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 governing board members.

3. Meet the unique educational needs of every student so that all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

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 9th 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.

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.
Guiding the Process

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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Quality leadership and advocacy for children in public schools