

# Policy Platform 2025

## Increase the Reimbursement Rate for Extended Time Revenue

Extended time revenue funds critical Summer and Afterschool learning for young people that builds on school-day learning and supports school success. The reimbursement rate has not increased since 2015, leaving a 30% gap between extended time and general education revenue for 2025. We support an increase in the hourly reimbursement rate from approximately \$5.47 to \$7.97.



## Dedicate 10% of Cannabis Tax Revenue to Support Young People

Research shows that the use of Cannabis prior to age 24 can negatively impact brain development (Sharma, 2023). Young people need opportunities that support mental health, peer education and success in the workforce to mitigate cannabis use. We must invest in youth development, workforce, and peer-to-peer education programs.



## Continue Funding the Afterschool Community Learning Grant Program

Minnesota's Afterschool Community Learning Grant bill has a one-time appropriation that expires in June 2027. Minnesota's federally and state-funded afterschool and summer grant programs consistently receive more qualified applications than can be funded. Funding ensures young people have a safe place to be after school that supports success in school and life.

# Support & Endorse

## **ESTABLISH A MINNESOTA ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR STEM LEARNING**

A Minnesota Advisory Council for STEM Learning will identify, connect and promote STEM-based learning experiences throughout Minnesota to increase the number of young people pursuing STEM careers.

**SUPPORT**

## **ESTABLISH A STATEWIDE COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM TO ENSURE YOUTH VOICE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Youth Voice in Local Government grant program will support initiatives that actively integrate youth perspectives into local decision-making processes, develop civic leadership skills, encourage meaningful collaboration between youth and adults in local government and community organizations, and foster a sense of belonging for youth.

**SUPPORT**

## **ENSURE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE IN FOSTER CARE MAINTAIN OWNERSHIP OF THE FEDERAL BENEFITS DESIGNATED FOR THEM**

Federal Survivor Benefit payments are seized from young people in foster care by counties without the young person's knowledge or consent. These benefits should be placed in a trust for youth in foster care until they are 18 to promote self-sufficiency.

**ENDORSED**

## **ENSURE THAT YOUNG PEOPLE CAN UTILIZE SECTION 42 HOUSING WHILE MAINTAINING FULL-TIME STUDENT STATUS**

Currently, you cannot be a full time student and qualify for section 42 housing. For young people who are utilizing section 42 housing prior to becoming a student, losing their housing benefit can be a disincentive to attend school full-time.

**ENDORSED**