

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ARIZONA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
2100 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE
PHOENIX AZ 85004

PROPOSAL FOR 2013 ASBA ACTION

The Governing Board of Amphitheater Unified School District No. 10 of Pima County, Arizona presents the following proposal for ASBA action as directed by the Governing Board on April 10, 2012.

In support of Political Agenda Belief Statements #1 (Advocacy for Children and Student Needs) and #5 (Funding), ASBA will take the following action on the **Legislative** Agenda:

Subject:

Promote increased funding for support of programs and services for all public school students in grades Kindergarten through 12th Grade.

Action Proposed:

Seek legislation that immediately and adequately supports the educational needs of Arizona's students.

Sponsor Rationale:

AZ LEARNS and NCLB demand higher levels of achievement for schools and students. Funding must increase in order to support increasing achievement goals. With AIMS passage now a graduation requirement, we cannot short-change students and their families. Adequate funds are required to attract and retain qualified staff to provide the best education possible. Nearby states such as Nevada and California are actively recruiting teachers from Arizona, and their higher funding for public education makes it difficult to compete regionally. ASRS increases and rapidly increasing health care costs will lead to attrition and negatively impact recruitment. Private industry is also directly competing with school districts for the most qualified staff – especially in job classifications like bus drivers; math, science and physics teachers; speech pathologists and others. When standards demand expertise you must provide sufficient resources to compete for expertise, or standards mean nothing. School funding levels have long failed to keep pace with inflation until 301; 301's 2% inflation factor will fall short of ASRS increases, as well as extraordinary increases in projected costs of health care, diesel fuel and AIMS remediation efforts.