



*Our 2025*

# Legislative Policy Agenda

The Minneapolis Foundation drives collective action to realize strong, vibrant communities. We fulfill our mission not only through grantmaking and the philanthropic services we provide to our fundholders, but also by commissioning research, convening stakeholders, making impact investments—and advocating for public policies that strengthen the communities we serve.

Our legislative advocacy is informed by many partners who are doing important work to address racial and economic inequities that affect the lives of Minnesotans. For years, the Foundation has made grants to nonprofits that advocate for investing in public schools, fueling economic mobility, and building wealth in historically underserved communities. Increasingly, we pair that grantmaking with direct advocacy.

Our 2025 state policy agenda reflects our commitment to dismantling inequitable systems and practices so that everyone in our community has the resources they need to thrive. It also aligns with the values articulated in our [Strategic Framework](#), which calls for us to listen closely and support solutions that are shaped by local communities.

# Legislative Priorities

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## EDUCATION

Supporting students and schools by...

- **Providing ongoing state funding to conduct the Minnesota Principals Survey.** Similar to the state-funded Minnesota Student Survey, this biennial survey elevates the voices of K-12 principals statewide. With an estimated cost of \$250,000 per biennium, investing in this survey—which is administered by the University of Minnesota Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI)—will help ensure that our state continues to benefit from the perspectives and insights of these critical school leaders.
- **Providing additional resources to support Minnesota teachers, schools, and other education leaders as they implement the READ Act.** This includes more funding for professional development and curriculum, as well as resources for the state licensure board and teacher preparation programs. The state should also require teacher preparation programs to provide their teacher candidates with evidence-based literacy training that aligns with the READ Act.
- **Adopting recommendations made by the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group.** During the COVID-19 pandemic, schools in Minnesota and nationwide paused public reporting on attendance and other measures of school performance. When reporting resumed, the data showed a dramatic drop in the percentage of students who consistently attend school, from 85% in 2019 to less than 70% in 2022. In 2024, Minnesota lawmakers created a bipartisan legislative study group that recommended discussion of statutory and agency changes to address this issue.
- **Expanding the definition of instructional hours for high school students to allow for more engaging educational opportunities.** State law requires school districts to offer students a minimum number of instructional hours and days over the course of the year, commonly referred to as “seat time.” The law does not require students to spend a set amount of time in order to meet an academic standard, complete a credit, or advance to a new grade. However, there is some ambiguity in current state law about what counts as “seat time,” and this can create challenges for schools when students seek to earn credit outside a traditional classroom setting. Adopting more explicitly permissive language will enable schools to give students more flexibility to learn in ways that are personalized and relevant to their interests, identities, and aspirations.



# Legislative Priorities

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## ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Expanding access to capital for Black homeowners, entrepreneurs, and commercial real estate developers by...

- **Investing \$50 million in the GroundBreak Capital Access and Innovation Fund.**

GroundBreak is a coalition of philanthropic, private, and civic organizations working to build Black wealth, close racial wealth divides, and create a more vibrant Minnesota for all. Over the next decade, the [GroundBreak Coalition](#) is working to unlock over \$5 billion in capital to ensure that entrepreneurs who do not come from wealthy networks can grow their businesses, developers without traditional collateral can realize their visions, and mortgage-ready families can build lasting generational wealth.

Most of these resources will come from financial institutions, as well as philanthropic and private partners. This state investment in the GroundBreak Capital Access and Innovation Fund, which is administered by the Minneapolis Foundation, is critical for bridging one-time gaps, scaling solutions, and maximizing private investments. State funds would flow through the Minneapolis Foundation and be deployed by GroundBreak originating partners (Community Development Financial Institutions and nonprofits) that work directly with wealth builders.



## DEMOCRACY

Achieving equal rights for all Minnesotans by...

- **Putting the Equal Rights Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution on the ballot for voters to ratify in 2026.**

It has been more than a century since women got the right to vote, but we have yet to constitutionalize equal rights for all citizens of Minnesota and the United States. It's time to guarantee that all of us get equal protection under the law—regardless of sex, race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.



# Contact Us

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