



# **MSD LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2019**

## **SCHOOL FUNDING**

We support providing the same percentage increase to all schools based on prior year funding. We support funding increases to be at or greater than the current rate of inflation. We support restoring the complexity funding to a level that will allow Districts to provide an equitable, quality education to all students from all backgrounds. To properly educate the ever growing ELL population takes extra resources in the classrooms.

## **TEACHER SALARIES**

We support giving School Districts latitude in how they pay their teachers in order to allow the teachers, through innovation and achievement driven results, to be rewarded with increased Career earnings. Teacher retention is an issue as market pressures from the business sector cause teachers to leave the profession when they look at their potential future wages.

## **PROTECTED TAXES WAIVER**

We support the continuation of the protected taxes waiver. We support making this waiver a permanent waiver rather than having to extend it during subsequent legislative sessions.

## **CIRCUIT BREAKER ASSISTANCE**

We support the reinstatement of the circuit breaker assistance for public schools. As the circuit breaker amount rises each year, it continues to put pressure on the school's Capital Projects Fund and Transportation Fund to the point that schools have to put off much needed repairs to their buildings and reduce the number of students they are able to transport on a daily basis.

### **ADM COUNT**

We would support the reinstatement of the second ADM count day provided it would not harm schools if their ADM would go down, but would financially assist those schools that have an increase in their ADM on the second count day.

### **BACKGROUND CHECK**

We support the continuing background check legislation that was passed in 2017. We also support legislation that would fully fund the initiative.

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

We support funding for all children to be able to attend preschool. Giving children a solid foundation prior to entering Kindergarten is vital. Children who do not receive a preschool education are at a great disadvantage socially, emotionally and academically compared to those who do attend a preschool.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS**

We support allowing tax credits to offset state tax liability for individual or corporate donations made to public education foundations which utilize funds to support student education.

### **GRADUATION FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDRENS**

We support creating a special diploma designation with specific outcomes identified which awards students who have obtained necessary skills for gainful employment and self-sufficiency in society. We support removing these students from the drop out cohort.

## **TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE**

We support giving School Districts more latitude in how they pay their teachers. The current compensation model, per State Statute, is not a sustainable, workable model as by design it compresses teacher salaries, which impacts their life long earnings and is discouraging prospective teachers from entering the profession.

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## **TRANSPORTATION FUNDING RELIEF**

We support efforts to seek new funding sources for public school transportation funds including advertising, alternative and/or additional taxing sources to increase dollars available to transport students to schools.

## **PROTECTED TAXES WAIVER**

We support revising the 2016 protected taxes waiver provision regarding issuing new debt in order to allow School Districts that are affected at the 10% level or above to utilize it, especially if they need to renovate a current school building.

## **NEGOTIATIONS TIME TABLE**

We support moving the drop dead date for negotiations between the Local Education Association and the School District from October 1 to November 1. With the ADM count day being 2 weeks prior, a 2-week submission period following that, a week long clean up period for conflicts, and the money following the students, there is not currently enough time to effectively negotiate and settle a contract.

## **CONTINUING BACKGROUND CHECKS**

We support fully funding continuing teacher background checks should that legislation come to pass. We support this provision to be permanently part of the State budget, and if this funding is removed from the State budget, then the requirement for School Districts to conduct these checks would be removed as well.