

FINAL RESOLUTIONS

77th Annual Delegate Assembly

Adopted

Saturday, October 14, 2017

Thursday, November 30, 2017



Colorado Association of School Boards

CASB.org

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Standing Resolutions

The Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) has adopted the following Standing Resolutions as expressions of the organization’s foundational beliefs in regard to Local Governance, Finance, and Student Academic Growth and Achievement. These Standing Resolutions were approved by the CASB Board of Directors, the CASB Legislative Resolutions Committee and adopted by the CASB Delegate Assembly in October 2017.

Local Governance

- SR1** Colorado’s Constitution acknowledges the diverse nature of Colorado school districts and establishes locally elected school boards vested with control of instruction as the guarantor of educational quality responsive to local needs.

- SR2** Control of instruction, including efforts to restructure and fund public education, must be guided by student needs, improved academic growth and achievement, with responsible use of financial resources as determined by the locally elected school board.

- SR3** Essential functions of the local board of education’s constitutional authority include establishing the course of curriculum and instruction, the process for determining the terms and conditions of employment for school district employees, and the budget to be used to implement the local community’s priorities.

Finance

- SR4** The state must provide Colorado’s public schools with adequate and reliable funding pursuant to a formula that balances federal, state and local revenue sources and is intended to fully fund the legal requirements for and meet the educational needs of all Colorado students.

- SR5** New legislation must expressly consider cost at the state and local levels and be fully funded before it may be enforced by the state.

- SR6** Existing mandates that are ineffective or that have a larger cost than benefit must be rescinded so local boards may dedicate those financial resources to better use.

Student Academic Growth and Achievement

- SR7** CASB supports a system of accountability that stresses local measures that inform instruction and separately acknowledges a need for a statewide system that allows measurement of school and district effectiveness and comparison between school districts.
- SR8** CASB opposes any state mandates beyond the federal minimums with respect to assessment and educator licensure to assure local boards' flexibility to allocate instructional time and place the best teacher in every classroom.
- SR9** Colorado school boards' constitutional authority includes the right to develop schools and programs to supplement current programs and ensure student access to diverse learning opportunities.

2018 Legislative Session Resolutions

Submitted by local boards of education or CASB's Legislative Resolutions Committee, the following resolutions adopted in 2017 form the basis of the CASB Legislative Advocacy platform at both the state and federal levels.

Local Governance

- LR1** CASB supports allowing boards of education to meet in executive session with school district staff for the purpose of determining positions with respect to employee negotiations.

- LR2** CASB believes that C.R.S. 24-10-106.3, which removed governmental immunity for school districts, must be revised to provide appropriate balance of protections and responsibilities for local school districts and their employees, clarifying statutory language such as “reasonable care” and “reasonably foreseeable” as they relate to acts of school violence.

- LR3** CASB supports the modification of the requirements of SB 10-191, the Educator Effectiveness law, to allow individual school districts to establish the impact of student test scores anywhere from 20-50 percent in the annual evaluation of teachers.

- LR4** CASB urges the United States Congress to amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to include an exception for the administration of non-psychoactive cannabinoid oils to students on school grounds under medical supervision when prescribed by a treating physician.

- LR5** CASB urges the General Assembly to grant automatically and unconditionally to all public school districts the identical, automatic waivers and relief from statutes and regulations currently enjoyed by charter schools.

- LR6** CASB supports a change in existing law to provide that new oil and gas operations should be placed no closer than 1,000 feet from school outdoor activity areas. The local board of education should have control over whether to designate certain parts of its school properties as school outdoor activity areas. *(Adopted at the CASB 77th Annual Business and Leadership Meeting, November 30, 2017.)*

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- LR7** Eliminate portions of the Student Data Transparency and Security Act in Colorado Law (May 2014/2016) that are unduly burdensome and impractical to implement for school districts and supporting organizations. (*Adopted at the CASB 77th Annual Business and Leadership Meeting, November 30, 2017.*)

Finance

- LR8** CASB recognizes that a structural change is needed in how the state funds K-12 education and other critical state and local programs. This structural change includes addressing the negative impact of constitutional provisions like TABOR and Gallagher, which have put significant strains on the state budget. This has caused the Colorado General Assembly to subject K-12 education to significant budget cuts through the mechanism formerly known as the “negative factor.” Such budget cuts are contrary to the voters’ intent in passing Amendment 23, which called for the state to sustain K-12 education funding at a level equal to the growth in inflation plus enrollment. These budget cuts also significantly threaten the ability of K-12 educators to provide every Colorado child with a thorough and uniform education.

We therefore support actively advocating for the adoption of policies and legislation to provide the General Assembly with greater flexibility in setting the state budget.

Specifically, we support policies that address the structural imbalance within the state budget created by the current Gallagher and TABOR constraints in our state constitution.

- LR9** CASB supports sustainable methods of funding the construction and maintenance of school buildings and school district facilities. Allowing impact fees to be charged for the purposes of constructing and maintaining schools is one possible solution.
- LR10** CASB supports full federal and state funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Exceptional Children’s Educational Act (ECEA) as an increase to current and future topline funding, as provided by the funding formula.

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- LR11** CASB urges the General Assembly to direct the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to collaborate with district or charter school boards of education and superintendents (as well as their professional associations, CASB and CASE respectively), to develop a system for counting student enrollment that is more equitable than the current single-day “October-count” model.
- LR12** CASB encourages the General Assembly to continue the additional funding of rural schools that was approved in SB 17-267 titled the “Sustainability of Rural Colorado.”
- LR13** CASB advocates that all annual marijuana excise tax collections be allocated to the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) program, as was the intent of the voting public when recreational marijuana was legalized in Colorado; that these marijuana excise tax dollars are allowed to be used for long-term financing of projects; and that the Colorado Department of Education Capital Construction Program also be allowed to allocate additional marijuana excise tax revenues as matching grant awards to support maintenance and operations mill levy override questions passed by school districts.
- LR14** CASB supports waiver and funding regulation requirement changes to ease the burden on small rural school districts.
- LR15** CASB urges the governor, the General Assembly and the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) Board of Trustees to undertake all necessary steps to ensure that PERA remains a sustainable and effective vehicle to provide retirement benefits to its member employees and ensure the financial burden placed on PERA employers does not become a barrier to hiring employees.

LR16 A Colorado Teacher Tuition Waiver Program should be established to address the shortage of qualified teachers by offering a tuition waiver for resident students enrolled in a teaching program (undergraduate or graduate) in an accredited Colorado college or university. The program would offer full tuition waivers for up to four years of study in preparation for a teaching career. This would be an award-for-service program that would require recipients to remain in the state and teach in a Colorado state school system for a minimum (predetermined) time following graduation and certification. Recipients would be required to sign a contract and recipients who fail to meet their contracted service obligations will have their scholarships revert to college loans and will be responsible for full repayment including any accrued interest. School Districts should set up mentoring programs for teachers enrolled in this program to help prepare them for success in the classroom. *(Adopted at the CASB 77th Annual Business and Leadership Meeting, November 30, 2017.)*

Student Academic Growth and Achievement

LR17 CASB supports the use of end-of-course assessments for the state-required high school science and social studies exams.

LR18 CASB urges the General Assembly to eliminate existing concurrent enrollment policies and practices that create obstacles for districts wishing to offer college-level courses to high school students. Regional exclusivity should be abandoned at the community college level to create an environment of open competition.

19 CASB urges the State Board of Education to revise School Performance Frameworks (SPFs) to provide equity statewide for homogeneous and non-homogeneous student populations in addition to matriculation requirements.

LR20 CASB encourages revisions to state law to allow the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) the flexibility to adjust current timelines for the review and revision of the Colorado Academic Standards (CAS). Currently, all 10 content areas are updated in one year, followed by a two-year implementation period, for a total of six years for the entire cycle.

Mission Statement

Advancing excellence in public education through effective leadership by locally elected boards of education.

Vision Statement

The Colorado Association of School Boards through leadership, service, training and advocacy prepares local boards of education to advance a system of public schools where all students are challenged to meet their full potential.



Colorado Association of School Boards

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