



## 2014 IASB Legislative Resolutions Actions

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND STUDENT EQUITY: The Iowa Association of School Boards:	Legislative Action 2014 Session
1. Supports preserving the integrity of the statewide penny sales tax for school infrastructure, including the tax equity provisions of buying down the highest additional levy rates to the state average.	No major action but SF 2230 added language that allows a vote on the revenue purpose statement for school infrastructure funds to occur at the same time as a reorganization vote.
2. Supports full state funding to encourage local initiatives to fully comply with current professional development program requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Achievement/Teacher Quality- \$56,791,351</li> <li>• Iowa Reading Research Center – \$1,000,000</li> <li>• AEA Support for System for Teacher Leadership -\$1,000,000</li> <li>• Administrator Mentoring \$1,000,000</li> </ul>
3. Supports continued progress in the development of rigorous content standards and benchmarks consistent with the Iowa Core focused on improving student achievement, including the following state actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide and fund technical assistance to help school districts fully implement the Iowa Core.</li> <li>• Develop or obtain high-quality summative and formative assessments, aligned to the skills students should know and be able to do to succeed globally and locally.</li> <li>• Include and fund all the components of successful standards systems: assessments aligned to high expectations, improved and aligned instruction and quality professional development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Achievement/Teacher Quality \$56,791,351</li> <li>• AEA Support for System for Teacher Leadership -\$1,000,000</li> </ul>
4. Supports adequate and on-time funding for English-language learner (ELL) students until the students reach proficiency.	No action
5. Supports a funding mechanism for school districts' transportation costs that does not directly or indirectly impact funding for the educational program.	No action
6. Supports adequate funding to ensure all 4-year-olds have access to a high quality public school preschool program. We should continue to allow 4-year-olds to be included in the enrollment count if those programs can demonstrate meeting the collaboration and quality standards requirements of the statewide voluntary preschool program.	No action
7. Supports continuation of sufficient incentives and assistance to encourage sharing, reorganization or regional high schools to expand academic learning opportunities for students and to improve student achievement.	SF 2056 extends whole grade sharing incentives through FY 19 HF 2271 clarifies extension of operational sharing incentives
8. Supports the inclusion of drop-out prevention and funding for at-risk students in the foundation formula and the inclusion of socio-economic status as a factor in determining a student's at-risk status. Supports increased flexibility in the use drop-out prevention and at-risk funding.	No action
9. Supports revising the foundation formula to equalize per pupil funding regardless of the school district.	No action



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10. IASB supports Iowa law giving local school boards authority to establish charter schools. Charter schools should not be established by any entity other than public school boards and, after approval of a charter school by a local school district, charter school plans and waivers must be approved by the State Board of Education and subject to all state accountability and reporting standards.	No action
11. Supports reform of Iowa's K-12 education system that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is research-based;</li> <li>• Is focused on student achievement;</li> <li>• Includes comprehensive assessments to measure the full range and rigor of the Iowa Core;</li> <li>• Maintains oversight and control by locally elected boards of directors;</li> <li>• Does not "repurpose" existing education funds; and</li> <li>• Does not impose new mandates unless they are fully funded.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Achievement/Teacher Quality-</li> <li>• \$56,791,351</li> <li>• Successful Progression for Early Readers (Early Literacy)- \$8,000,000</li> <li>• Competency Based Education - \$425,000 for development of an assessment</li> </ul>
12. Supports returning to three-year school board member terms with less than a majority of the school board elected in any one year.	No action
13. Supports the development of and funding for research on best practices for early literacy strategies. IASB supports funding for professional development and classroom intervention strategies focused on implementing best practices for early literacy in grades PK-3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful Progression for Early Readers (Early Literacy) - \$8,000,000</li> <li>• Iowa Reading Research Center - \$1,000,000</li> <li>• \$1.9 million for mandatory kindergarten early literacy assessment out of DE general administration</li> </ul>
<b>FINANCE:</b>	
<b>The Iowa Association of School Boards:</b>	
14. Supports setting supplemental state aid (replaces the term allowable growth) by the date specified in the Iowa Code at a rate that encourages continuous school improvement and reflects actual cost increases experienced by school districts and AEAs. Our priority is to increase the state cost per pupil and the spending authority associated with it to build a strong base for future education resources.	No action
15. Supports a school foundation formula that adequately, and in a timely manner, funds changes in demographics including socio-economic status, remedial programming, and declining and increasing enrollment challenges.	No action
16. Supports greater flexibility in the use of the management levy for those services required by law including inspections and publication costs and legal and auditing services, including internal auditing services and staff and allowing payment of early retirement benefits for any retiree over the age of 55.	SF 220 allows use of management levy to pay for early retirement benefits for early retirees over age 65
17. Supports greater flexibility in allowing school districts to charge fees for non-curricular related costs.	No action
18. Supports the continuation of programs currently funded by the early intervention block grant program with flexibility to use those funds for other K-3 literacy programs if approved by the school board.	No action



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<b>LOCAL CONTROL</b> <b>The Iowa Association of School Boards:</b>	
19. Supports legislation that provides greater flexibility for school districts to meet changing needs, become more efficient, protect natural resources and save public funds, including support of Home Rule.	SF 2230 added language that allows a vote on the revenue purpose statement for school infrastructure funds to occur at the same time as the reorganization vote. Language was also added that reduces the publication requirement from two publications to one publication for the disposal of property (such as basketball jerseys) that has a resale value of less than \$5,000.
20. Supports the repeal of the mandatory school start date.	No action
21. Supports offering incentives to school districts to provide extended days and/or innovative calendars. School districts receiving these incentives will evaluate and determine the impact on student learning.	No action
22. Supports the use of physical plant and equipment levy (PPEL) funds for the maintenance and repair of transportation equipment that can be purchased or financed with PPEL funds.	No action
<b>TAXES</b> <b>The Iowa Association of School Boards:</b>	
23. Supports legislation allowing school bond issues to be passed by a simple majority vote and to permit the local school board to levy a combination of property taxes and income surtaxes to pay the indebtedness.	No action
24. Supports sufficient state revenues to adequately fund public education as Iowa's number one priority. IASB opposes erosion of the existing tax base. IASB supports a full accounting every two years by state government of the costs of all exemptions, credits or deductions for the income tax, sales tax or property tax.	No big tax cuts that impact us FY 16 Supplemental State Aid wasn't passed but the state did fully fund commitment to TLC for FY 15.
25. Supports Tax Increment Financing (TIF) limitation, reform and regulation. Reforms should limit the duration of all TIF districts, and mandate inclusion of the affected taxing bodies including school districts in discussions prior to the imposition of a TIF. TIFs are to be used for the sole purpose of stimulating development that would otherwise not occur. Expenditures from TIF revenues should not be used to pay for property tax rebates or other direct subsidies to private developers. In addition, IASB opposes residential TIFs that are not directly tied to job creation unless the impacted school districts approve.	No action
26. Opposes a constitutional amendment or statewide voter referendum that would limit taxes, spending or local control impacting education.	No action
27. Supports efforts to minimize property tax disparities that occur between school districts because of the additional levy rate in the school foundation formula.	No action
28. Opposes property tax restructuring unless it continues to hold school districts harmless.	No action
29. Opposes the imposition of franchise fees on school corporations.	No action



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<b>PERSONNEL</b>	
<b>The Iowa Association of School Boards:</b>	
30. Supports giving school districts and AEAs the option to reduce staff to respond to reductions in funding or to comply with an arbitrator's award. School districts and AEAs should not be required to use the teacher contract termination procedures in <i>Iowa Code</i> section 279.13 for such staff reductions.	No action
31. Supports providing school districts with incentives and the flexibility to pay market competitive wages for shortage area positions, especially in the areas required to meet graduation and Iowa Core mandates.	No action
32. Opposes changes to labor and employment laws unless they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Include adequate resources provided by the state without a shift from other education resources or significant burden on property taxpayers.</li><li>• Balance the rights of the employees with the rights of management with scales tipped in favor of student achievement and student safety.</li></ul>	No action
33. Support a requirement that arbitrators, prior to any imposition of an award against a school district, AEA or community college, first consider local conditions and ability to pay. After the arbitrator determines the school district, AEA or community college has the ability to pay, the arbitrator should then consider comparability based upon similar size and geographic region.	No action
34. Supports a change in state law that allows school districts to voluntarily enroll their employees in the state's health, dental and life/long-term disability insurance pools.	No action
<b>UNFUNDED MANDATES</b>	
<b>The Iowa Association of School Boards:</b>	
35. Supports predictable and timely state funding to serve students receiving special education services at a level that reflects the actual cost, including educational programming and health care costs.	No action
36. Supports the federal commitment to fund 40 percent of the cost of educating students receiving special education services, and requests that the federal government fulfill that commitment by increasing funding a minimum of 8 percent per year until the 40 percent figure is achieved.	No action
37. Opposes and seeks to repeal unfunded mandates.	Mandates on epi pens, radon mitigation defeated; mandatory radon testing with \$1M appropriated to the testing.
38. Supports legislation requiring any new mandate have corresponding funding sufficient to implement the new mandate.	Mandatory radon testing with \$1M appropriated to the testing which isn't quite enough to fully fund the mandate.