

1 **WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS, INC.**

2 Madison, Wisconsin

3 November 18, 2013

4
5 **REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP ON 2014 RESOLUTIONS**

6 WASB Policy & Resolutions Committee

7 Mike Blecha, Green Bay Area School Board, Chair

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11 ***Resolution 14-1: Access to Co-Curricular Activities***

12 Create: The WASB opposes legislative efforts to mandate that districts provide students residing
13 in the district who are not enrolled in the district schools access to district co-curricular activities.

14
15 Rationale: Co-curricular programs exist to support the educational mission of the school district,
16 and, to ensure this, school boards adopt co-curricular codes holding students to behavioral,
17 attendance, and academic standards. The committee advanced this resolution to give WASB
18 members an opportunity to express their position in response to proposed legislation (as yet not
19 introduced) that would give non-public-school students the right to participate in co-curricular
20 activities.

21
22 ***Resolution 14-2: Voucher School Accountability***

23 Amend existing resolution 2.70 (a) **Private School Aid** as follows:

24
25 Private and parochial schools that accept state funding through taxpayer-financed
26 vouchers (hereafter "private voucher schools") must be held to the ~~state statutory~~
27 ~~requirements, testing requirements and accountability measures as public schools~~ same
28 state statutory requirements, testing requirements and accountability standards as public
29 schools, without exception.

30
31 Rationale: The committee advanced this resolution to enable WASB members to clarify what it
32 means to hold private voucher schools to the same state statutory requirements, testing
33 requirements and accountability standards as public schools, by making it explicit that these
34 requirements should be applied equally to all public and private voucher schools, without
35 exception.

36
37 ***Resolution 14-3: Voucher School Teacher and Administrator Standards***

38 Amend existing resolution 2.70 (c) **Private School Aid** as follows:

39 Teachers and administrators in private voucher schools ~~should~~ must be required to meet the
40 same standards required of public school teachers and administrators, including, but not
41 limited to, licensure standards and educator effectiveness provisions.

42
43 Rationale: The committee advanced this resolution to enable WASB members to consider
44 making explicit two specific standards in the existing resolution requiring teachers and
45 administrators in private voucher schools to meet the same state standards required of public
46 school teachers and administrators.

47

1 **Resolution 14-4: Applicability of Open Meetings and Public Records Laws to Private Voucher**
2 **Schools**

3 Create an additional paragraph in existing resolution 2.70 **Private School Aid** as follows:

4
5 Private voucher schools must be subject to and comply with the Open Meetings Law and
6 Public Records Law that apply to public schools.

7
8 Rationale: The committee advanced this resolution to give members a chance to express their
9 position on whether private voucher schools (i.e., private and parochial schools that accept state
10 funding through taxpayer-financed vouchers) must be subject to and comply with the Open
11 Meetings Law and Public Records Law that apply to public schools.

12
13 **Resolution 14-5: Administration of Certain Required State Assessments (Explore)**

14 Create: The WASB supports granting the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) the authority
15 to approve a waiver from the statutorily-required administration of the ACT Explore test during
16 the fall session of ninth grade to school districts that administered this assessment in the spring
17 session of eighth grade.

18
19 Rationale: The committee advanced this resolution to allow the members to consider concerns
20 expressed by a number of state school districts that have already been administering the ACT
21 Suite of tests to their students using district funds and have specifically been administering the
22 Explore test to eighth graders. Those districts assert that by advancing this resolution in support
23 of a waiver they are not seeking to avoid testing, but are seeking to avoid unnecessary
24 duplication of testing.

25
26 **Resolution 14-6: Days of Instruction/Flexible Length of School Term**

27 Amend existing resolution 1.24 **Days of Instruction** as follows:

28
29 The WASB supports legislation to allow local districts the maximum latitude in
30 determining the number of days of direct pupil instruction using the hours required under
31 current law, and in determining what constitutes a day of school. The WASB further
32 supports legislation to repeal the existing statutory provisions governing the number of
33 school days required under current law, and supports legislation to allow districts to be
34 governed only by the hours of direct pupil instruction required under current law.

35
36 Rationale: The committee advanced this resolution to enable WASB members to clearly state
37 their position with respect to existing statutory provisions governing the number of school days
38 required each year, while maintaining in place existing statutory provisions governing the hours
39 of direct pupil instruction required.

40
41 **Resolution 14-7: Educator Effectiveness**

42 Create: The WASB rejects any interpretation of educator effectiveness initiatives that would
43 limit a school board's right to review this data, to decide what data is relevant, and to use this
44 data for any lawful purpose and in a manner consistent with preserving the legitimate privacy
45 interests of educators being evaluated.

46
47 Rationale: The committee advanced this resolution to allow WASB members to express a
48 position on the rights of school boards to use educator effectiveness data.

1 **Resolution 14-8: Common Core State Standardsa**

2 Amend existing resolution 3.02 **State Standards** and create paragraphs a) and b) as follows:

3
4 The WASB supports ~~the efforts at the state level to create standards in the core content~~
5 ~~areas of reading, math, science, language arts and social studies. The standards should be~~
6 ~~established at the 4th, 8th and 10th all grade levels.~~ adoption and implementation of the
7 Common Core State Standards at all grade levels in the content areas of English language
8 arts, mathematics, and literacy (in all content areas), which are aimed at placing all
9 Wisconsin students on track to graduate from high school ready for college or careers.

10 The standards should not be so specific that they dictate local curricula, but should give
11 students, parents, teachers, and local policymakers clear, high expectations for what
12 students should know and be able to do at each grade level. The WASB further supports
13 flexibility for school boards to select, approve and implement local district standards that
14 reflect the local community's expectation that each student achieve his/her maximum
15 potential. The local standards should meet or exceed ~~state standards~~ Common Core State
16 Standards, and should include grade levels and ~~curriculum content~~ areas not included in
17 the ~~state standards~~ Common Core State Standards. The standards should be written in
18 language easily understood by the public.

19
20 a) The WASB supports the vital role local school board governance and local school
21 district decision-making play in designing, developing and delivering high quality
22 educational services for our state's school children.

23
24 b) The WASB shares the concern of local school boards about federal intrusion into
25 state and local prerogatives and opposes any and all efforts by the federal
26 government to coerce states or local school districts to adopt any specific set of
27 academic content standards. The WASB believes the U.S. Department of
28 Education should fulfill its role as a policy implementer rather than a policy-
29 maker, and should perform that role with proper recognition of local school board
30 governance.

31
32 Rationale: The committee advanced this resolution because: a) it determined that the WASB's
33 existing policy resolution on state standards (3.02 State Standards) adopted in 1997 is outdated,
34 particularly in light of the State Superintendent's decision to voluntarily adopt the Common Core
35 State Standards in English language arts and mathematics as a replacement for the state's former
36 Model Academic Standards; b) to date, the WASB Delegate Assembly has expressed no position
37 on the Common Core State Standards or the role of the federal government with respect to
38 academic standards; and c) committee members believed it was desirable to put these question of
39 support for the Common Core State Standards to a vote of the Delegate Assembly.

40
41 **Resolution 14-9: Forced Sale of School District Buildings and Grounds**

42 Create: The WASB supports maintaining locally elected school board decision making regarding
43 the use of school district facilities and opposes legislation mandating that districts must sell or
44 lease vacant or "underutilized" school buildings and grounds.

45
46 Rationale: The committee advanced this resolution to allow WASB members to express a
47 position in response to legislation that would, essentially, require the Milwaukee Public Schools
48 (MPS) Board to offer vacant or underutilized buildings to the operators of private voucher

1 schools or charter schools. The authors of this legislation have indicated they support extending
2 the principle underlying their bill to all school districts in the state.

3
4 ***Resolution 14-10: Fund Balances***

5 Create: The WASB opposes any legislative or regulatory efforts to limit or to dictate the level of
6 the general fund balances that a local school district must maintain.

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8 Rationale: School districts maintain a reasonable fund balance in their general fund for a variety
9 of reasons, including: to manage cash-flow and avoid short-term borrowing and associated
10 interest costs in periods during which income is not being received; to stabilize both the budget
11 and tax rate; to accumulate sufficient assets to make planned purchases; to provide for
12 unexpected or unforeseen expenditures due to natural disasters, emergencies, etc.; and to
13 preserve a high bond rating. Committee members expressed concern over the likelihood that
14 legislators may review school district fund balances and may attempt to prescribe legislation or
15 rules to govern the maximum size of fund balances school districts may maintain. Committee
16 members advanced this resolution to allow WASB members to express a position on such
17 legislative efforts to dictate the allowable level of general fund balances local school district may
18 maintain.

19
20 ***Resolution 14-11: Recovery School Districts***

21 Create: The WASB opposes the creation in Wisconsin of a recovery school district or a similar
22 state-level authority designed to take over and attempt to improve the performance of low-
23 performing public schools.

24
25 Rationale: The committee advanced this resolution to the Delegate Assembly to allow WASB
26 members to decide whether to take a position in opposition to recovery school district proposals
27 or other similar proposals that would remove schools from the governance of locally elected
28 school boards and place them into a special district that answers to a state authority, such as the
29 state superintendent or someone else given that power by the state Legislature.

30
31 ***Resolution 14-12: School Start Date***

32 Amend existing resolution 1.22 **Authority to Establish the School Calendar** as follows:

33
34 The WASB supports local school boards having sole authority to establish the school
35 calendar and the number of contract days, and ~~opposes existing and proposed~~ supports
36 repealing existing state statutes restricting the school start date.

37
38 Rationale: The committee advanced this resolution to enable WASB members to more clearly
39 state their position regarding repealing the existing state statutes restricting the school start date.

40
41 ***Resolution 14-13: Safety Belts on School Buses***

42 Amend existing resolution 3.51 **Seat Belts** as follows:

43
44 The WASB opposes legislation requiring all school buses to be equipped with seat belts
45 for students; however, the WASB supports legislation to require newly manufactured
46 school buses to be equipped with safety belts provided the state provides funding to
47 defray the cost to school districts of purchasing, leasing or contracting for new school
48 buses with such belts.

1 Rationale: The committee advanced this resolution to enable WASB members to review the
2 existing WASB policy resolution on this topic, which was adopted in 1986, in light of changes in
3 federal regulations, improvements in school buses and safety belts, and legislation (2013 Senate
4 Bill 304) that has been introduced to require all school buses weighing more than 10,000 pounds
5 and manufactured on or after a date approximately six months after the effective date of the bill
6 to be equipped with 3-point (lap-shoulder) safety belts.

7
8 ***Resolution 14-14: Sharing of Student by Districts***

9 Create: The WASB supports providing additional flexibility for school districts to save costs by
10 sharing students through programs such as, but not limited to, whole-grade sharing or creation of
11 regional high schools serving a number of surrounding school districts.

12
13 Rationale: The committee advanced this resolution to enable WASB members to decide whether
14 to more explicitly express their support for specific types of programs that allow school districts
15 to save costs by sharing students, and to further clarify the intent of existing WASB Policy
16 Resolution 3.29 (Academic Cooperation).

17
18 ***Resolution 14-15: Weapons Possession in School Zones***

19 Amend existing resolution 6.11 (b) **Weapon Possession** as follows:

20
21 6.11 Weapon Possession

22
23 (b) The WASB supports safe learning environments for all children, free of guns and
24 other weapons. Further, the WASB opposes any initiatives at the state or federal level
25 that would legalize any further ability for anyone, with the exception of sworn law
26 enforcement officers, to bring a weapon or possess a weapon, concealed or otherwise, in
27 school zones or lessen the consequences for violation of existing safe school policies
28 relating to guns and other weapons.

29
30 Rationale: The committee advanced this resolution to clarify and update the existing WASB
31 resolution on this topic (6.11 (b) Weapon Possession), which was adopted prior to the enactment
32 of legislation (2011 Wisconsin Act 35) permitting licensed individuals to carry concealed
33 weapons, commonly referred to as the Carrying Concealed Weapon (CCW) Law, which
34 effectively allows those with training and registration to carry concealed weapons in most
35 settings unless specifically prohibited by law.

