

**Snapshot comparison of the omnibus
education finance and policy bills before the
legislature as of April 23, 2013
MREA Responses**

Topics	Senate SF 453 and SF 978	House HF 630	MREA Responses
Funding:			
Targets	\$292 m plus \$150 m tax relief	\$470 m plus \$30 m tax relief	Support House aid target, Senate does not keep up with inflation
Basic Funding	1% and 0%	2% and 2%	Blend House and Senate with GEL to get 1.5% in FY '14 and somewhat more than 2% in FY '15
Kindergarten	All day K at district's choice in FY '15	All day K at district's choice in FY 15	Support, universal access to all day full day Kindergarten in platform
Basic Supplemental Revenue	\$56 per pupil in FY'15 in new Basic Supplemental Rev is replacement for Equity Levy.	Nothing Senate's position is not new revenue to districts.	Support House. Better to raise equalization Tiers and eliminate ANTC levies than replace Equity levy.
Early childhood	Scholarships (MinneMinds) at \$44 m	Scholarships (MinneMinds) at \$50 m and more in tails	A scholarship commitment date to a program is needed for planning purposes. MREA suggests May 1.
Equity for Districts with less than \$300 referendum	\$87 for districts with zero referendums to get them to \$100 equity aid	Up to \$300 in FY '14 to bring all districts up to \$300. Board can levy up to \$300 with board authority beginning in FY '15, up to \$400 in metro districts	Support House. Was in platform. House position closes the 5 th to 95 th gap by 11% and is excellent step in this direction.
Spec Ed	Nothing	MDE working group's recommendations in FY '16	Support House, wish more were done here to reduce cross subsidies.
Integration	70%, new eligibility percentages, levy in '14 only	Restores integration aid and levy, more accurate eligibility	Support new percentages as capturing more truly rural diversity
Taxes:			
ANTC: Adjusted Net Tax Capacity GEL: General Ed Levy	\$150 m reduction in levies by moving operating capital, safe schools (ANTC) and Equity (RMV) from levy to aid and creating \$20 m GEL.	Nothing on ANTC	Support: Districts should look at possibility of bond election in fall of '13 for school safety, deferred maintenance, everyday all day K facilities, needs local solutions.
RMV: Referendum Market Value	RMV equalization raises 1 st Tier to \$586,000 and lowers the 2 nd Tier to \$259,000 with new pupil unit calculations	Indexes the RMV Tiers to average RMV/PU statewide (RMVEF). Raises the 1 st Tier to 122% of RMVEF and Tier 2 to 66%: (\$526,000 and \$284,560 respectively)	Support House approach. The property poorest districts with the largest referendums (highest current tax burdens) get the greatest tax relief in the House position. Not the case in the Senate position
EAR: Education Advancement Revenue	In Senate Tax Committee. \$300 RMV Levy for all districts equalized at \$785,000. Increases in Tier 1 (\$538,000) and decreases T. 2 (\$259,415).	See Equity House Position	Blend House Equity and Senate EAR. Closes the 5 th to 95 th gap with highly equalized EAR levy. Concern about limiting Nov 13 referendum elections (FY '15) to renewals only.
Operating Referendum Pupil Basis	Converts operating referendum pupil count from resident pupils to pupils served.	Nothing	Open enrollment collides with reliance on voter approved referendums. Support House.

Safe Schools Levy	Increased from \$30/PU to \$32/PU	Increased from \$30/PU to \$35/PU	Both are absolutely inadequate given threats to safety. See note to consider a local bond election.
Cyrus and Morris	Local bonding authority for Cyrus to demolish building to consolidate with Morris	Local bonding authority for Cyrus to demolish building to consolidate with Morris	Support, was a local initiative, MREA was able to assist here for both member districts. Their local legislators worked across the aisle for the kids of these districts.
Policies:			
Safe and Supportive Schools	Separate bill. SF 783. Local Impact Statement: \$26 m. statewide, average \$30/pupil statewide	Separate bill. HF 826. 42 rural districts responded to LIN, inverse relation size to cost: \$38 in smallest districts, \$15 in large urban districts	MREA supports positive and safe school cultures. This bill is an unfunded mandate that will have greater relative impact on medium to smaller school districts.
Repeal of GRAD Rule; assessment reform	In bill in entirety, fierce opposition from Bus Partnership and Chamber over the "cut score" issue	In bill in entirety, fierce opposition expect up to \$1m ad campaign—"Dumming Down the Diploma"	Support both, was part of platform. Contact Reps and Senators, tell your stories of students worthy of graduation
Teacher Evaluation	One year delay until 15/16	Nothing, \$289 m EM & MSBA estimated costs	MREA recommends districts develop their own plans. Support Senate.
Statewide health	Voluntary enrollment into PEIP for districts and employees	Mandatory enrollment into PEIP for districts insuring fewer than 1,000 total lives	MREA supports a balance of local control and state mandates. Senate position reflects that balance.
2% Staff Dev Set Aside	Nothing	Nothing	This is likely to be reinstated. Local admin, bd and teacher leaders need to be in communications on this.
World Class Work Force, RCE's district accountability	Nothing	Detailed, 100% goals by 2027 (entering K's), MDE can withhold 4% aid and direct school turnarounds.	Support the goals in concept. MREA calls for this to be addressed in Task Force of stakeholders and brought back to the '14 legislature.
MTLE Reform	Allows up to 3 years temporary waivers	Allows up to 3 years temporary waivers	Support.
Referendum Renewal	Metro districts can renew \$400 referendum by board action, Non metro districts over 2K can renew \$200 by board action.	Nothing	Support Senate. MREA questions the limitations, but supports in principle boards' ability to renew operating referendums.
School Lunch	Adds \$.02 per meal, \$4 m	Adds \$.01per meal, \$2 m	Support Senate, both are good
Free Lunch Expansion	If parent state they cannot pay Reduced Lunch Fee, district must provide Class A lunch	Rejected the amendment in committee, nothing in bill.	Supports House position. This opens up an unfunded mandate.
School Year	Nothing	Nothing	Lost calendar reform in House Ways & Means; no action in Senate
Pupil Units	Simplifies Pupil Units to 1.0 K-6 and 1.2 for secondary, adjusts formulas	Nothing	Support the Senate. This does simplify the formula. Needs a larger target so every district is a winner.
Facility Study	Establishes a working group to study facility needs & funding.	Nothing	Support Senate position. MREA platform position.