



Resolution to Adopt the Proposed 2013 OSBA Legislative Policies and Priorities

We, as OSBA members, do accept and resolve to support and participate in the 2013 OSBA Legislative Policies and Priorities proposed and recommended by the OSBA Board of Directors as follows:

Proposed Legislative Priorities

Provides Adequate Funding

OSBA will actively support legislation that increases K-12's share of state resources and provides each school district and Education Service District (ESD) the funds necessary to provide a quality public education for every student. OSBA believes a balanced approach is necessary to grow state and local revenue, including promoting job growth, focusing on economic development and restructuring Oregon's revenue system.

Supports Student Achievement

OSBA will actively promote legislation that prioritizes support for increased student achievement to ensure that every student is college or career ready upon completion of their academic program. OSBA supports efforts to close academic achievement gaps and provide services to all students who need extra supports.

Empowers Local Boards and Highlights Shared Accountability

OSBA will actively support legislation that gives locally elected boards the ability to make decisions in the best interests of their students and communities, including mandate relief and tools which give districts relief from cost drivers within the educational enterprise. OSBA will highlight the need for shared accountability to improve student achievement between state and federal policy makers, the business community, locally elected board members and the voters of Oregon.

Proposed Legislative Policies

Section 1: Finance

1.1 Investing in Oregon's Public Schools to Ensure Adequate, Competitive Funding

During the 2003-2005 biennium, almost 45% of Oregon's General Fund and Lottery resources went to fund K-12 public education. Today the State School Fund receives about 39% of these funds. OSBA supports increasing K-12's share of state resources so that Oregon's schools are competitive nationally and globally and each school district and ESD has the funds necessary to support their operational, instructional and student achievement goals. OSBA supports the role of locally elected school boards to set spending priorities and opposes using the State School Fund distribution formula to mandate specific expenditures; OSBA supports school funding equalization. OSBA supports continued funding of local option equalization grants; local option property tax revenue should not be included in the State School Fund. OSBA supports increased funding for all levels of the 0-20 education enterprise to support increased achievement for every child and student. OSBA supports the Quality of Education Commission's (QEC) effort to promote best practices to improve student outcomes and encourages the Commission to work with the OEIB to identify funding necessary to achieve 40-40-20.

1.2 Reforming Tax Policy

OSBA supports efforts to provide the revenue necessary to attain the educational goals of the K-12 and post-secondary systems in Oregon and restructure Oregon's tax policy to reduce the volatility of Oregon's current system. OSBA supports modification of the state's personal and corporate income tax Akicker@ law to allow "kicker" funds to be deposited into a "rainy day" account and used in times of economic distress. OSBA supports the authority of local districts to seek voter approval for supplemental operating revenue from a variety of additional sources, including local option levies.

1.3 Mandate Relief, Paperwork Reduction and Public Funds for Public Schools

OSBA will advocate for mandate relief and paperwork reductions for school districts and ESDs as a means to streamline bureaucracy, remove duplicative or unnecessary reporting and get more resources into the classroom. OSBA opposes any mechanism that diverts public funds, including tax credits and vouchers, to private or religious schools or erodes financial support of the public school system.

1.4 State Department of Education Supporting Districts

OSBA supports funding for Oregon Department of Education programs and state level initiatives that provide quality technical and programmatic assistance and supports to school districts and ESDs which are targeted at improving student achievement.

1.5 Financial and Program Accountability

OSBA supports a strong system of meaningful school district and ESD financial accountability for the expenditure of public funds and program accountability for student achievement and outcomes.

1.6 State Bonding for District Capital and Infrastructure Needs

OSBA supports use of state resources and the issuance of state general obligation bonds to assist school districts and ESDs in providing modern, well equipped schools and classrooms and buildings that provide safe, structurally sound and healthy learning environments to promote student achievement.

Section 2: Programs

2.1 School Improvement

OSBA supports state-level school improvement efforts provided they are implemented in ways that grant local school officials maximum flexibility to incorporate community needs and priorities.

2.2 Special Education

OSBA supports increased categorical funding and enhanced levels of state and federal aid for the costs associated with special education programs. OSBA supports fully funded placements for students with the most severe low-incidence, high-cost disabilities, including those served in out-of-district or out-of-state placements.

2.3 Education Service Districts

OSBA supports the role of education service districts (ESDs) to assist school districts in achieving Oregon's educational goals by providing equitable, high-quality, cost-effective, locally-responsive educational services on a regional basis.

2.4 Curriculum, Technology and Online Education

OSBA supports providing a well rounded curriculum for all students, including opportunities for music, art, PE, world languages and co-curricular activities. OSBA supports curriculum related decisions made at the district level and opposes instructional mandates. OSBA supports the use of English Language Learner and language immersion programs as a viable way to provide needed support while integrating non-native English speakers into the standard district curriculum. OSBA supports increasing access to technology to enhance and support curriculum delivery and promote greater student achievement. OSBA supports removing online education programs from the charter school statute. OSBA supports state level funding to support and improve the technology infrastructure available to school districts and ESDs.

2.5 Public Charter Schools

OSBA supports public, district sponsored charter schools as an additional tool to provide educational options to students. OSBA opposes changes to the charter school law that would channel public funds to private and religious schools, allow entities other than school district boards to authorize charter schools within their boundaries, mandate direct access to the State School Fund by charter schools or decrease school district funding and oversight of charter schools.

2.6 Career and Technical Education (CTE)

OSBA supports new and continued partnerships with community colleges, higher education, apprenticeship programs and the business community to increase educational and career opportunities for students.

Section 3: Personnel

3.1 Collective Bargaining and Management Rights

OSBA supports local control of collective bargaining and opposes statewide bargaining and the creation of a statewide salary schedule. OSBA supports changing the collective bargaining structure to eliminate “status quo” bargaining and establish shorter bargaining time lines. OSBA supports the right of districts to look for ways to contain costs by contracting with outside providers for services.

3.2 Employee Rights and Benefits

OSBA supports determination and definition of school employee rights and benefits through the collective bargaining process at the local level. OSBA supports an actuarially-sound statewide retirement program for school employees that balances benefit adequacy for employees against costs for employers. OSBA supports local boards working with employee groups to provide the most cost effective health insurance plans, including OEBC opt out.

3.3 Teacher and Administrator Licensing

OSBA supports licensing requirements that assure a level of preparation necessary to teach to rigorous academic standards, recognize licenses from other states and understand the challenges districts face attracting and retaining qualified personnel. OSBA supports working collaboratively with the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) and the teacher preparation programs within higher education to prepare educators to increase student achievement and address the needs of all students in Oregon.

3.4 Teacher and Administrator Quality

OSBA recognizes that teacher and administrator quality is one of the most important factors in improving student achievement. OSBA supports local and state programs to provide professional development and training for teachers and administrators that is rigorous and leads to a system of continuous improvement and growth in student achievement. OSBA supports rigorous, quality, ongoing evaluations of teachers and administrators, which include consideration of student achievement and growth.

Section 4: Governance and Operations

4.1 Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB)

OSBA will work to support the efforts of the OEIB to create a seamless system of education in Oregon from pre-kindergarten through post-secondary that improves student outcomes at all levels. OSBA strongly supports the appointment of current public school board members to serve on the OEIB. OSBA believes increased state and federal expectations for student outcomes must be accompanied by increased state and federal investments necessary to achieve the goals.

4.2 State Board of Education

OSBA supports a state Board of Education as the appropriate state-level policy-making body for elementary and secondary schools and community colleges.

4.3 Local Governance

OSBA members believe that locally elected school district and ESD boards are best equipped to make decisions in the best interests of their students and communities and will strongly advocate for Oregon's tradition of democratically elected, local governance of schools. OSBA opposes measures that would place additional restrictions on local voters' ability to govern their school districts.

4.4 School Safety and Student Wellness

OSBA supports local measures that promote safety and wellness in the school environment for students, staff, parents, patrons and the community as a whole.

Submitted by: OSBA Board of Directors