

2026 Legislative Priorities

The Linn-Mar Community School District is committed to delivering a world-class education that meets the diverse needs of its students and community. The district's 2026 legislative priorities reflect a strategic focus on securing equitable funding, empowering local decision-making, and enhancing student outcomes across all grade levels.

School Funding



Many of these legislative priorities are tied to adequate and equitable funding. SSA funding is essential for Linn-Mar to maintain high-quality programs and services, but you'll see that other funding avenues help ensure the district can continue to provide a best-in-class public service for our students and families.

✓FACT

80 percent of Linn-Mar's general fund budget supports staff salaries.



Local Accountability and Decision-Making

Locally elected school boards are best positioned to understand and respond to community needs. Linn-Mar advocates for greater autonomy, and for streamlined reporting and timely guidance from the Department of Education to ensure the board is positioned for policy implementation at the local level.

Dropout Prevention and At-Risk Funding



To help every student succeed, Linn-Mar supports integrating dropout prevention funding into the foundation formula, and using socio-economic factors to identify at-risk students.

✓FACT

An antiquated legislative formula limits the amount of funding districts can request from the School Budget Review Committee to cover costs for at-risk student programs. Linn-Mar can only request 2.5% of possible funding from the SBRC while others receive the maximum 5% available.

Mental Health Services



Linn-Mar urges the development of comprehensive mental health support funding to increase student access to professionals.

✓FACT

Linn-Mar's school counselors are well trained to support students, but there are not enough staff to support student needs.

- 1: 250 students is the recommended ratio.*
- 1: 400-500 students is Iowa's current reality.

* American School Counselor Association

Preschool Access



Early childhood education lays the foundation for lifelong learning. Linn-Mar endorses policies that ensure all 4- and 5-year-olds have access to quality preschool, including full-day programming, transportation, and behavioral support services.

✓FACT

This school year Linn-Mar offered wraparound care at one preschool location. State support could expand preschool options for more families.

Student Achievement



Preparing students for post-secondary success requires rigorous standards and aligned assessments. Curriculum decisions should remain local, with stakeholder input guiding graduation requirements and instructional improvements.

✓FACT

Linn-Mar students can access industry-recognized credential options include those in welding, OSHA, food service, healthcare, teaching, agriculture and more.

✓FACT

Linn-Mar's policies are reviewed at least every five years by staff and board members.