



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

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**DATE OF MEETING:**     **May 3, 2016**

**TITLE:   Determination of Governing Board Position on ASBA Legislative Action Agenda Items**

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**BACKGROUND:**

The Arizona School Boards Association, of which the District is a member, is holding its annual ASBA Delegate Assembly on September 10, 2016. 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-second Legislature.

In advance of the September Delegate Assembly, ASBA is requesting that individual Governing Boards review its 2016 Political Agenda as compiled at its 2015 annual meeting. From the Agenda, ASBA asks the Board to affirm its top five (5) priorities and then select two additional priorities for consideration by the ASBA Legislative Committee. The deadline for submission of the priorities is May 20, 2016.

At its June 3rd meeting, the Legislative Committee will create a draft document to be circulated to all governing boards and superintendents. That document will be the basis for discussion at the official Delegate Assembly on September 10th. The Item for appointment of a Delegate and Alternate to the ASBA Delegate Assembly will be submitted to the Board in August.

ASBA's 2016 Political Agenda is attached for the Board's consideration and discussion, as is the Governing Board's own legislative priorities for 2016.

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**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.

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**INITIATED BY:**

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**Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent**

**Date: May 2, 2016**

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**Patrick Nelson, Superintendent**

**AMPHITHEATER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GOVERNING BOARD 2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

1. Provide Adequate Funding for K-12 Education.
2. Restore Career Ladder Funding.
3. Maintain Desegregation Funding.
4. Provide Adequate Funding to Serve English Language Learners.
5. Establish a Reliable and Adequate Source of Funding for the School Facilities Board.
6. Provide User-friendly and Practical Reporting Requirements and Provide Funding Support for the Same.
7. Protect and Support Educator Due Process Rights.
8. Provide Adequate Funding to Serve Special Education Student.

**ARIZONA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION 2016 POLITICAL AGENDA**

**Long-Term Focus – These overarching issues must be addressed for public schools to excel and provide an opportunity for every child to succeed. Providing high quality public education is the best investment to grow Arizona’s economy. The items below reflect those key issues on which we will concentrate over the next 5-10 years.**

1. Strengthen the school finance formula to equitably and adequately fund public schools to:
  - a. Assure a more stable and reliable source.
  - b. Maximize local school district flexibility in managing these funds.
  - c. Require the same financial accountability and transparency measures of all schools and individuals that receive public funds.
  - d. Repeal any program that gives public monies for private schooling.
2. Uphold, preserve, and strengthen local control to reinforce the connection between the community and its elected board members.
3. Meet the unique educational needs of every student so that all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

**Short-Term Focus – Building toward our long-term areas of success, the following items represent critical needs to put us on that path, and will engage our energies up to the next 3-5 years.**

1. Reinstate and fund formulas to comply with at least state school building minimum standards.

2. Provide greater equity in funding and access for special education students within the public school system.
3. Allow public school tax credits to be used as determined by local districts.
4. Establish financial transparency and academic accountability for Empowerment Scholarship Accounts.
5. Maximize income opportunities for teachers' salaries and student support.
6. Fully restore 9<sup>th</sup> grade CTE/JTED eligibility and funding so students have the opportunity to explore career fields and/or certification completion.
7. Require comparative and consistent Auditor General Reports for public (district and charter) schools.

**2016 Legislative Session-Specific – Building toward our long-term areas of success, the following items reflect issues that will not only move us forward, but we believe can be accomplished next year given the legislative atmosphere and current public trends.**

1. Fully fund full-day kindergarten and include kindergarten students in the override calculation.
2. Fund inflation fully in the manner prescribed by statute mandated by Arizona voters.
3. Repeal CTE and JTED cuts slated to take effect in Fiscal Year 2017.
4. Change “override/budget increase” language to “locally controlled funding” to better reflect what voters are being asked to support.
5. Fund the implementation costs of Arizona’s standards, assessments, and technology.
6. Restore Building Renewal funding to ensure school facilities are adequately maintained.
7. Allow districts the option to operate individual schools for 200-day school years and increase accompanying funding to 8% from 5% to improve student achievement.
8. Increase the compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18 years.
9. Eliminate the change to current year funding.
10. Advocate to lessen unfunded mandates and administrative burdens.
11. Allow school districts greater flexibility in the divestiture of property to address population and course needs.
12. Protect desegregation funding from any cuts or modifications.
13. Require charter holders and applicants to use their local entity’s most recent demographic study and enrollment demand data to justify the need for a new school.