ASBA
Arizona School Boards Association

2017 POLITICAL AGENDA

RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

1. Strengthen the School Finance formula to equitably and adequately fund public schools:
   a. Fund the implementation and ongoing costs of AZ standards, assessments and technology;
   b. Protect desegregation funding from any cuts or modifications;
   c. 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;
   d. Provide greater equity in funding and access for exceptional student services within the public school system;
   e. Provide adequate funding to cover the cost of student transportation;
   f. Establish statewide poverty weights within the school funding formula.
2. Advocate to eliminate unfunded mandates and administrative burdens.
3. Assure a more stable and reliable revenue structure to support education.
4. Advocate to renew, expand and improve Prop 301.
5. Ensure 100% funding for all JTEDs.
6. Fully fund full-day kindergarten and include kindergarten students in the override calculations.
7. Provide funding for preschool programs.
8. Reinstate and fund formulas to comply with at least state school building minimum standards and restore building renewal funding to ensure school district facilities are adequately maintained.
9. Provide additional state funding for nationally competitive salaries to attract, recruit and retain talented teachers.

LOCAL CONTROL & GOVERNANCE

1. Uphold, preserve, and strengthen local control to reinforce the connection between the community and its elected governing board members.
2. Allow school districts greater flexibility in the divestiture of property to address population and course needs.
3. Maximize local control and flexibility in managing funds and programs.
4. Change “override/budget increase” language to “locally controlled funding” to better reflect what voters are being asked to support.

STATE EDUCATION POLICY

1. Fully restore 9th grade CTE/JTED eligibility and funding so students have the opportunity to explore career fields and or/certification completion.
2. Allow all JTEDs to service students through the age of 21.
3. Eliminate the change to current year funding and advocate to hold declining districts harmless for loss of funding and ensure funding accuracy and transparency in ADM calculations.
4. Establish financial and academic transparency for all institutions that accept public funds.
5. Repeal any program that gives public funds for private schools, ESAs & STOs or prevent any future expansion.
6. Require comparative auditor general reports for district and charter schools.
7. 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.
8. Increase the compulsory attendance age from 16 to 18 years.
9. Advocate for research-based reform of the English Language Learner model of instruction to improve student achievement.

ASBA leadership and members of the association's Governmental Relations and Legal Services staff guide the political agenda process in concert with the ASBA Legislative Committee.

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Our mission is to cultivate excellence in locally-governed school districts.