

Legislative Priorities for 2021

Background:

The Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) is asking school boards to identify up to four priority issues for possible inclusion among its 2021 legislative priorities. IASB asks boards to please reserve time during May, June, or July board meetings to discuss and complete the *Call for Legislative Priorities* survey.

IASB asks that our board secretary to complete and submit our priorities by Monday, August 10.

At our last board meeting, we discussed our priorities which were the following:

- ★ Funding and support for mental health services in Iowa schools and across the state.

(IASB 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.

- ★ Fund all schools on the same per-pupil amount.

Area Per-pupil Amounts are as Follows:	
▪	\$6,880 Belmond-Klemme
▪	\$6,888 West Hancock
▪	\$6,897 Garner-Hayfield-Ventura
▪	\$6,905 Clarion-G-D
▪	\$6,926 West Fork
▪	\$6,988 Eagle Grove
▪	\$7,040 CAL

- ★ Defeat vouchers
- ★ Remove the arbitrary cap on Dropout/At-risk funds. Other school districts get 5% of their per-pupil budgets to spend on dropout prevention. Belmond-Klemme was arbitrarily capped at 4%.
- ★ Raise the maximum salary under IPERS from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Employees age 55 to 65 who return to work in an IPERS-covered position, are subject to an earnings limit. They are required to pay back a portion of their IPERS benefits if they earn more than \$30,000 a year. (The Iowa minimum teacher salary is \$33,500.) Moving up this cap could alleviate slightly the strain of the current teacher shortage.

Recommended Action:

I recommend the Board move to affirm their legislative priorities above and ask Board Secretary Thelma Martinez to complete and submit our priorities prior to Friday, August 9, in the IASB *Call for Legislative Priorities* survey for possible inclusion among IASB's 2021 legislative priorities.