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*Educating Our Students  
Ensuring Minnesota's Future*

# Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals

*Setting the Goal That  
Every Student is Prepared  
for Post-Secondary  
Education.*



*The Voice of Middle Level  
and High School Principals*

LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES 2010



# Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals

*The Voice of Middle Level and High School Principals*

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## *Focus on Leadership*

**Principal leadership together with effective classroom instruction are the essential factors in improving student achievement. To strengthen the role of the principal:**

- Adopt reforms that provide autonomy and flexibility for principals rather than punitive actions.
- Support and improve funding for “college in the school” programs.
- Ensure that all education reform programs, including enhanced Q-Comp, include principals.
- Require that leaders of charter schools be subject to the same licensure and ethical requirements as all Minnesota principals.
- Support training and development opportunities for principals including the Principals’ Academy.

## *Require Rigorous Courses*

**Minnesota’s students will compete for jobs in a global economy. Our schools must provide them the world-class education they deserve and that is essential for our state’s economic vitality, including:**

- Providing authority for school districts to establish quality standards for accepting student academic credits from other schools, institutions, or home schools.
- Evaluating the approval process for online learning programs that directly affect student graduation requirements, ensuring quality and rigor.

- Requiring timely communication between school and PSEO programs to support student success.
- Encouraging teachers to implement online learning opportunities.

## *Additional MASSP Goals*

- Repeal of the Labor Day school start legislation. To be most efficient and effective in planning schools must be in control of their calendars.
- Provide all-day every day kindergarten for all students.
- Support school management’s right to assign teachers to instructional areas of need, regardless of district seniority.
- Develop incentive programs targeted at recruitment of teachers and administrators, especially in high need licensure areas.
- Clarify the circumstance and requirement of the Tennessean Warning. This law has allowed some students to elude consequences despite admitted inappropriate conduct.
- Provide for arbitration in teacher and principal licensure proceedings. This change is required to provide both fairness and consistent results.
- Support initiatives that remove current penalties for early retirement, including the Rule of 90.

## *Start the Miracle*

Minnesota is at a critical crossroads, facing unprecedented budget challenges. We can choose to follow a path leading to short term answers or we can begin working toward solutions by phasing in the New Minnesota Miracle — a plan for restructuring school finance — long overdue.

The New Minnesota Miracle cannot be fully implemented now, but we must move forward to begin implementation to the fullest extent possible with due regard to the state’s current economic challenges.

## *MEET Current Needs*

The legislature should ensure that the shift of school funds be reinstated to school districts, that districts be insulated from future funding cuts and that Q-Comp revenue be made easily available to all districts. In addition, districts should be given the ability to renew existing levies by a majority vote.