



ASBSD Legislative Resolutions

OVERVIEW

ASBSD Resolutions are policy statements adopted by the ASBSD membership that guide your Association's advocacy efforts at the state and federal levels. A subcommittee of the ASBSD Board of Directors – called the ASBSD Policy and Resolutions Committee – develops draft policy statements for consideration by the full membership at the ASBSD Delegate Assembly.

A. Achievement and Equity

1. PRE-KINDERGARTEN STANDARDS

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports the South Dakota Early Learning Guidelines for voluntary pre-kindergarten education programs.

RATIONALE

Pre-kindergarten is defined as any public education program for children under age 5. Research points to clear short and long-term benefits of pre-k programs. It's widely accepted that early experiences form vital connections in a child's brain and influence how a child learns and develops throughout life. According to research, quality pre-k programs reduce the number of students in need of special education services and the number of students that have to repeat grades. Research has also documented long-term efficiency of pre-kindergarten programs through a reduction in the juvenile crime rate and lessening later reliance on public assistance programs.

ADOPTED: 2008

REVISED: 2015

2. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports full funding for state mandated professional development.

RATIONALE

ASBSD supports professional development for teachers and administrators. Because of state mandates for new innovations, we believe state funding to train professionals is essential.

ADOPTED: 2008

REVISED: 2012

A. Achievement and Equity

3. COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

RESOLUTION

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

RATIONALE

In today's global economy, every South Dakota student deserves the lasting benefits of a high school diploma. Maintaining compulsory attendance age until 18 will make public school policy mirror BIE policy, minimizing the potential for students to transfer to public school in order to drop-out of high school.

ADOPTED: 2008

REVISED:

4. SOUTH DAKOTA ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS AND STATE ASSESSMENT EXAMS

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports South Dakota academic content standards with sufficient financial resources and professional development for school staff, to facilitate implementation of the standards and the full participation of students in state assessment exams.

RATIONALE

South Dakota academic content standards serve as expectations for what students should know and be able to do by the end of each grade. The review, revision, development, and feedback process involves stakeholders throughout the state of South Dakota and is an ongoing and critical component to ensure South Dakota students in every classroom receive current and relevant learning experiences. The goal is that all students will graduate college, career, and life ready.

ADOPTED: 2010

REVISED: 2016

5. EXTRA AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – FREE PARTICIPATION

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports extra and co-curricular activities as an important component of South Dakota's system of public education and opposes legislation that will in any way establish fees for participation in extra and co-curricular offerings.

RATIONALE

The South Dakota Constitution guarantees a free public education to all students. Extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, though not always offered for academic credit, are a valuable part of a child's education and should remain free to all public school students.

ADOPTED: 2010

REVISED: 2014

A. Achievement and Equity

6. SCHOOL EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports continued commitment by the legislature to enhance the ability to attract, recruit and retain quality personnel in South Dakota public schools.

RATIONALE

To ensure our schools can recruit and retain quality employees, the state must maintain a long-term financial commitment to our schools in order to provide competitive salaries for their school employees. The State Aid increase of “3% or inflation, whichever is less,” is not realistic. The annual increase should more closely resemble the State’s typical salary and benefit per FTE increase for its own employees of 4.2% per year.

ADOPTED: 2013

REVISED: 2016

B. Local Governance

1. STUDENTS RECEIVING ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION (HOME SCHOOL INSTRUCTION)

RESOLUTION

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

RATIONALE

School boards and the Department of Education are responsible for the education of students receiving alternative instruction. State guidelines and regulations would provide school boards with criteria to determine if revocation of an application is warranted.

ADOPTED: 2008

REVISED: 2016

2. SCHOOL FINANCES

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports local governance in the management of district funds.

RATIONALE

Control of school finances should rest with the local school board within the district.

ADOPTED: 2009

REVISED: 2012

3. CHARTER SCHOOLS

RESOLUTION

ASBSD opposes any new legislation that creates charter schools beyond what is currently authorized in statute, which permits Pilot Charter Schools for American Indian Students.

RATIONALE

Any expansion beyond what is currently allowed in state statute has the potential to introduce charter schools that could take public school funding from current schools, receive waivers from state standards of accreditation and teacher certification, be elective in the students who may enroll, and be detrimental to local public schools.

ADOPTED: 2012

REVISED: 2015

B. Local Governance

4. PUBLIC FUNDING FOR NON-PUBLIC EDUCATION

RESOLUTION

ASBSD opposes any law that diverts public dollars to fund non-public education in any manner.

RATIONALE

Legislation that diverts public dollars to non-public schools would be detrimental to the public education system.

ADOPTED: 2015

REVISED: 2016

5. PRIVATE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

RESOLUTION

ASBSD opposes state law allowing tax credits from the insurance company premium and annuity tax to fund a private school scholarship program and permits contributions made by the insurance companies to remain anonymous.

RATIONALE

The state law allowing the diversion of public dollars to non-public schools is detrimental to the public education system and, in the opinion of ASBSD, is unconstitutional. In addition, the scholarship program is based on an antiquated school funding system and may result in the program no longer remaining fiscally neutral for the state. Permitting contributions made by insurance companies to remain anonymous places their special interests above their tax obligation to the state and undermines transparency established in other state laws. ASBSD supports amending SDCL 13-65 to require contributions to the scholarship fund to become public information. ASBSD also supports amending SDCL 13-65 to require any school receiving funds under SDCL 13-65 to follow all state requirements that public schools follow, including (but not limited to) accepting students under the State's Open Enrollment statutes and requiring the school to continue educating all accepted students until tuition/scholarship dollars are no longer paid or the student is expelled pursuant to State law.

ADOPTED: 2016

6. SCHOOL DISTRICT IDENTIFICATION SYMBOLS

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports the local control by school boards, and encourages them to seek input from community stakeholders on matters that involve symbols and events they believe uniquely identify their school.

RATIONALE

School districts are sensitive to the representation and depiction of all people through the use of mascots, nicknames, logos or other symbols and school events. School boards are open to discussion with local Native American tribes, community organizations and members on the utilization of these symbols and maintain their local control to make determinations on usage based on these discussions and what is best for the district, as a whole.

ADOPTED: 2016

B. Local Governance

7. USE OF BATHROOM, LOCKER ROOM AND OTHER FACILITIES

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports the judgment and integrity of local school boards and school districts to act in the best interest of their students, school and community and show respect for all students, staff and other individuals including using bathrooms, locker rooms and other facilities.

RATIONALE

School boards, as elected leaders, are responsive and accountable to local citizens, and, as noted by Gov. Dennis Daugaard in his 2016 veto message of House Bill 1008, “can, and have, made necessary restroom and locker room accommodations that serve the best interests of all students, regardless of biological sex or gender identity.” Local school boards and districts who have been met with these matters previously have prudently reached a decision that works best for all parties involved.

ADOPTED: 2016

8. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL PROTECTION FOR COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports a provision in law that would require the South Dakota Attorney General's office to represent a public school district, should it face a lawsuit while complying with the state law, and indemnify the school district for any financial liability incurred by the district rising out of the lawsuit.

RATIONALE

School districts respect the letter of the law and implement statutory requirements handed down to them by the legislature. Should a district face litigation for complying with state law, ASBSD believes a legal and financial partnership with the State of South Dakota is necessary. There is precedent in law related to this request as SDCL 13-34-25 states the attorney general would represent a school district at no cost should it be sued for complying with state statute related to use of textbooks, and we believe this right should be extended to all laws requiring school district compliance with state law.

ADOPTED: 2016

9. FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK REFERRAL

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports potential legislation allowing only school boards to refer a decision on the district implementing or repealing a four-day school week to voters.

RATIONALE

The decision to adjust a school week is one that should be made by a district as a whole, including school board members, administrators, parents and community members. Thus, a vote by district patrons is the best option for a district. The decision to refer should remain solely in the hands of the school board, as they best understand the implications a change in school week schedule would have on student achievement, district finances and other matters of the district.

ADOPTED: 2016

B. Local Governance

10. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports amending the newly enacted Conflict of Interest laws (SDCL3-23-6 through 9, inclusive) to clarify and simplify: to whom the reporting requirements apply, the circumstances in which reporting is required, and the reporting requirement and process.

RATIONALE

The newly enacted conflict of interest laws are under review and need further clarification.

ADOPTED: 2016

C. School Finance

1. SCHOOL FUNDING

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports a state education funding system that provides adequate aid for public schools to deliver a high quality education to all students, competitively compensate district employees and allow local management of funds through the following provisions:

- Utilizes revenue, and any potential growth, generated by the half-cent increase to the state's sales tax dedicated to teacher salaries;
- Raises the state average teacher salary to at least \$48,500 or higher and continues to review teacher salaries in order to stay competitive in region markets;
- Allows school districts to negotiate salary agreements that best fit their teaching staff within the mandated allocations set in statute;
- Covers the additional cost of benefits and overhead expenditures school districts incur;
- Sets student-to-teacher ratio levels that judiciously distribute dollars to school districts;
- Maintains the flexibility provision for districts to use capital outlay dollars for general fund expenses;
- Continues to review the distribution of other revenue funds;
- Ensures school districts have a process should they need a waiver from any piece of the funding system's statutory requirements;
- Appropriates funding to increase efficiencies through technology improvement grants, utilization of shared services, e-Learning programs, a teacher mentoring program and for national board certification for teachers;
- Allows school districts whose maximum per student capital outlay levy is under the state average to maintain or increase their Capital Outlay up to \$3.000 per thousand at the discretion of the school board.

RATIONALE

The historic passage of the half-cent sales tax increase, new funding formula and innovative funding options package ushered in a new era of funding for South Dakota's public schools. The new funding system brings sweeping changes to the variety of methods our districts have to fund their schools. While the system may evolve over time as we see the implications of its implementation, the current provisions in the resolution have been established with the best collective interest of our schools in mind. In 2016 historic legislation was passed in HB 1182, SB132 and SB 133.

ADOPTED: 2008

REVISED: 2016

2. EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCIES

RESOLUTION

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

RATIONALE

The Education Service Agencies have provided valuable services and resources for public schools in South Dakota. Previous years' budget cuts by the legislation have negatively impacted services provided by ESAs to schools.

ADOPTED: 2009

REVISED: 2015

C. School Finance

3. CONSISTENT SPARSITY FUNDING

RESOLUTION

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

RATIONALE

The state's sparse funding has provided much needed resources to the state's smallest and most rural schools. However, since the funding has been instituted, the amount of funding delivered to districts has declined and has been threatened for repeal. Given that sparsity funding amounts to more than 10 percent of the operating budget in some rural districts, the state's smallest most geographically isolated districts deserve consistent state supplemental funding.

ADOPTED: 2009

REVISED: 2014

4. SCHOOL FUNDING – TWO YEAR ENROLLMENT AVERAGING

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports reinstating two-year enrollment averaging or current enrollment, whichever is larger, in place of the fall enrollment count for the state aid formula calculation.

RATIONALE

With the passage of SB 131 the provision of the state aid formula that allowed for two year averaging of school district enrollment was eliminated. With year to year fluctuations in student enrollment, schools depend on two year averaging to provide stability in their budgeting process.

ADOPTED: 2016

D. Taxation

1. SALES TAX REVENUE

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports the utilization of revenue collected from the half-cent increase to the sales tax for state funding of K-12 education dedicated to teacher salaries.

RATIONALE

The half-cent increase to the sales tax provides the additional funding needed to support education, especially in maintaining competitive teacher salary levels with neighboring states. In 2016 historic legislation was passed in HB 1182, SB132 and SB 133.

ADOPTED: 2015

REVISED: 2016

E. Personnel

1. CONTINUING CONTRACT

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports legislation to deny continuing contract rights to teachers who have received two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations.

RATIONALE

ASBSD believes students should have the best teachers in the classroom. Using the state mandated evaluation process, a teacher whose performance is determined to be deficient should lose their continuing contract rights.

ADOPTED: 2008

REVISED: 2013

2. HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports a local district's ability to develop hiring, evaluation and compensation policies to develop performance and market-based compensation mechanisms that support local efforts to recruit and retain quality staff.

RATIONALE

School boards, administrators and teachers are in the best position to decide whether the school district has the financial resources, personnel, data systems and desire to implement local policy. Districts should have the flexibility to adopt effective hiring, evaluation and compensation policies.

ADOPTED: 2010

REVISED: 2012

F. Unfunded Mandates

1. STATE EDUCATION MANDATES

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports legislative action to require the State to adopt a fiscal note associated with and providing funding for all new mandates placed on local school districts.

RATIONALE

When state mandates place additional burdens on school boards, funds should be allocated to compensate expenses incurred. Therefore, it should be the policy of the State Department of Education to adopt fiscal notes and request funding from the legislature, prior to the passage of all new mandates placed on local school districts.

ADOPTED: 2008

REVISED: 2012

2. FEDERAL MANDATES

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports full funding for all federal mandates.

RATIONALE

When federal policymakers enacted laws intended to foster higher levels of school performance and academic achievement, Congress must adequately fund federal mandates to avoid causing local school boards to shift local resources to meet the demands of federal education policies.

ADOPTED: 2008

REVISED: 2016

G. Federal Relations

1. MEDICAID SERVICE REIMBURSEMENT

RESOLUTION

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

RATIONALE

Schools play a key role in identifying eligible children for Medicaid, connecting children to needed services in schools and communities. Medicaid service reimbursement funds help South Dakota districts provide outreach and coordination services that ultimately helps eligible children receive health services in a timely manner.

ADOPTED: 2008

REVISED: 2012

2. SCHOOL NUTRITION

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports flexibility in federal law for ~~to~~ state and local food service personnel to adjust the nutrition requirements including changes to the calorie maximum, to ensure they are providing school meals that meet the needs of their diverse student body in their communities.

RATIONALE

A one-size-fits-all policy ties the hands of local school lunch providers. According to recent report, the USDA's new regulations have led to hungrier students, wasted food, and increased costs for schools.

ADOPTED: 2010

REVISED: 2016

3. E-RATE

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports action by Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to strengthen the E-Rate program and improve the quality and speed of Internet connectivity in our nation's K-12 schools.

RATIONALE

The E-rate program, officially called the Schools and Libraries Program Universal Service Fund, provides significant discounts to schools and libraries to help them build technology infrastructure and provide telecommunications and Internet services for students in low-income and rural areas. The program is a vital source of funding to maintain and improve Internet connectivity in K-12 schools. Expansion of the federal E-rate program would improve access to technology for K-12 schools and students.

ADOPTED: 2010

REVISED: 2012

G. Federal Relations

4. EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)

RESOLUTION

ASBSD supports the federal education policy emphasizing the importance of local governance, providing states with more control over education standards and strengthening support for local control in managing school administration, budget development and related operations for school district responsibilities.

RATIONALE

ESSA affirms state control of education standards by allowing them to set their own benchmarks for student achievement in math and reading. In addition, ESSA reaffirms the importance of local governance as state education standards will be up for peer review by school board members, administrators, parents and other groups. A local governance measure included in the bill strengthens support for local control which will enhance the local district's goal of consistent student achievement.

ADOPTED: 2016