



**GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10**

DATE OF MEETING: May 11, 2021

TITLE: Determination of Proposed Issues for Consideration for the Arizona School Boards Association 2022 Political Agenda

BACKGROUND:

The Arizona School Boards Association, of which the District is a member, is holding its annual ASBA Delegate Assembly on September 11, 2021. The Delegate Assembly determines ASBA's positions for any future Special Sessions of the current legislature and for the Second Regular Session of the Fifty-fifth Legislature (and any special meetings).

In advance of the September Delegate Assembly, ASBA is requesting that individual Governing Boards review its 2021 Political Agenda, attached, as compiled at its 2020 annual meeting. From the Agenda, ASBA asks the Board to affirm its top five (5) priorities and then select two (2) additional priorities for consideration by the ASBA Legislative Committee. The deadline for submission of the priorities is May 21, 2021.

At its June 4, 2021 meeting, the ASBA Legislative Committee will create a draft document to be circulated, during the week of June 21, 2021, to all governing boards and superintendents. That document will be the basis for discussion at the official Delegate Assembly on September 11, 2021. The Item for appointment of a Delegate and Alternate to the ASBA Delegate Assembly will be submitted to the Board in August.

On May 26, 2020, the Governing Board determined its own 2021 legislative priorities:

The top five (5) legislative priorities for submission to the ASBA were:

1. Maximize state funding for nationally and locally competitive salaries to attract, recruit and retain talented teachers and staff
2. Eliminate unfunded mandates and administrative burdens.
3. Reform Current year funding to a system that provides districts with appropriate stable annual budget ability and technical reliability
4. Invest in technology equitably for all students
5. Accelerate full restoration of District Additional Assistance funding and Index for Inflation

The two (2) alternative submissions to the ASBA were:

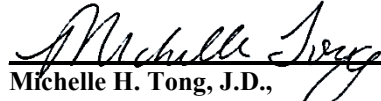
1. Propose new language that would provide for local control and determinations of CARES Act and related funding uses to best meet local community and district needs
2. Address the need to adjust state funding formula weights to ensure funding is directed to LEA's which are actually serving the students

The Governing Board may want to use these legislative priorities as a starting point as it considers the attached ASBA 2021 Political Agenda. After the Board votes to approve its top five (5) priorities as well as the two (2) additional priorities to put forward to the ASBA, the District administration will submit the information to the ASBA on behalf of the Governing Board.

RECOMMENDATION:

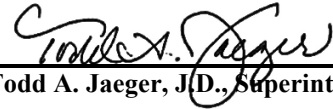
This Item is presented for the Board's consideration and discussion of proposed Action Agenda Items for submission to the ASBA Legislation Committee. By motion, the Board will need to state their recommended top five legislative priorities (and two alternative recommendations) for submission to ASBA.

INITIATED BY:



Michelle H. Tong, J.D.,
Associate to the Superintendent and General Counsel

Date: April 30, 2021



Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent

2021 Political Agenda

Adopted by the ASBA Delegate Assembly | October 17, 2020

The Arizona School Boards Association represents and advocates for the diverse interests of the state's school district governing boards and the approximately 1 million Arizona children whose education is entrusted to their care. ASBA's legislative, regulatory and legal advocacy is based on the association's Political Agenda. A member-developed document, the Political Agenda is discussed, debated and approved by ASBA membership at the annual Delegate Assembly. Every district member board has the opportunity to influence the yearly agenda.

2021 Priority Issues

Adequately and Equitably Fund District Schools to at Least the National Median per Pupil Funding

Preserve and Strengthen Local Control

Improve Outcomes for All Students

Require Public Accountability for Taxpayer Dollars Spent on Education

Manage the Impact of COVID-19 on Public Schools

Adequately and Equitably Fund District Schools to at Least the National Median Per Pupil Funding

- Maximize state funding for nationally and locally competitive salaries to attract, recruit, and retain talented teachers and staff, including incentives for difficult to fill positions.
- Revise the School Finance formula to:
 - Provide a stable, dedicated revenue source less reliant on the general fund or annual legislative appropriation.
 - Provide dedicated school capital funding consistent with the constitutional requirement of a general and uniform public school system.
 - Ensure the formula addresses the unique financial needs of schools serving students in poverty and in rural and remote schools.
 - Revise the funding formula to add funding for student mental health and well-being initiatives.
- Fully fund full-day kindergarten and include kindergarten students in the override calculations.
- Advocate to preserve and protect the voters' original intent of Prop 301.
- Index district additional assistance (DAA) funding for inflation.
- Provide funding for new space before existing schools exceed their maximum capacity and become overcrowded, and provide dedicated and flexible ongoing maintenance funding, including building replacement. Advocate for capacity standards that reflect the design of instructional space.
- Eliminate unfunded mandates and administrative burdens.
- Return desegregation funding to a primary tax levy.
- Conduct an exceptional student services cost study to assure students, including in rural or remote areas, are being funded at the actual cost of their services.
- Adequately fund the cost of student transportation.
- Provide funding for preschool programs.
- Reform current year funding to a system that provides districts with appropriate stable annual budgeting ability and technical reliability.
- Prorate funding over the entire school year among all public schools that a student has attended during the year.
- Provide funding to individual districts to implement locally directed school safety programs as well as student mental health and wellbeing initiatives.
- Equitably invest in technology and reliable internet access for all students.
- Adequately fund programs under exceptional student services.
- Provide funding for districts to improve student achievement by addressing social-emotional learning needs and create training programs for school staff in cultural proficiency and responsiveness.

Preserve and Strengthen Local Control

Adopted by the ASBA Delegate Assembly | October 17, 2020

- Ensure local control and flexibility in managing funds and programs when possible, given the Arizona constitutional requirements of a general and uniform public school system.
- Change “override/budget increase” language to better reflect what voters are being asked to support.
- Allow school districts greater flexibility in the divestiture or use of taxpayer-funded assets.
- Oppose legislative intrusion on school site budgeting decisions.
- Maintain exclusive local authority over any measure that would propose to consolidate and/or unify any number of school districts into a larger district.

- Support local board authority for student suspensions and open enrollment.
- Support policy that eliminates the use of corporal punishment in Arizona schools.
- Amend current statute to allow school board members to use the E-Qual system in addition to in-person signatures to appear on the ballot.

Improve Outcomes For All Students

- Increase the compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18 years.
- Enact research-based reform of the English Language Learner model of instruction that may include primary language literacy to improve student achievement that does not segregate English Language Learners from English speaking peers; integrates reading, writing and oral language instruction; and incorporates multiple assessment measures to demonstrate English proficiency.
- Fully restore 9th-grade CTE/CTED eligibility and funding to allow students to explore career fields and/or certification completion.
- Allow CTEDs to serve students through age 21 regardless of graduation status.

- Support policy that recognizes, respects, and promotes teaching as a profession.
- Defend against efforts to chill the free speech rights of school employees.
- State standardized testing shall not be used for any purpose other than a year-over-year measurement of student growth in the tested subject.
- Support policy that protects school district employees and students from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Require Public Accountability for Taxpayer Dollars Spent on Education

- Establish financial and academic transparency for all institutions and individuals that accept public funds.
- Repeal any program that gives public funds for private schools, vouchers (Empowerment Scholarship Accounts) and private school subsidies (Student Tuition Organizations) and prevent any future expansion.
- Require comparative classroom spending audits for school districts and all other institutions that accept public funds and define “classroom spending” as both instructional spending and student support spending.
- Enforce financial requirements and seek recovery of improperly received and/or expended public funds by charter and private schools and organizations.

Manage the Impact of COVID-19 on Public Schools

- Hold school districts harmless for significant enrollment losses for school year 2020-2021.
- Provide flexibility in seat time and attendance requirements for school districts for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Suspend state standardized testing requirements for school year 2020-2021.
- Enact a moratorium on school letter grades for school year 2020-2021.
- Provide districts flexibility in teacher evaluation requirements and procedures.
- Facilitate regulatory relief in the event the pandemic continues to (or does so at a future date) interrupt the academic year.
- Create a state-funded program designed to bulk purchase sanitation supplies (i.e. PPE, cleaning supplies, etc.) for distribution to school districts and schools.
- Provide funding for increased expenses incurred due to COVID-19, including costs to meet the social-emotional needs of students.
- Fund technology modernization and accessibility to ensure students have the technology and equipment to use during times like these with the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- Unless a public emergency is declared, maintain the right of school districts to close for safety concerns related to COVID-19 outbreak in the community.
- Protect public schools from liability if a community member contracts COVID-19 while engaged in school-sponsored activities.