



## 2012 IASB Legislative Action Priorities and Resolutions

<b>STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND STUDENT EQUITY:</b> The Iowa Association of School Boards:	<b>Legislative Action 2012 Session:</b>
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.	This section will be updated after the close of the 2012 legislative session. Please check our Web site at <a href="http://www.ia-sb.org">www.ia-sb.org</a> for updates to this document.
2. Supports full state funding to implement the Iowa Professional Development Model.	
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 in the 21st century</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. <b>2012 Legislative Priority</b></li> </ul>	
4. Supports adequate and on-time funding for English-language learner (ELL) students until the students reach proficiency.	
5. Supports a funding mechanism for school districts' transportation costs that does not directly or indirectly impact funding for the educational program.	
6. Supports funding to ensure all 4 year-olds have access to a high quality public school preschool program and allow them 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. <b>2012 Legislative Priority</b>	
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. IASB supports expansion of sharing incentives to include special education, curriculum and other critical administrative positions. The incentives must be available to school districts regardless of the location of the sharing partner(s).	
8. Supports legislation that increases the at-risk student weighting and includes drop-out prevention in the foundation formula.	
9. Supports revising the foundation formula to equalize per pupil funding regardless of the school district.	
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.	
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<b>FINANCE</b> The Iowa Association of School Boards	
11. Supports setting allowable growth at a rate that encourages continuous school improvement and reflects actual cost increases experienced by school districts and AEAs. Our priority is to increase and maintain the state cost per pupil and the spending authority associated with it to build a strong base for future education resources with full state funding of the state's share of the cost per pupil. <b>2012 Legislative Priority</b>	
12. Supports a school foundation formula that adequately, and in a timely manner, funds changes in demographics, including declining and increasing enrollment challenges.	
13. Supports flexibility in the use of modified allowable growth for dropout prevention including the funding of administrative costs and employee costs for those who have the responsibility for serving at-risk students.	
14. 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.	
15. Supports greater flexibility in allowing school districts to charge fees for non-curricular related costs.	
<b>LOCAL CONTROL</b> The Iowa Association of School Boards	
16. Supports legislation that provides greater flexibility for school districts to meet changing needs, become more efficient, protect natural resources and save public funds. <b>2012 Legislative Priority</b>	
17. Supports incentives for school districts to offer extended days and/or innovative calendars. School districts receiving these incentives should evaluate such initiatives to determine the impact on student learning.	
18. Supports the repeal of the legislated school start date and restoration of local school district authority to determine when it is in the best interest of students to start school.	
19. Supports the use of physical plant and equipment levy (PPEL) funds for the maintenance and repair of equipment or infrastructure that can be purchased or financed with PPEL funds.	
<b>TAXES</b> The Iowa Association of School Boards	
20. 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.	
21. 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.	



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<p>22. Supports tax increment financing (TIF) limitation, reform and regulation. Reforms should increase accountability and transparency for local government entities utilizing TIF. School districts should have the ability to implement TIF for certain types of facility expenditures and must be an equal partner with cities or counties when implementing new TIFs. In addition, we oppose residential TIFs unless the impacted school district(s) approve.</p>	
<p>23. Opposes a constitutional amendment or statewide voter referendum that would limit taxes, spending or local control impacting education.</p>	
<p>24. Supports efforts to minimize property tax disparities that occur between school districts because of the additional levy rate in the school foundation formula.</p>	
<p>25. Opposes property tax restructuring unless it holds school districts harmless.</p>	
<p><b>PERSONNEL</b> The Iowa Association of School Boards</p>	
<p>26. 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 Iowa Code section 279.13 for such staff reductions.</p>	
<p>27. 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.</p>	
<p>28. Opposes changes to labor and employment laws unless they:</p> <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>	
<p>29. Support a requirement that arbitrators first consider local conditions and ability to pay. After the arbitrator determines the school district or AEA has the ability to pay, the arbitrator should then consider comparability.</p>	
<p>30. Supports a change in state law that allows school districts to enroll their employees in the state's health, dental and life/long-term disability insurance pools. <b>2012 Legislative Priority</b></p>	
<p><b>UNFUNDED MANDATES</b> The Iowa Association of School Boards</p>	
<p>31. 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.</p>	
<p>32. 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.</p>	
<p>33. Opposes and seeks to repeal unfunded mandates.</p>	



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<p><b>AREA EDUCATION AGENCIES</b></p> <p>The Iowa Association of School Boards:</p>	
<p>Acknowledges the AEAs legislative platform, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supports additional resources to AEAs and school districts for curriculum development, student assessment analysis, in-service training, professional development and technology assistance;</li> <li>▪ Supports legislation allowing students in accredited nonpublic schools to be counted for special education services, allowing them full access to services;</li> <li>▪ Supports fully funding the AEA budget as provided by the school growth factor.</li> <li>▪ Supports creation of a separate funding mechanism for the operation and maintenance of AEA facilities;</li> <li>▪ Supports an increase in funding for early childhood efforts.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>COMMUNITY COLLEGES</b></p> <p>The Iowa Association of School Boards:</p>	
<p>Acknowledges the community college legislative platform, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supports funding State General Aid (SGA) at \$192 million using a base funding level excluding the recent cuts and including the percent of growth utilized in the Department of Education agreed upon formula;</li> <li>▪ A long-term commitment of state and local assistance for Skilled Worker Training through the Workforce Training and Economic Development Funds, and other funding streams available to maintain and build capacity for skilled worker training;</li> <li>▪ A long term state commitment and appropriation to Iowa Adult Literacy Programs, including the Pathways for Academic, Career and Employment (PACE) to support Iowa's low skilled, low-income adults, including dislocated workers without a high school diploma/GED;</li> <li>▪ The 15 Community College Boards' local governance flexibility to access local tax support in its discretion to meet the needs of workforce training and their local communities.</li> </ul>	



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<p><b>URBAN EDUCATION NETWORK</b></p> <p>The Iowa Association of School Boards:</p>	
<p><b>Educational Transformation</b></p> <p>The UEN supports transformation of our educational system based on student learning needs, including meaningful and aligned assessment that can inform instruction. State policies must be grounded in research demonstrating improved student outcomes; include adequate and equitable resources, and an expectation for professional development. Strong bi-partisan legislative support must focus on long-term improvement with incentives for innovation. UEN members welcome a statewide commitment to transforming our educational system in overcoming barriers to change. We respectfully request transformational focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Urgency</li> <li>▪ Meaningful Assessment</li> <li>▪ Literacy</li> <li>▪ Innovation</li> <li>▪ New Concepts of Delivery</li> <li>▪ Evaluation of Instructional Staff</li> <li>▪ Administrative Leadership</li> <li>▪ Improving recruiting and hiring practices</li> <li>▪ World Class Models</li> </ul> <p><b>Adequate and Equitable Funding</b></p> <p>Successful transformation of the Iowa educational system is not possible without adequate and equitable funding. The UEN supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Equity reforms</li> <li>▪ Adequacy reforms</li> <li>▪ Process reforms</li> </ul> <p><i>This is a composite listing of the UEN 2012 Platform. To read this platform in its entirety please visit: <a href="http://www.ia-sb.org/Publications.aspx?id=5008#URBAN_EDUCATION_NETWORK">http://www.ia-sb.org/Publications.aspx?id=5008#URBAN_EDUCATION_NETWORK</a>.</i></p>	