



Talking Points

Minnesota Library Association & Minnesota Educational Media Organization

Technology/Media Optional Levy Authority

MLA/MEMO supports legislation that would allow school districts to levy (or bond) for technology hardware, licenses, upgrades, support, and maintenance, and library media materials and support with school board approval.

Need:

- Computers and related technology infrastructure “age” quickly in today’s high-speed world.
- Computers are now imbedded in curriculum to such an extent that any breakdown is a learning impediment.
- Technology and library/media programs are a growing part of a school’s infrastructure and instructional program.
- Up-to-date technology is necessary for students to learn 21st century skills.
- Up-to-date technology is necessary to meet No Child Left Behind accountability and parent communication requirements as well as state required student testing.
- Up-to-date technology is necessary to provide teachers, parents, and administration with analytical capabilities that can that can provide valuable information for closing the achievement gap.
- When computers are three plus years old, they start to require more repairs. This is a drain on both funds and staff time, as well as the delay in the classroom while the resource is under repair.
- Other states provide computers for all students in a grade. This funding request is only to get computers in classrooms that serve curricular needs. In Minnesota, we can’t even begin to think about computers for individuals.
- Capitol funding is often set aside for leaking roofs, inefficient heating, decayed building assets or parking lots. Technology funding in competition with these needs often is left behind because of the need to keep our buildings and children safe.

Minnesota Facts:

- *Minnesota library media collections in many schools are out-of-date.*
According to the 2004 Minnesota School Library Media Program Census, the average copyright date of science and geography books in school media centers is 1989. The average per pupil spending for books in Minnesota schools is \$7.34, about 30% of the average cost of one book.
- *Students scored higher on reading tests in schools with higher expenditures on media programs.*
From the 2004 Minnesota School Library Program Census findings.
- *Many students and staff are working on out-of-date computers.*
Many school districts do not have funding to replace computers on a regular basis.
The North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District’s computer replacement cycle is 9 years.
The Roseville School District has adopted a 3-year replacement cycle for classroom computers, but due to other district funding needs, the classroom computers are 5 years old. A longer replacement cycle requires more staff time to maintain the aging computers.