



2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SPECIAL EDUCATION



The Legislature has recently taken incremental steps to improve the state's special education funding gap by increasing support for safety net awards, transition services, professional development, and family liaisons.

RECOMMENDATION: Continue to increase funding to reach the actual cost of special education services currently borne at the local level.

STAFF FUNDING RATIOS



We expect more from our schools than ever before. The way we staff schools needs to reflect an increased demand for student mental, social, emotional, and behavioral health, as well as safety.

RECOMMENDATION: Phase in updated staffing ratios to achieve more realistic state-funded staffing levels for counselors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, family engagement coordinators, and safety staff.

CAPITAL FACILITIES



School district bonds require a super-majority vote to pass. And when they do pass, actual construction costs often exceed what schools can propose in their initiatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Allow citizens to approve bonds with a simple majority **and** update the funding formulas for the Construction Cost Allowance and Student Space Allocation to reflect actual construction costs and educational space needs.

PRINCIPAL SUPPORT



The role of principal is increasingly demanding. Principals need adequate compensation and on-the-job support.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Update the administrator salary allocation **and** prepare and support new administrators by increasing funding for administrative internship and mentorship programs.