

memo



TO: SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENTS - MAIL
CC: SUPERINTENDENTS, ASBSD LEGISLATIVE ACTION NETWORK MEMBERS - EMAIL
FROM: WAYNE LUEDERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: RE: 2011 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
DATE: 5/05/2010

The outcomes of the 2010 Legislative Session, particularly on school funding issues, are disappointing. As our state prepares to elect a new governor and a new group of legislative leaders, we're asking for your help to begin preparations for the 2011 Legislative Session.

Here's how you can help. Included with this memo are two documents that demonstrate how your school board and superintendent can help dictate ASBSD's legislative platform for next legislative session. You should find the following:

- **2011 Legislative Priorities Survey:** The survey contains a list of existing resolutions and instructions on how your school board and superintendent can complete the priority survey.
- **2011 Resolution Submission Form:** This form allows your school board and superintendent to ask the Delegate Assembly to: 1) Modify existing resolutions; 2) Remove existing resolutions; or 3) Consider new resolutions on topics not yet covered.

We are asking each school board and superintendent to review, discuss and take action on these two items during your May or June board meeting. The top sheet on the packet contains questions to help lead the discussion.

Each completed survey and resolution form will be delivered to the Policy and Resolutions Committee, a subcommittee of six school board members appointed by your ASBSD President. Your input will be very useful as the committee works through the spring, summer and fall to create a legislative platform that delegates from local school boards will vote on at the November Delegate Assembly.

Keep in mind: The legislative priorities established by our membership are the association's compass on legislative issues, so continued participation in the development of the legislative agenda is important to ensure your association represents your interests.

Please review this information packet with your board during your May or June meeting and return the survey and any new resolutions by June 17, 2010.

Both may be returned: 1) via postal mail to: ASBSD, PO Box 1059, Pierre SD 57501; 2) via fax at 605.773.2501 3) or via e-mail to mbeeler@asbsd.org.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please contact me at 605.773.2500 or via e-mail at wayne@asbsd.org.



2011 Legislative Priorities Survey

Each year, the ASBSD Delegate Assembly adopts resolutions that guide ASBSD's advocacy efforts. Resolutions are drafted by member districts or by the ASBSD Policy and Resolutions Committee, a subcommittee of the ASBSD Board of Directors.

The 2011 Legislative Priorities Survey allows your school board and superintendent to identify which issues should be the focus of ASBSD's advocacy efforts for the coming 2011 Legislative Session. Providing your input now allows the Policy and Resolutions Committee to review, research and plan during the spring, summer and fall in preparation for the ASBSD Delegate Assembly in November.

INSTRUCTIONS

After your board and superintendent have studied the 2009-10 resolutions, please select the district's top three priorities for the coming year by marking the line to the left of the resolution number. If your district is submitting a new resolution using the Resolution Submission Form, use the space at the end of this survey to assign priority to any new resolution. Please return the completed survey by **June 17, 2010**.

2009-10 RESOLUTIONS

A. ACHIEVEMENT AND EQUITY

_____ **1. EXTENDED SCHOOL TERM**

ASBSD supports accurately reflecting school district practice by extending the school term in South Dakota to a minimum of 990 hours, with full funding for an additional 27.5 hours of student contact time.

_____ **2. PRE-KINDERGARTEN STANDARDS**

ASBSD supports the development and adoption of statewide content and accreditation standards for voluntary pre-kindergarten education programs.

***** This resolution was designated as a priority by the 2009 Delegate Assembly *****

_____ **3. REORGANIZATION – INCENTIVES – GRADE SHARING**

ASBSD supports legislation that offers sufficient incentives and assistance to encourage expanded academic opportunities and program efficiencies through voluntary reorganization, program sharing, grade-sharing and sharing of administration.

_____ **4. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

ASBSD supports full state funding to implement up to a total of 55 hours of comprehensive, quality professional staff development.

_____ **5. COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

ASBSD supports compulsory attendance in public school to age 18 or until a student graduates.

6. OPEN ENROLLMENT – DATE FOR APPROVAL

ASBSD supports legislation to allow local school districts to establish dates by which open enrollment requests must be submitted to the local district in order to be approved, provided the legislation makes available exceptions or an appeal process to protect the student's best interest.

B. LOCAL GOVERNANCE

1. STUDENTS RECEIVING ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION

ASBSD supports the development of guidelines for evaluating the academic progress of students receiving alternative instruction and the establishment of effective regulations to ensure exempted students receive a high quality education.

2. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS

ASBSD supports the appointment of South Dakota school board members to statewide commissions, advisory committees and forums that directly or indirectly affect the development of state education policy.

3. TECHNICAL INSTITUTE GOVERNANCE

ASBSD supports local governance of the state's technical institutes.

4. FUND BALANCE LIMITS AND PENALTIES - REPEAL

ASBSD supports local governance in the management of district funds and supports the repeal of statutory caps on school district general fund balances and any resulting financial penalties.

C. SCHOOL FINANCE

1. ADEQUATE FUNDING

ASBSD supports legislation based upon South Dakota's adequacy study to increase per-student funding to levels that allow South Dakota districts to meet the diverse learning needs of every South Dakota student.

2. STATE FUNDING FOR ACCREDITED PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

ASBSD supports state funding over and above the base K-12 funding formula that provides voluntary access to accredited pre-k programs.

3. INDEX FACTOR

ASBSD supports legislation to increase the "index factor" of the state aid to education formula to 4 percent or the CPI-W, whichever is greater.

4. CATEGORICAL FUNDING

ASBSD supports legislation that allows caps on categorical aid to increase each year at the same rate as the annual increase to the per-student allocation.

5. EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCIES

ASBSD supports the reinstatement of full funding for Educational Service Agencies.

6. FORMULA CHANGE FOLLOWING ARRA

ASBSD supports legislation that would enhance the state aid to education formula that would take effect after the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 expires.

***** This resolution was designated as a priority by the 2009 Delegate Assembly *****

7. CONSISTENT SPARCITY FUNDING

ASBSD supports consistent district-level funding provided by the state for sparse school districts as defined in SDCL 13-13-78.

D. TAXATION

_____ 1. **150% RULE**

ASBSD supports a gradual repeal of the “150% Rule” that holds South Dakota school districts harmless from any adverse impact on a local school district’s ability to raise needed revenue through the capital outlay, special education and pension levies.

_____ 2. **OTHER REVENUE**

ASBSD supports current state law that allows “other revenue” to be used exclusively by the school district in which the revenue is generated.

***** This resolution was designated as a priority by the 2009 Delegate Assembly *****

E. PERSONNEL

_____ 1. **DIFFERENTIAL PAY**

ASBSD supports state policy that maintains a local district’s ability to develop hiring, evaluation and compensation policies that support local efforts to recruit and retain quality staff.

_____ 2. **CONTINUING CONTRACT**

ASBSD supports legislation to extend the probationary period in existing continuing contract law by an additional year.

_____ 3. **SOUTH DAKOTA RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

ASBSD supports actuarially sound efforts to strengthen the long-term viability of the South Dakota Retirement System, provided the changes, to the greatest extent possible, preserve benefits for school employees and provide local school boards with the flexibility to make effective hiring decisions.

F. UNFUNDED MANDATES

_____ 1. **STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MANDATES**

ASBSD supports legislative action to require the State Board of Education to adopt a fiscal note associated to all new mandates placed on local school districts.

_____ 2. **FEDERAL MANDATES**

ASBSD supports full funding for all federal mandates, including the Individuals with Disability Education Improvement Act (IDEA) and the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

G. FEDERAL RELATIONS

_____ 1. **ESEA/NCLB – REAUTHORIZATION**

ASBSD supports a fully funded federal education policy for elementary and secondary education that focuses on improving learning outcomes for every child, provides for public school accountability and gives local school boards flexibility to develop education programs reflective of the local student population and community.

_____ 2. **MEDICAID SERVICE REIMBURSEMENT**

ASBSD supports the continuation of federal Medicaid Service Reimbursement provided to K-12 schools for providing health services to Medicaid-eligible students.

_____ 3. **PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES**

ASBSD supports legislation to develop guidelines for disbursements of PILT (payment in lieu of taxes) fund from the county level to the school districts within the counties.

DISTRICT-SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

Use this section only if your district used the Resolution Submission Form and wants the association to make the new resolution a priority for the upcoming year.

_____ [resolution text] _____

_____ [resolution text] _____

_____ [resolution text] _____

RETURNING THE SURVEY

Please return the completed survey to ASBSD by June 17, 2010.

Via Postal Mail: Associated School Boards of South Dakota
 PO Box 1059
 Pierre, SD 57501

Via Fax: ATTN: Michele Beeler
 605.773.2501

Via E-mail: Send to ASBSD Librarian Michele Beeler at mbeeler@asbsd.org.



2011 Call for Resolutions: Resolution Submission Form

A school board may use this form to submit one or more new resolutions for consideration by the Policy and Resolutions Committee. It can also be used to recommend changes to an existing resolution or to suggest removing a resolution from ASBSD's existing legislative platform.

Each proposed new resolution must have a rationale statement when it is presented to the membership prior to action at the Delegate Assembly. The example resolution and rationale, below, may be helpful if your district considers submitting a new resolution.

Resolution: ASBSD supports local governance of the school calendar.

Rationale: Current law allows all school boards to maintain a students-first philosophy by adopting a school calendar that takes into account increasing academic standards as well as local priorities when establishing the school calendar.

DISTRICT SUBMISSION AND RECOMMENDATION

RESOLUTION:

RATIONALE:

YOUR DISTRICT'S RECOMMENDATION (select the appropriate recommendation):

We recommend this NEW resolution for ADOPTION.

We recommend CHANGING an existing resolution

We recommend REMOVING this existing resolution from ASBSD's legislative platform.

Approved by the _____ (school district) School Board on _____ (date)

Signed: _____ Board Contact Person: _____
(Board President)

RETURN TO ASBSD BY **JUNE 17, 2010**. FAX: 605-773-2501 or E-MAIL: mbeeler@asbsd.org

Board Discussion Guide – ASBSD Resolutions

The board president is encouraged to lead the school board members and superintendent in a discussion on the current 2009-2010 ASBSD Resolutions. The PURPOSE of the discussion is to:

1. Better **understand** the legislative resolutions and your association's 2009-2010 advocacy positions.
2. Reflect and identify any **changes** your board would like to see made to the 2009-2010 resolutions in preparation for the 2010-2011 Legislative Session.
3. Identify any **new** issues that your board members and superintendent wished had come up during the legislative session or would support bringing up during the next legislative session.
4. Identify your school board's top **three priorities** from the list of resolutions, including those you may change or add, to be supported by ASBSD during the 2011 legislative session.

Discussion Guide:

1. Please provide one set of 2009 -2010 ASBSD Resolutions to each board member prior to the board meeting and ask everyone to review and study them, keeping in mind that you your district can request new resolutions, change existing resolutions, or request an existing resolution be removed from the legislative platform.
2. Here are a few discussion questions designed to help guide the school board's and superintendent's deliberations:
 - a. Does the list include all of the important issues your board and superintendent would like your association support the 2011 legislative session? **If the answer is NO**, please use the enclosed Resolution Submission Form to write a new resolution. Also, in an attempt to help others better understand your resolution; please write the reason(s) (rationale) for your resolution.
 - b. Does your board and superintendent wish to change any of the current 2009-2010 resolutions? **If the answer is YES**, please use the Resolution Submission Form to write a **change** to a current resolution.
 - c. Does your board and superintendent wish to remove any resolution(s)? **If the answer is YES**, please use the Resolution Submission Form to write the resolution and provide a reason(s) (rationale) for deleting it.
 - d. Once your board and superintendent have deliberated the resolutions and possibly made additions, changes or deletions, please identify the three resolutions most important to your district and mark your answers on the 2011 Priority Resolutions Survey.

If you have any questions please contact Wayne Lueders or Brian Aust at 605-773-2500.