support a bill that would:
  - a. Eliminate education funding complexity so it will be more transparent to the public.
  - b. Increase funding for students with special needs, including, but not limited to, students living in poverty and students with limited English proficiency.
  - c. Recognize that the cost of living varies with geographical location and fund districts accordingly.
  - d. Fully fund the special education costs not covered by the federal government.
  - e. Automatically adjust funding to reflect inflation.