

2019 IASB Legislative Resolutions

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

1. RESEARCH-BASED INITIATIVES

Supports implementation of initiatives in Iowa's Pre-K-12 education system that:

- Are research-based;
- Are focused on student achievement, and;
- Do not "re-purpose" existing education funds.

2. STANDARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Supports continued progress in the development of rigorous content standards and benchmarks that reflect the real-world knowledge and skills students need to graduate from high school prepared for college or to enter the workforce, including the following state actions:

- Provide and fund technical assistance to help school districts fully implement the Iowa Core Content Standards which define what students should know and be able to do in math, science, literacy, social studies, and 21st Century skills in areas such as financial and technological literacy.
- Implement a statewide assessment that aligns to the Iowa Core Content standards and provide the necessary funding and technological capacity for every student to successfully complete the assessment.
- Support research-based professional development that provides educators with training, support and time to work together so that they can successfully teach a rigorous curriculum to all students. Ensure that curriculum decisions about how to teach remain in the hands of local schools and teachers.
- Include and fund all the components of successful standards systems: assessments aligned to high expectations, improved and aligned instruction and quality professional development.

IASB supports development of model content standards, recommended assessments and professional development supports in additional content areas but opposes expanding accountability, reporting and accreditation requirements in these areas.

3. PRESCHOOL

Supports continued funding to ensure that all 4-year-olds have access to the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program.

Supports an increase in funding from the current weighting of 0.5 to 1.0 full-time equivalent to increase the ability of districts to provide services such as full-day programming and transportation to ensure that all 4-year-olds have the ability to attend the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program.

Districts should be given maximum flexibility to assign costs to the program.

4. EARLY LITERACY

Supports the continued development of and funding for research on best practices for improving proficiency in early literacy strategies.

Supports continued funding for professional development and classroom intervention strategies focused on implementing best practices for early literacy in grades PK-3.

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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.

Supports additional funding for programs designed to ensure that all students meet literacy expectations by the end of 3rd grade.

5. ENGLISH LEARNERS

Supports sufficient and on-time funding for English-learners (EL) until the students reach proficiency

6. DROPOUT/AT RISK

Supports the inclusion of dropout 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. Opposes changes to the compulsory age of attendance unless sufficient funds are provided to implement strategies to retain those students.

7. MENTAL HEALTH

Supports efforts to establish comprehensive community mental health systems to offer preventative and treatment services and comprehensive school mental health programs that include in-school access for students to mental health professionals and provisions for reimbursement by Medicaid and private insurers.

Supports additional ongoing teacher, administrator, and support staff training to improve the awareness and understanding of child emotional and mental health needs.

Supports incentives for workforce development for mental health professionals in schools.

8. SPECIAL EDUCATION – STATE

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.

9. SPECIAL EDUCATION – FEDERAL

Supports federal commitment to fund 40 percent of the cost of educating students receiving special education services, and requests that the federal government fulfill that long-standing commitment by increasing funding a minimum of 8 percent per year until the 40 percent figure is achieved.

10. AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES

Supports full funding of the area education agencies to provide essential services in a cost-effective manner to school districts including, but not limited to:

- special education;
- technology;
- professional development;
- curriculum assessment; and
- student assessment data analysis.

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11. SCHOOL CALENDARS

Supports the authority of locally elected school boards to determine the school calendar to best meet student needs, including start dates, year round schools, and other innovations.

EDUCATOR QUALITY

12. TEACHER LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Supports adequate resources for research-based programs and strong instructional leadership, including:

- teacher leadership and development
- beginning teacher mentoring programs
- quality professional development programs.

13. MARKET-COMPETITIVE WAGES

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 content standards.

14. BENEFITS

Supports allowing school districts to voluntarily enroll their employees in the state's health, dental and life/long-term disability insurance pools.

15. ALTERNATIVE LICENSURE

Supports the adoption of alternative teacher licensure upon completion of research-based teaching pedagogy training in addition to content knowledge in a curricular area. IASB also supports the creation of reciprocity agreements with other states with high-quality education programs so as to increase diversity among our certified teachers and administrators.

16. STAFF REDUCTIONS

Supports giving school districts and AEAs the option to waive the termination requirements in Iowa Code Section 279.13 to reduce staff in response to reductions in funding or to comply with an arbitrator's award.

17. ARBITRATIONS

Supports a requirement that arbitrators, prior to the imposition of an award, must first consider local conditions, ability to pay, and local settlement history. 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.

18. LABOR/EMPLOYMENT LAWS

Supports labor and employment laws that balance the rights of the employees with the rights of management, with an emphasis on student achievement and student safety.

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FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND STEWARDSHIP

19. SCHOOL FUNDING POLICY

Supports a school foundation formula that:

- Provides sufficient and timely funding to meet education goals;
- Equalizes per pupil funding;
- Provides a funding mechanism for transportation costs that reduces the pressure on the general fund and addresses inequities between school districts;
- Includes factors based on changes in demographics including socio-economic status, remedial programming, and enrollment challenges;
- Reflects actual costs for special education services;
- Incorporates categorical funding in the formula within three years; and
- Includes a mix of property taxes and state aid.

20. SUPPLEMENTAL STATE AID

Supports setting supplemental state aid:

- For FY 2020, by January 31, 2019;
- For FY 2021 and future budget years, at least 14 months prior to the certification of the school's district budgets; and
- at a rate that sufficiently supports local districts' efforts to plan, create and sustain world-class schools.

Setting supplemental state aid within the statutory requirements allows districts to make sound financial decisions on programs, staffing levels, and providing the best possible education to all students.

IASB supports a formula driven method for establishing the supplemental state aid growth rate if it is not set within the statutory requirements.

21. PROPERTY TAXES

Supports holding school districts harmless in property tax restructuring. Supports efforts to minimize property tax disparities created by the additional levy rate without compromising additional resources to school districts. Supports improved transparency and limits on the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) including the following requirements:

- To include all affected taxing bodies before creation of a TIF district;
- To limit the duration of all TIF districts.

22. SPECIAL LEVY FUNDS

Supports flexibility in the use of special levy funds.

23. TAX BASE

Supports an independent, bi-annual cost-benefit analysis of all income, sales or property tax exemptions, credits or deductions. Creation of a new tax credit must undergo an independent cost-benefit analysis. The legislature should have sole authority to make revisions to definitions that impact taxes, restrict future tax bases or provide additional tax breaks that decrease revenue to the state and either directly or indirectly impact tax revenue for schools.

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24. FRANCHISE FEES

Opposes the imposition of franchise fees on school corporations unless the board of directors agrees to such a fee.

25. CONSTITUTIONAL TAX LIMITATIONS

Opposes a constitutional amendment or statewide voter referendum that would limit taxes, spending or local control impacting education.

26. UNFUNDED MANDATES

Opposes any new mandate that does not provide sufficient and sustainable funding for successful implementation.

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

27. SAVE (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education)

Supports repeal of the December 31, 2029 sunset on the statewide penny sales tax for school infrastructure.

Supports preserving the integrity of the statewide penny sales tax for school infrastructure including the tax equity provisions in the following manner:

- No diversions or expansions of allowable uses;
- Continued growth in the per pupil amount beyond the 2029 sunset date.

28. BOND ISSUES

Supports allowing school bond issues to be passed by a simple majority vote.

Supports the authority to levy a combination of property taxes and income surtaxes to pay the indebtedness.

Supports legislation to clarify that revenue bonds do not count toward a 5 percent statutory debt limit.

Supports keeping the current bond referendum election dates at four per year.

GOVERNANCE

29. EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Supports providing the flexibility to expand educational opportunities and choices for students and families. Educational options must remain under the sole authority of locally elected school boards charged with representing community interests and accountability. IASB supports efforts including:

- Investment in magnet and innovation schools; expansion in flexible program offerings; and greater partnerships among schools and community organizations
- Establishment of charter schools;
- Establishment or use of on-line schools or classes.

Supports opportunities for continued collaboration between public and non-public schools; however, the association opposes the use of additional taxpayer funds for the creation of vouchers

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or educational savings accounts or an increase in tax credits or deductions directed toward non-public schools.

30. SHARING AND REORGANIZATION

Supports continuation of sufficient incentives and assistance to encourage sharing or reorganization between school districts including the establishment of regional schools.

31. HOME SCHOOL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Supports having Home School Assistance Program students register with their public- school attendance centers.

2019 IASB Legislative Priorities

MENTAL HEALTH

(RESOLUTION 7)

Supports efforts to establish comprehensive community mental health systems to offer preventative and treatment services and comprehensive school mental health programs that include in-school access for students to mental health professionals and provisions for reimbursement by Medicaid and private insurers.

Supports additional ongoing teacher, administrator, and support staff training to improve the awareness and understanding of child emotional and mental health needs.

Supports incentives for workforce development for mental health professionals in schools.

SCHOOL FUNDING POLICY

(RESOLUTION 19)

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- Reflects actual costs for special education services;
- Incorporates categorical funding in the formula within three years; and
- Includes a mix of property taxes and state aid.

SUPPLEMENTAL STATE AID

(RESOLUTION 20)

Supports setting supplemental state aid:

- For FY 2020, by January 31, 2019;
- For FY 2021 and future budget years, at least 14 months prior to the certification of the school's district budgets; and
- at a rate that sufficiently supports local districts' efforts to plan, create and sustain world-class schools.

Setting supplemental state aid within the statutory requirements allows districts to make sound financial decisions on programs, staffing levels, and providing the best possible education to all students.

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2019 IASB Legislative Priorities

SAVE (SECURE AN ADVANCED VISION FOR EDUCATION)

(RESOLUTION 27)

Supports repeal of the December 31, 2029 sunset on the statewide penny sales tax for school infrastructure.

Supports preserving the integrity of the statewide penny sales tax for school infrastructure including the tax equity provisions in the following manner:

- No diversions or expansions of allowable uses;
- Continued growth in the per pupil amount beyond the 2029 sunset date.