



79th Annual Delegate Assembly

Saturday, October 19, 2019
9:00 a.m.

DoubleTree by Hilton
Breckenridge, CO



Colorado Association of School Boards
CASB.org



Dear CASB Member,

We look forward to seeing you at the 2019 Delegate Assembly. This year's Resolution Book follows last year's format along with a new Consent Agenda section. The rationale for the Consent Agenda is explained in this Book on page 3 and this update to the format will allow for more efficient voting.

As you know, only the standing resolutions "roll over" from year to year. The standing resolutions highlight the foundational elements of the CASB legislative platform. In addition, new legislative resolutions are submitted every year and this process ensures that resolutions reflect the current issues and concerns of Colorado boards of education.

This year, we have had many districts submit new resolutions that you will find in the Book. I always look forward to the vigorous debate and discussion on the resolutions. CASB delegates are excellent practitioners of representative democracy each year and I thoroughly enjoy being part of the thoughtful and respectful dialogue which occurs at our Delegate Assembly.

The CASB Board has been reviewing the CASB bylaws and will be voting at its upcoming meeting whether to bring any changes forward to the Delegate Assembly. Boards and delegates will be notified of any changes, including updates to the agenda, that will be brought forward at the Assembly immediately following the CASB Board meeting on September 28.

Thank you for your active participation in the 2019 Delegate Assembly and your commitment to serving students through your local board work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Gebhardt".

Kathy Gebhardt
CASB President

About CASB's Delegate Assembly

The Delegate Assembly is the foundation of CASB's governance structure and provides critical direction as CASB represents members' interests before state and national policymakers. Working with CASB's advocacy staff and the Legislative Resolutions Committee, designated delegates from local boards help ensure that CASB reflects the interests of boards of education across the state.

The Delegate Assembly is made up of up to 178 delegates who are appointed/designated by their local school boards in 12 geographic regions throughout Colorado (see pages 63-64). Each board casts one vote, so your board's representation at the Delegate Assembly is of the utmost importance to both your district and to CASB.

The Delegate Assembly charts CASB's future in three significant ways:

- Elects CASB's Board of Directors
- Amends CASB's bylaws to ensure a responsive and effective association
- Adopts CASB's advocacy agenda, the legislative "road map" for issues critical to public education for the foreseeable future

What Does it Mean to be a Delegate?

Roles and Responsibilities

- Attend two annual Delegate Assembly meetings (held during the fall conference and annual convention)
- Help formulate CASB's legislative priorities and activities and adopt resolutions to guide the advocacy agenda
- Elect CASB's Board of Directors
- Amend CASB's bylaws

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2019 CASB Legislative Resolutions Committee

Chair: Doug Lidiak	Weld County 6		
Kyla Armstrong-Romero	Aurora Public Schools	Ryan McCoy	Westminster Public Schools
Jo Ann Baxter	Moffat County RE-1	Mike McGinley	East Grand School District
Yvonne Chapman	Ignacio 11-JT	Susan Mellow	Cheyenne Mountain 12
Barbara Clementi	Pueblo 60	Clint Mitchell	Calhan RJ1
Pam Howard	Thompson R2-J	Laura Mitchell	Adams 12 Five Star Schools
Jill Jurca	Delta County 50J	Kelly Perez	Littleton Public Schools
Tessa Kirchner	Eagle County Schools	Jaye Sudar	Huerfano Re-1
Jon Kleve	Holyoke RE-1J	Tim Taplin	Ridgway R-2
Monty Lee	Custer County C-1	Arlan Van Ry	Alamosa Re-11J
Doug Lidiak	Weld County 6	Lisa Webster	Summit School District
Jennifer Lieber	Weld RE-4		
Sandra Lundquist	Rocky Ford R2		

Ex-Officio

Kathleen Gebhardt	<i>CASB Board President</i>	Boulder Valley School District
Karen Fisher	<i>FRN Chair</i>	Cherry Creek Schools

Friends of Legislative Resolutions Committee

Dale McCall	Colorado BOCES Association
Michelle Murphy	Colorado Rural Schools Alliance

Colorado Council of School Board Attorneys

Cindy Dude	Anderson, Dude and Lebel P.C.
Chris Esser	Jeffco Public Schools
Adele Reester	Lyons, Gaddis, Kahn, Hall, Jeffers, Dworak and Grant P.C.
Toni Wehman	Denver Public Schools

CASB Legislative Contacts

Matt Cook	CASB Director of Public Policy and Advocacy
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Delegate Assembly Agenda

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast and Networking

8:30 a.m. – Noon Delegate Assembly convenes
Report of the CASB President
Report of the CASB Executive Director
Adopt rules
Presentation of report from Legislative
Resolutions Committee

Noon Assembly adjourns*

* The CASB Board has been reviewing the CASB bylaws and will be voting at its upcoming meeting on whether to bring any changes forward to the Delegate Assembly. Boards and delegates will be notified of any changes, including updates to the agenda, that will be brought forward at the Assembly immediately following the CASB Board meeting on September 28.

Proposed Rules of Procedure for CASB Delegate Assembly

The rules are adopted at the onset of the deliberations of the Delegate Assembly, at which time they are subject to discussion and amendment.

The following rules of procedure are proposed for adoption by the Delegate Assembly:

1. Except as modified below, the assembly shall operate by the rules prescribed in “Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised.”
2. Amendments to resolutions shall be in writing and presented to the CASB board president or designee prior to discussion of the amendment in the Delegate Assembly. *(See form on opposite page.)*
3. In speaking to a motion, a delegate will be limited to three minutes. A delegate shall identify herself/himself before speaking on an issue.
4. A delegate who has spoken once on a question will not be recognized again for the same question until others who wish to speak have spoken. At that time, the delegate will be allowed two minutes for rebuttal.
5. All voting shall be through the electronic voting system or by a show of hands. Actions shall be taken by majority vote of the member boards with a representative present and voting.
6. Any resolution not published and distributed to members in this booklet shall be considered a resolution from the floor. To present a resolution from the floor, a delegate shall submit the proposed resolution in writing to the board president or designee prior to consideration. When recognized, the delegate shall make a motion that the resolution be considered. If the motion is seconded, the delegate offering the floor resolution shall be allowed three minutes to speak to the motion. The motion to consider a resolution from the floor requires an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the board delegates represented and voting. If the motion to consider passes, the floor resolution will then be considered on its merits in the same manner as any other resolution.

Copy this page for proposed amendments. Additional forms will be available at Delegate Assembly.

A M E N D M E N T

I move to amend Resolution # _____ by (*choose appropriate statement*):

- inserting or adding;
- striking out; or
- striking out and inserting or substituting language as follows:

Signature

School District

Standing Resolutions

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.
PROPOSED AMENDMENT FROM THE LRC: Further, the state must increase the total annual appropriation of state special education funding and decide on a plan to annually increase, at least at the cost of inflation, to reduce unreimbursed special education expenditures at the local level.
- 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** The Colorado Association of School Boards 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.

2020 Legislative Session Resolutions — Consent Agenda

Several resolutions were submitted that uphold long-standing goals of CASB. The Legislative Resolutions Committee (LRC) has forwarded all of these resolutions with a “Recommendation to Approve,” which means a majority of the Committee was supportive of the intent of the resolution.

These resolutions are being placed on a CONSENT Agenda to allow the full Delegate Assembly to review the resolutions and also vote on them in an efficient manner. The Consent Agenda will be voted on using the following rules:

1. The Consent Agenda will be displayed for the Delegate Assembly.
 - a. At this point any delegate can ask to have a resolution removed from the Consent Agenda.
2. The delegate from the board of education which submitted the resolution will have 30 seconds to speak to the resolution. The resolutions will be addressed in the order they appear on the Consent Agenda.
3. Once all Consent Agenda resolutions have been reviewed, the process for approval will follow the same format as a non-Consent Agenda item:
 - a. A Motion to approve the Consent Agenda will be called for;
 - b. A Second to the Motion must be made;
 - c. The delegates will have an opportunity to discuss the Consent Agenda items;
 - i. The delegates will vote to approve the Consent Agenda.
 - ii. If the delegates approve the Consent Agenda, then the Delegate Assembly will proceed to the next item on the Agenda
 - iii. If the delegates do not approve the entire Consent Agenda, then each item on the Consent Agenda will be considered separately.

RESOLUTIONS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

Submitted by – Steamboat Springs RE-2 and Jeffco Public Schools

Consent Agenda Resolution #1

Forwarded with recommendation by the Legislation Resolutions Committee

Resolution: Evaluating Non-Probationary Teachers

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports changes to [SB10-191](#) to allow evaluation of non-probationary teachers with the state-approved evaluation tool every third year after the first five annual evaluations within the same district and using locally developed evaluation methods in the interim years.

Rationale Statement:

While the revised teacher evaluation rubric is an improvement, the annual cycle currently required for experienced, successful educators is not an efficient use of resources. After five successful evaluations, we propose that an evaluation focused on formative improvement for two years would not only provide teachers with more self-directed reflection and subsequent actions but also allow those administering evaluations to increase time spent on assisting less experienced teachers to reach their goals.

Current annual requirements for all teachers regardless of evaluation status are onerous and time- and resource-intensive for districts and educators, whereas a timeline of every third year will provide clear progress reviews and tracking of skills, effectiveness, and professional practices among teachers who have demonstrated the same previously.

Submitted by – Jeffco Public Schools

Consent Agenda Resolution #2

Forwarded with recommendation by the Legislation Resolutions Committee

Resolution: Student Evaluation

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports incorporating multiple measures in evaluating student learning to better reflect and communicate growth of the whole child and to better serve a balanced, meaningful, and inclusive vision of quality public education.

Rationale Statement:

Accountability systems should be “designed to ensure continuous improvement in student performance, instruction, and leadership, so that all students are able to develop high levels of skill and capability across essential domains. To achieve these goals, educators need to make use of diverse indicators of student learning and strengths, in order to comprehensively assess student progress and adjust their practice to continuously improve learning. They also need to document the opportunities schools provide to further the goals of equity and growth....a standardized test is an incomplete picture of learning; without additional measures, a single test is inadequate to capture a year’s worth of learning and growth.” (source: Rural Innovation Alliance May 14, 2015, presentation to CO State Board; https://cosfp.org/wp-content/uploads/HomeFiles/Student_Centered_Accountability_Project/RIASCA_Exec_Summary.pdf) A 2015 resolution supporting RIA's S-CAP work was passed with unanimous support by the CO State Board of Education.

Submitted by – District 49, Jeffco Public Schools and Poudre School District

Consent Agenda Resolution #3

Forwarded with recommendation by the Legislation Resolutions Committee

Resolution: IDEA Funding

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports the full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Congress has never fully funded the federal government's portion of IDEA. CASB, however, recognizes the efforts of Colorado's delegation to add \$1 billion in the IDEA reauthorization bill passed by the U.S. House. CASB urges Colorado's delegation to act on IDEA reauthorization and increase the federal share in the 116th United States Congress before the 2020 election cycle further slows legislative action.

Rationale Statement:

The federal law requiring schools to meet the needs of students with disabilities offers current federal funding of approximately 16-17 percent of the actual cost. It is time to increase federal funding to the 40 percent standard set by initial legislation. Currently, Colorado school districts are reimbursed approximately 17 cents for every dollar the federal government requires we spend on education under IDEA. It is time to increase the funding to a minimum of the 40 cents of every dollar initially promised by this legislation more than 40 years ago. Given the proposals now circulating in Washington, D. C., around education policy and associated budgets, CASB believes federal advocacy efforts are necessary.

Submitted by – Poudre School District

Consent Agenda Resolution #4

Forwarded with recommendation by the Legislation Resolutions Committee

Resolution: TABOR/Gallagher

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports current efforts to build a coalition addressing Colorado state funding requirements resulting from TABOR that may result in a future statewide referendum or initiative for a ballot measure amending the Colorado Constitution.

Rationale Statement:

Despite Colorado’s robust economy, the state budget is still facing shortfalls due to the constraints of TABOR and the Gallagher Amendment. Policies that ease the strain on the state budget and allow Colorado to invest more money into K-12 education would benefit all school districts across the state.

Submitted by – Poudre School District

Consent Agenda Resolution #5

Forwarded with recommendation by the Legislation Resolutions Committee

Resolution: School Safety

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports amendment of the Claire Davis Act and other proposals addressing the need for safety and security of students, teachers, and staff while providing Colorado school districts with the support necessary to provide such safety and security. A waiver of governmental immunity for school districts regarding safety and security issues unnecessarily exposes taxpayers to liability for future actions, which ultimately endangers the school district's ability to educate students.

Rationale Statement:

Removing governmental immunity from school districts and holding them responsible for any act of school violence or similar disaster not only increases school districts' insurance and other costs but could have a devastating financial impact upon a school district and consequently negatively impact all of its students. There are no standards to determine what constitutes "reasonably foreseeable harm."

Submitted by – Poudre School District and Summit School District

Consent Agenda Resolution #6

Forwarded with recommendation by the Legislation Resolutions Committee

Resolution: Student and Educator Mental Health Support

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports adoption of policies and legislation recognizing the need and providing funding for more mental health support for students and educators. CASB encourages the Colorado General Assembly to continue to fund and expand social-emotional health supports (preventative and reactive) within Colorado, specifically for P-12 school-age youth.

Rationale Statement:

School communities continue to see increased suicide rates and mental/behavioral health issues in our student populations. These needs surpass the capacity of schools to treat all students. Additionally, schools are unable to train all personnel to the level needed for initial response/action and follow-up on treatment. Locally elected boards of education recognize the ongoing need for more support programs and the funding necessary to make them sustainable.

The United Health Foundation's 2015 Annual Report ranks Colorado at 35-43 out of 50 states (70-86 percentile) in terms of suicide, drug and alcohol-related deaths, and alcohol/drug use in the nation. Focus needs to be on our youth to provide social and emotional supports (e.g., grit, resilience, coping, good judgement). Development of these character traits better prepares students for the challenges in our quickly changing and economically growing environment. An example would be signs of suicide training for all school staff that are in direct contact with students.

Submitted by – Poudre School District

Consent Agenda Resolution #7

Forwarded with recommendation by the Legislation Resolutions Committee

Resolution: Gifted and Talented Students

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports adoption of policies and legislation providing funding for gifted and talented (GT) testing.

Rationale Statement:

The identification of students who are gifted and talented is an important first step in providing these students the supports and programs needed to achieve their full level of academic success.

Submitted by – School District 27J and Summit School District

Consent Agenda Resolution #8

Forwarded with recommendation by the Legislation Resolutions Committee

Resolution: State Performance Ratings

The Colorado Association of School Boards urges the Colorado General Assembly, via modifying state statute, to allow the Colorado State Board of Education and Colorado Department of Education to change the School Performance Frameworks to implement a more equitable school and district scoring system. CASB supports changes to replace “curve and percentile”-based cut points with straight “percentage”-based final assessment scoring. These structural changes are necessary to allow all schools to achieve these benchmarks. Additionally, these changes would provide equity statewide for homogeneous and non-homogeneous student populations. Modifying the definition of post-secondary success to account for traditional and non-traditional matriculation pathways.

Rationale Statement: When using percentile- or “curve”-based cut points, some schools and districts will automatically fail no matter how high they score. Some schools are already feeling this penalty when it pertains to growth scores. Some schools are at the upper scores, and growth cannot go higher but only be maintained. Other schools and districts struggle to focus their resources because the line or bar keeps getting moved. Switching to a standard and fixed “percentage”-based system will help districts and the community better understand their school district’s performance score and how they can move forward in performance. Also, this methodology enables all schools to have a chance to attain and maintain once a district reaches its scoring goals.

The latest SPF is biased towards homogeneous student populations. Populations with at-risk, English Learner, and Free and Reduced Lunch students can be penalized or rewarded up to four (4) times per student, which greatly impacts ratings. The growth weighting should also be re-assessed. While achievement provides a snapshot in time, growth “shows a deeper story of a student’s progress over time -- not simply where they are now. This means that, despite scoring [above]/below standard, students can show progress and be recognized for their achievement.” (WY DOE) Last, matriculation currently only assesses enrollment into career and technical education programs, etc. in the school year immediately following graduation. Post-secondary success should include acceptance because students who graduate with the aptitude for continued education may not have access or means to attend or complete a program (e.g., students who cannot afford post-secondary expenses and must begin careers will be penalized even if they are academically prepared) creating economic discrepancies. These issues reside with legislation, in statute, and in State Board of Education/Colorado Department of Education directives (possibly addressed only with CDE within the current statutory framework). If CDE does not have the flexibility to address this issue within the confines of current statute, we recommend the law be changed so that matriculation is based on “acceptance into post-secondary” as opposed to officially enrolling. Schools cannot impact life experiences of what happens beyond graduation, but they can pave the way and ensure all students have the option.

Submitted by – Summit School District

Consent Agenda Resolution #9

Forwarded with recommendation by the Legislation Resolutions Committee

Resolution: Educator Preparation

The Colorado Association of School Boards urges the Colorado General Assembly to continue to fund educator preparation programs as well as educator recruitment and retention programs in order to reduce and eventually eliminate current and future educator shortages. Additionally, CASB urges the Colorado General Assembly to continue to implement financial incentives such as loan forgiveness/tuition assistance for those educators choosing to teach in small and rural school districts.

Rationale Statement:

Colorado faces a massive teacher shortage. As many as 3,000 teaching jobs across Colorado are unfilled, and rural areas are being hit especially hard. Some teaching slots in math, science, and foreign languages have been empty for years. When the supply of teachers is low, the solution is often to increase wages, but this is difficult in school districts where voters refuse to pass tax increases. Since 2010, there has been a nearly 25-percent drop in graduates from teacher preparation programs, according to the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE). Enrollment is also declining in those programs by about 23 percent over the last six years. In addition, about one-third of all teachers are either at retirement age or will be within the next two to three years. A waiver of tuition fees would encourage more talented high school students to consider a career in education.

Submitted by – Canon City Schools RE-1

Consent Agenda Resolution #10

Forwarded with recommendation by the Legislation Resolutions Committee

Resolution: Sustainability of the BEST program

The Colorado Association of School Boards advocates that the legislature guarantee the capability of the Building Excellent Schools Today program to provide long term sustainability of multi-year financing of large-scale capital facilities improvement projects for schools and districts in dire need, thereby allowing the BEST program to continue awarding grants financed through an annual Certificate of Participation (COP) process.

Rationale Statement:

Based on recent BEST application and grant award history, the need to fund large-scale capital improvement projects will continue long into the future. If nothing is done to continue the ability of the BEST program to leverage dollars through COP sales, hundreds of millions of dollars in capital improvement needs will go unmet.

The BEST program was created on the indisputable fact that many school districts in Colorado do not have a sufficient property tax base to renovate or build new schools. Despite the creation of the program and the outstanding facilities progress made, this fact has not changed. Children continue to occupy deteriorating and unsafe buildings. Without long term COP support from BEST, they will continue to attend classes in buildings that are unsafe and, in many cases, actually hazardous to student and staff health.

Additionally, the Colorado Department of Education's recently updated facility study has revealed a 67% increase in need since its original study conducted in 2008-09, which became foundational to the creation of the Building Excellent Schools Today program. Thus, if no long-term finance solution is created, BEST will lose the ability to fund desperately needed projects long into the future.

2020 Legislative Session Resolutions

The following resolutions are grouped according to the CASB Standing Resolutions where appropriate. The Legislative Resolutions Committee (LRC) has forwarded some resolutions with a “Recommendation to Approve,” which simply means a majority of the LRC agreed with the stated purpose of the resolutions. Resolutions that were not forwarded with a “Recommendation to Approve” are no less important. The designation simply means that the LRC did not reach a consensus or felt that the full Delegate Assembly should debate the resolution.

Local Governance

Submitted by – Poudre School District

Resolution #11

Resolution: Educator Evaluations

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports continued reform in the teacher evaluation process to encourage courageous conversations between administrators and teachers that leads to real goal setting and effective feedback. Evaluations are more effective when trust and communication are paramount, rather than rigidly imposed accountability measures that discourage continuous improvement in teaching methods.

Rationale Statement:

Locally elected boards of education support the fair, rigorous, and equitable evaluation of all educators. Simultaneously, Colorado boards of education also recognize that any system of educator evaluations must respect the need for the inclusion of metrics determined by the local community. This is truly a case of one size does not fit all.

Submitted by – Ridgway R-2

Resolution #12

Resolution: Data Reporting Requirements

The Colorado Association of School Boards believes Colorado school districts are overburdened by many reporting requirements which are inefficient uses of both time and money. The Colorado Department of Education should be required to review all reporting requirements on a regular basis.

Rationale Statement:

These reviews should be designed in a rolling fashion so that all requirements are reviewed at a minimum every four years. They should encompass validating the purpose and effective use of data obtained, efficiency of systems used to collect the data, and value of the outcome when compared to the burden placed on school districts. The review should determine ways and means to improve all aspects of the reporting required including the possibility of removing the requirements if the efforts and cost do not provide corollary outcomes of matching value.

Submitted by – Lewis Palmer School District 38

Resolution #13

Resolution: Local Control

OPPOSING LEGISLATION THAT USURPS LOCAL CONTROL OF INSTRUCTION
VESTED BY THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION IN ELECTED SCHOOL
BOARDS

WHEREAS, the Colorado State Constitution in Article IX, section 15, which was established in 1876, states that local school boards elected by their electors, “shall have control of instruction in the public schools of their respective districts;” a constitutional principle known as “local control;” and

WHEREAS, the membership of the Colorado Association of School Boards has adopted Standing Resolution Number 1 recognizing that control of instruction is vested by the Colorado Constitution in locally elected school boards; and

WHEREAS, legislation passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor that mandates specific instruction or that directs local school districts to follow specific instructional text or content violates the fundamental principle of local control contained in Article IX, section 15 the Colorado Constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Colorado Association of School Boards oppose any current or proposed legislation that requires locally-elected school boards or their districts to follow or adopt specific instructional text or content in violation of the fundamental principle of local control embodied in the Colorado Constitution.

Submitted by – Boulder Valley School District

Resolution #14

Resolution: Posting of meeting documents

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports legislation requiring all school district and charter school boards to post online any documents being discussed at a meeting by the start of the meetings.

Rationale Statement:

Colorado school boards, including charter school boards, are required under the Colorado Open Meetings Law to post notice of all meetings and agendas with as much detail as possible at least 24 hours before the meeting. There are no requirements about posting documents considered or issued by boards. In order to enable voters, taxpayers, and other stakeholders to be knowledgeable about what is happening in schools, boards should be required to post not just agendas but also documents considered and issued.

Finance

Submitted by – Legislative Resolutions Committee

Forwarded with recommendation by the Legislation Resolutions Committee

Resolution #15

Resolution: Proposition CC

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports the intent of Proposition CC and encourages Colorado voters to approve Proposition CC on the November 2019 ballot. The vast majority of Colorado school districts have asked the voters in their community to allow the local district to retain tax dollars already collected. Voters have approved these “de-brucing” measures in their local community and they should be allowed to vote on the same issue on a statewide basis.

Rationale Statement:

The Colorado “Taxpayer Bill of Rights” (TABOR) clearly allows government to ask voters if they will allow the government to retain funds above the TABOR limits. If these funds become available, they might provide a very small measure of relief from the more than \$8 billion of state funding withheld from our public schools by the Budget Stabilization (BS) Factor.

Submitted by – Legislative Resolutions Committee

Forwarded with recommendation by the Legislation Resolutions Committee

Resolution #16

Resolution: Statewide Uniform Mill Levy

It is a state obligation to create and fund a system of school finance which adequately and equitably funds all public schools in Colorado, and which includes both state and local tax revenues. The Colorado Association of School Boards supports legislation to create a uniform, statewide school mill levy to fund the local share of the Colorado School Finance Act to the maximum extent such uniform school mill levy is permitted by the Colorado Constitution and provided the legislation addresses the following requirements:

1. All new funding from local property tax revenue will be stable and sustainable in future years;
2. All state General Fund revenues which fund the Colorado School Finance Act and which are replaced by local property tax revenue as a result of this legislation will be reinvested in our public schools by providing additional state funding to significantly reduce the Budget Stabilization Factor;
3. The options made available to school districts which must increase their local school mill levies to the uniform school mill levy, and the length of time available to make such an increase will be fair and reasonable to school districts and local taxpayers;
4. School districts which have characteristics or circumstances that make it difficult or impossible to raise their local school mill levies to the uniform school mill levy will not lose funding as a result of this legislation; and
5. If as a result of this legislation, the Colorado Constitution requires any school district to lower its mill levy to the uniform school mill levy, any such decrease in the local school mill levy shall be temporary, to the extent legally permissible, and local school boards shall have the ability to restore the local school mill levy to the same level the school mill levy was set prior to the temporary decrease without voter approval.

Rationale Statement:

Formulas in Colorado's Constitution and uneven economic growth across the state have together destroyed the equity, sustainability, and sufficiency of the local property tax funding base for public education. Legislation to require a uniform school mill levy, even if an imperfect fix to these problems, will restore significant equity to local property tax rates across the state for both taxpayers and school districts and will increase the funding and stability of the Colorado School Finance Act.

Submitted by – RE-1 Valley School District and District No. 49

Resolution #17

Resolution: Student Count

The Colorado Association of School Boards encourages the General Assembly and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to revise the student enrollment count system from one count day and develop a system for counting student enrollment that is more equitable than the current single-day “October-count” model. CASB also encourages CDE to collaborate with districts, charter schools, superintendents and their respective professional associations to ensure any new system serves the needs of all schools across the state.

Rationale Statement:

The RE-1 Valley School Board believes that adding an additional count date in the spring would make it easier to plan for beginning of fiscal year budgets. This would also allow student funding to follow the student if he/she moves mid-year. For many rural and/or smaller districts, especially those with a high population of special needs students, the migration of students from one district to another throughout the year can put undue strain on already nominal budgets.

Submitted by – Poudre School District

Resolution #18

Resolution: Colorado Education Funding

The Colorado Association of School Boards recognizes that a structural change is needed in how the State of Colorado funds K-12 education and other critical state and local programs. This structural change includes addressing the negative impacts of provisions in the Colorado Constitution such as TABOR and Gallagher that continue to impact the state budget. These provisions have caused the Colorado General Assembly to subject K-12 education to significant budget cuts through the mechanism formerly known as the “Negative Factor,” which is now termed the “Budget Stabilization Factor.”

Rationale Statement:

The budget stabilization factor is contrary to the voters’ intent in passing Amendment 23 to the Colorado Constitution, which called for the State to sustain K-12 education funding at a level equal to the growth in enrollment plus inflation. These budget cuts also threaten the ability of K-12 educators to provide every Colorado child with a thorough and uniform education as required by the Colorado Constitution. Therefore, CASB supports continued efforts by the General Assembly in addressing and resolving these conflicting Constitutional provisions.

Submitted by – Poudre School District

Resolution #19

Resolution: Colorado Education Funding

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports the adoption of policies and legislation to provide the Colorado General Assembly with greater flexibility in setting the state budget, including mill levy equity and a requirement for a minimum total program mill levy by Colorado school districts. Such an approach would help free up state-share funding that could provide such flexibility.

Rationale Statement:

The current state system of property taxes produces huge inequalities from one community to another. The Colorado General Assembly has the elected leaders to resolve these issues and ensure that student funding is equitable across the state.

Submitted by – Poudre School District

Resolution #20

Forwarded with recommendation by the Legislation Resolutions Committee

Resolution: Secure Rural Schools

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports federal reauthorization and funding of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program, long-term forest management, and fire prevention.

Rationale Statement:

The SRS programs should be funded on a sustainable, long-term basis. SRS is critical to support essential safety, fire, police, road and bridge, and education services in forest communities. The Colorado Association of School Boards thanks and supports U.S. Representative Joe Neguse (2nd C.D., Colorado) and other members of the U.S. Congress for their efforts to extend funding through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. CASB also supports long-term SRS funding through the Forest Management and Rural Stability Act (S. 1643).

Submitted by – District 49

Resolution #21

Resolution: Special Education Funding

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports reallocation of state revenue from marijuana retail sales to school districts for unfunded special education student needs.

Rationale Statement:

Most of the marijuana taxes collected go into the state General Fund. Many constituents believe that all state recreational marijuana revenue goes to the benefit of education since original advocacy for Amendment 64 (2012) led them to that conclusion. High needs special education is the most unpredictable spend for any school district, and allocating these funds to this purpose is a correct and appropriate connection of resource and need.

Submitted by – Poudre School District

Resolution #22

Resolution: Student and Educator Mental Health Funding

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports dedication of revenue from marijuana sales to provide mental health support for students, teachers, and staff.

Rationale Statement:

Colorado voters approved the legal sale of marijuana in Colorado predicated on the associated tax collections being used to support Colorado schools and students. Colorado schools desperately need more funding to support student and educator mental health programs.

Submitted by – St. Vrain Valley RE-1J

Resolution #23

Resolution: School Finance Act

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports the General Assembly's creation of a new School Finance Act framework that allows it to assess and rebalance the formula variables, factors, and categoricals in a manner that ensures equity, stability, and consistency in public school funding.

Rationale Statement:

The General Assembly created the current School Finance Act in 1994. Since then, there have been significant social, industrial, and demographic shifts in the state. In order to ensure an equitable distribution of state funds supporting public education, the legislature must revisit the current funding formula, along with factors and categoricals, to rebalance funding distributions across Colorado. Much like a prudent investor rebalances her investment portfolio periodically, it is time for the legislature to rebalance its distribution formulae and mechanisms, ensuring students are treated fairly across all regions of our state.

Submitted by – St. Vrain Valley RE-1J

Resolution #24

Resolution: Special Education High-Cost Trust Fund

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports the state’s identifying an on-going funding source for the Special Education High-Cost Trust Fund.

Rationale Statement:

During the 2019 legislative session, the General Assembly passed SB19-066, creating the Special Education High-Cost Trust Fund. The fund operates like “reinsurance” for special education cases. Reinsurance is a form of insurance purchased by insurance companies in order to mitigate risk against catastrophic cases that may entirely deplete the insurance company’s reserves. By paying for high-cost events from a separate funding source, insurance companies can lower rates to their customers. Similarly, by paying for high-cost special education cases from a different source, the annual appropriation the legislature makes to cover special education expenses can go further and address the needs of more students. The legislature initially capitalized the trust fund with \$2 million. With an optimistic 5% yield on the corpus of the trust, the state will have only \$100 thousand to spend on high-cost cases. The trust fund will only become a significant tool in the future if the legislature continues to invest in it each year through a dedicated funding source.

Submitted by – St. Vrain Valley RE-1J

Resolution #25

Resolution: P-TECH Funding

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports the state providing start-up-cost funding for Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) programs.

Rationale Statement:

HB15-1270 authorized Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) programs. The legislation facilitates collaborations between K-12, higher education, and industry partners to deliver an associate degree to students when they graduate high school. A vital element of a P-TECH program is that it is free to the student. In most traditional advanced placement and concurrent enrollment courses, students may pay for their textbooks, lab fees, and, in some cases, tuition. P-TECH focuses on creating opportunities for first generation college students and tries to eliminate all barriers to success. As a result, P-TECH programs absorb these traditional costs. Funding for P-TECH programs comes from two existing sources: Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) and Per Pupil Operating Revenue (PPOR). P-TECH students are eligible for COF starting in the 9th grade, and P-TECH programs receive PPOR in the 13th and 14th grades. Schools reduce the costs of P-TECH further through the use of concurrent enrollment. However, even with the reduced-tuition costs with COF and concurrent enrollment, tuition, books, and fees continue to generate high uncompensated costs for P-TECH programs. This is especially evident during grades 9-12 when there is no supplemental funding provided to P-TECH schools. While districts receive additional funds in the 13th and 14th grades, school districts shoulder the first four years of operating a P-TECH program. This additional financial burden has discouraged the growth of the P-TECH model in Colorado. The state can help remove this financial burden by adopting a funding model that will support PTECH programs during the 9th-12th grades.

Submitted by – Canon City Schools and Summit School District

Resolution #26

Resolution: Rural School Funding

The Colorado Association of School Boards advocates that the legislature make permanent a \$40 million annual investment in rural school sustainability, to be distributed to rural and small rural school districts as defined by the Colorado Department of Education, on a dollars-per-pupil basis as has been done at the end of the last three legislative sessions. This would build on rural school funding previously appropriated in SB17-267, “Sustainability of Rural Colorado” and also subsequently approved in SB18-215, “Additional Funding for Small Rural Schools,” and SB19-246, “Colorado School Finance Act.”

Rationale Statement:

As a result of small populations, location, distance from services, traditionally low property wealth, and circumstances where federal and state-protected lands take property off the tax rolls, Colorado’s rural school districts historically have less capacity to invest above and beyond base program funding than urban and suburban school districts. The result has been deep inequities in opportunities rural school districts are able to provide to students in contrast to the opportunities offered to all others.

With the 2017 reclassification of Hospital Provider Fee and commensurate lift of oppressive TABOR caps, the one-time funding for rural schools should be continued in coming years. Rural schools often do not have the enrollment to take advantage of economies of scale with respect to staffing and programs. The one-time funding made available through the 2017, 2018, and 2019 legislation should continue in the coming years to fund rural school needs until our 25+-year-old school finance formula (1994 School Finance Act) is updated for current and forecasted public education needs across the state.

Submitted by – Canon City Schools RE-1

Resolution #27

Forwarded with recommendation by the Legislation Resolutions Committee

Resolution: Sustainability of the BEST program

The Colorado Association of School Boards advocates that the legislature guarantee the capability of the Building Excellent Schools Today program to provide long term sustainability of multi-year financing of large-scale capital facilities improvement projects for schools and districts in dire need, thereby allowing the BEST program to continue awarding grants financed through an annual Certificate of Participation (COP) process.

Rationale Statement:

Based on recent BEST application and grant award history, the need to fund large-scale capital improvement projects will continue long into the future. If nothing is done to continue the ability of the BEST program to leverage dollars through COP sales, hundreds of millions of dollars in capital improvement needs will go unmet.

The BEST program was created on the indisputable fact that many school districts in Colorado do not have a sufficient property tax base to renovate or build new schools. Despite the creation of the program and the outstanding facilities progress made, this fact has not changed. Children continue to occupy deteriorating and unsafe buildings. Without long term COP support from BEST, they will continue to attend classes in buildings that are unsafe and, in many cases, actually hazardous to student and staff health.

Additionally, the Colorado Department of Education's recently updated facility study has revealed a 67% increase in need since its original study was conducted in 2008-09, which became foundational to the creation of the Building Excellent Schools Today program. Thus, if no long-term finance solution is created, BEST will lose the ability to fund desperately-needed projects long into the future.

Student Academic Growth and Achievement

Submitted by – Poudre School District and Summit School District

Resolution #28

Forwarded with recommendation by the Legislation Resolutions Committee

Resolution: Colorado Academic Standards

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports adoption of policies and legislation adjusting current timelines for Academic Standard Review. 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.

Rationale Statement:

Many school districts do not have the resources to review all 10 content areas in a single year. A staggered timeline which strategically matches to periodic content updates would help all districts handle the workload. A staggered timeline for review of all 10 content areas would also help teachers transition to any new requirements and allow for appropriate professional development which would reduce the stress of implementing these changes.

Submitted by – Poudre School District

Resolution #29

Resolution: Testing Requirements

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports reducing the number of testing requirements imposed by the State of Colorado while maintaining instruments that allow teachers to track the achievement and growth goals for students and reward great teaching methods.

Rationale Statement:

Standardized tests can provide important information about the academic progress of a student. However, these tests do not reflect the complete picture of a student's progress. More testing does not lead to better understanding of the needs of Colorado's students.

Submitted by – Boulder Valley School District

Resolution #30

Forwarded with recommendation by the Legislation Resolutions Committee

Resolution: Expansion of Career and Technical Education

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports the expansion of career and technical education for all students as an equally well-regarded element of education that prepares students for today's modern workforce.

Rationale Statement:

Preparing all students for success beyond K-12 education in an ever-changing world requires schools to create multiple pathways. These pathways should not simply be a return to tracking systems. Career and technical education should be encouraged for all students as an element of a comprehensive K-12 education system, not simply as an option for students who are not planning to attend college.

Additional Resolutions

Submitted by – Montezuma-Cortez RE-1

Resolution #31

Resolution: CASB Bipartisanship

The Colorado Association of School Boards sponsored discussions and actions remain relevant to Colorado education topics both in action and messaging.

Rationale Statement:

At the Spring/February assembly CASB sponsored a guest speaker that spoke on political issues, which was not the purpose of the assembly. CASB should be bipartisan.

Submitted by – Adams 12 School District, Boulder Valley School District and Jeffco Public Schools

Resolution #32

Resolution: Charter School Appeal Standard of Review

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports legislation that honors local control of the charter school approval and renewal process. CASB supports legislation to change the State Board of Education’s standard of review for charter school appeals to a determination of whether the local school board’s decision was arbitrary and capricious.

Rationale Statement:

Pursuant to the Charter Schools Act, the State Board of Education, upon receipt of an appeal by a charter school or upon its own motion, may review decisions of a local school board concerning the denial of a charter school application, the non-renewal or revocation of a charter school’s charter, or the unilateral imposition of conditions on a charter applicant or charter school. C.R.S. 22-30.5-108.

The standard of review used by the State Board to consider the appeal or review is whether the local school board’s decision was “contrary to the best interests of the pupils, school district, or community.” C.R.S. 22-30.5-108(3)(a), (c). Thus, the State Board is authorized to substitute its own judgment for that of a local school board. *Bd. of Educ., Dist. No. 1 v. Booth*, 984 P.2d 639 (Colo. 1999).

Instead, the local school board’s decision should be given deference by the State Board and only overturned if the State Board determines that the local school board’s decision was “arbitrary and capricious”—a clear error in judgment, made on unreasonable grounds, or without proper consideration of or in disregard of the facts and circumstances.

The current standard of review is too broad and subjective, and it has led to uncertainty as to the authority of local school boards to select and renew charter schools. It allows the State Board to substitute its own judgment for that of the local school board, which violates local control. Moreover, locally elected school boards are the closest to their constituents, are accountable to their communities, understand their own budgets and the financial implications of charter school applications and renewals, and are more connected to their own communities. Therefore, local school boards are in the best position to consider all relevant factors and make a reasoned decision that is in the best interest of the students, staff, and community.

Use of an arbitrary and capricious standard by the State Board of Education for the review of the decisions by local school boards in charter school appeals is consistent with the standard of review for other administrative appeal processes (including review by the State Board of decisions by the Charter School Institute; see C.R.S. 22-30.5-510(5)). Most other judicial reviews of agency decisions use the arbitrary and capricious standard.

Submitted by – Poudre School District

Resolution #33

Resolution: Charter Schools

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports adoption of policies and legislation amending the Colorado Charter Schools Act to strengthen the criteria a charter school applicant must meet to obtain a District Charter or a Charter from the Colorado Charter Schools Institute.

Submitted by – Poudre School District

Resolution #34

Resolution: Charter Schools

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports adoption of policies and legislation amending the Colorado Charter Schools Act regarding the process of obtaining non-standard waivers from Colorado law. This would include requiring the requesting charter school to provide a written rationale for seeking each such waiver.

Submitted by – School District 27J

Resolution #35

Resolution: Charter Schools

The Colorado Association of School Boards recognizes that a financial structure change is needed as it pertains to schools that choose to be chartered under CSI (Charter Schools Institute). Schools under this designation should be given the state base per child funding with no mill levy increases based on the district of the students' residency. CSI schools can go for mill levy increases as stated through TABOR as a statewide initiative where amendment 71 applies (2% of registered voters in all 35 senate districts).

Rationale Statement:

Schools under this designation have chosen to emancipate themselves from the financial oversight, public involvement, and control of the school district in which they establish their school. CSI is considered a state-level organization and should collect taxes as such, not from the district taxpayers from whom they chose to be emancipated.

Submitted by – Boulder Valley School District and Poudre School District

Resolution #36

Resolution: Review of Education Programs

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports an administrative audit at the State level to consider whether there are state requirements that impose unnecessary burdens and paperwork that take educators away from teaching and drive talented people away from the profession. This Systematic Review of Education Programs, as proposed by the introduced but not passed [HB18-1222](#), would establish process for the systematic review of programs enacted by the General Assembly. Those programs found to be ineffective or inefficient should be changed, eliminated, or sunsetted.

Rationale Statement:

Each year, school districts are impacted by dozens and dozens of new or revised state laws and legal requirements. Typically, there is little appetite for or action taken to delete or reduce inefficient and unnecessary laws. Colorado currently has no system to review and evaluate education programs. Since the state spends approximately one-third of its budget on K-12 education, a system of review of education programs would bring some much-needed accountability to the allocation of tax payer dollars.

The constant change and layering on of new requirements and burdens is cited as a reason by educators leaving the profession. Managing these requirements takes educators away from supporting teachers, students, and learning. It is time to review the burdens imposed on school districts by the State.

Submitted by – District 49

Resolution #37

Resolution: Drug Free School and Communities Act

The Colorado Association of School Boards urges the United States Congress to amend the 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.

Rationale Statement:

Students with significant medical needs are migrating to Colorado to pursue treatment with non-psychoactive cannabinoid oil for intractable medical conditions such as Dravet's syndrome. [HB16-1373](#) allows a student to use medical marijuana on school grounds, on a school bus, or at a school activity if the student's primary caregiver possesses and administers medical marijuana in a non-smokable form to the student. The primary caregiver shall not administer the medical marijuana in a manner that is disruptive to the educational environment or causes exposure to other students. After the primary caregiver administers the medical marijuana, the primary caregiver shall remove any remaining medical marijuana from the grounds of the preschool or primary or secondary school, the school bus, or school-sponsored event. The act allows a school district to adopt policies regarding who may be a primary caregiver and the permissible circumstances regarding the administration of the medical marijuana. Providing an exception would allow the schools to apply the same constraints used for the administration of all other medications during the school day, which would increase overall student safety.

Submitted by – District 49

Resolution #38

Resolution: School Bus Safety

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports a proposal to use bus video to capture and penalize traffic violators of “Stop” arms on buses.

Rationale Statement:

The Colorado Association of School Boards urges the Colorado General Assembly, the Colorado Department of Education, and the Colorado State Board of Education to support legislation which removes any barriers to the use of school bus video systems to identify and as evidence to penalize violators of existing traffic laws, which require drivers to stop when a school bus is loading/unloading students at school bus stops. Increased communication and enforcement of existing traffic laws will enhance student safety across Colorado.

Submitted by – St. Vrain Valley RE-1J

Resolution #39

Resolution: Safe 2 Tell

The Colorado Association of School Boards encourages the state to adopt limited exceptions to anonymity under Safe2Tell necessary to prevent serious bodily injury and fraudulent reporting.

Rationale Statement:

Safe2Tell is a notification system developed in Colorado, allowing students to call and report information about possible incidents that may transpire in schools. Everything from bullying, to potential suicides, to possible school-shootings are reported through this system. By law, the identity of the reporting party in a Safe2Tell call is kept anonymous. In extreme cases, to protect lives and to prevent the malicious use of the system, law enforcement officers may need to access information about the reporting party. A limited exception in these extreme situations, emphasizing that information is held confidentially instead of anonymously, would help law enforcement protect schools and children and would aid the integrity of the overall Safe2Tell system.

Submitted by – Ridgway R-2

Resolution #40

Resolution: Remote Participation at Board of Education Meetings

The Colorado Association of School Boards believes that given the current state of technology and the mobile nature of many jobs, allowing board members to attend meetings digitally should not be considered less valid than in-person meetings. Current state statute prevents remote access attendance from being counted toward quorum. We believe that this should be changed so that board members making the extra effort to attend despite work or other challenges that require their physical presence elsewhere should be counted toward quorum. By removing this limitation, local boards can adopt appropriate policies detailing how modern virtual attendance is to be handled within their own meetings. They can decide what limits to place on board members utilization of technological means to attend remotely.

Rationale Statement:

Virtual attendance technologies should allow for robust participation in the board process without state level limitations.

Submitted by – Summit School District

Resolution #41

Resolution: Talent Found

The Colorado Association of School Boards urges the Colorado General Assembly to continue to support and advertise efforts of talentFOUND as established in C.R.S. 24-46.3-103 and amended by SB14-205, Talent Pipeline Working Group. This program is led by the Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) and is a product of collaboration which includes the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE), the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE), the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to improve the state-wide network of secondary student level in-person/virtual opportunities by encouraging business/industry partnerships and participation. Additional consideration should be given to include the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) in this collaboration to address and help overcome social-emotional/economical and cross-generational/gender/race/culture/etc. barriers in this cross-functional work.

Rationale Statement:

The 2018 Talent Pipeline Report Recommendation include:

1. Further develop infrastructure that supports all pathways to a meaningful career
2. Eliminate attainment gaps along the education and career pipeline
3. Strengthen collaboration and alignment at the state and local implementation levels to improve efficiency.

Many pieces of legislation have been developed in support of these efforts to include (asterisked legislation was called out in the Talent Pipeline Report and/or website):

Enacted Education and Workforce Development Legislation Directly Relevant to the Opportunity Youth Population in Colorado 2009 to 2017 -2009

- HB09-1243, Measures to Raise the Graduation Rate in Public High Schools 2009 *
- HB09-1319, Concurrent Enrollment Public School Students 2010
- SB10-154, High Risk Students in Alternative Education Campuses 2011
- SB11-111, Educational Success Task Force 2011
- SB11-133, Discipline in Public Schools 2012
- HB12-1146, Funding for Dropout Recovery Programs 2013
- HB13-1005, Basic Education and Career Technical Education Pilot Program 2013 *
- HB13-1165, Creation of a Manufacturing Career Pathway 2013
- SB13-033, In-State Classification of Colorado High School Graduates (also known as the ASSET legislation 2014 *
- HB14-1384, Higher Education Tuition Assistance 2014 *
- SB14-205, Talent Pipeline Working Group 2014 *
- HB15-1170, Increasing Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness 2015 *

- HB15-1230, Innovative Industry Workforce Development Programs 2015
- HB15-1270, Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools 2015
- HB15-1271, Mobile Learning Labs Workforce Development 2015 *
- HB15-1274, Creation of Career Pathways for Student 2015
- HB15-1275, Career and Tech Ed in Concurrent Enrollment 2015
- HB15-1276, Skilled Worker Outreach, Recruitment and Training 2015
- SB15-082, County Workforce Development Property Tax Incentives 2015
- SB15-138, ASCENT Program Funding 2016
- HB16-1287, CDLE Apprenticeship Study 2016
- HB 16-1288 / CRS 24-46.3-103, Industry Infrastructure Grant Report 2016 *
- HB16-1289, Incentives to Complete Career Development Courses 2016
- HB16-1302, Align with Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act 2016
- HB16-1429, Alternative Education Campuses – Criteria for Designation 2016
- SB16-077, Employment First for Persons with Disabilities 2017
- HB17-1194, Technical Changes for PTECH Schools 2017
- HB17-1301, No Withholding Student Transcripts for Library Fines 2017
- HB17-1340, Legislative Interim Committee on School Finance 2017

Local school boards and community employers should be made more aware of these efforts to better support/advertise these opportunities with local/statewide constituents and legislators to promote better and more in-person/virtual connections within and across district boundaries.

Submitted by – Summit School District

Resolution #42

Resolution: School Zone Safety

The Colorado Association of School Boards urges the Colorado General Assembly to develop legislation that prohibits use of cell phones (both voice and text) in school zones unless in a legally parked vehicle or while on foot in safe pedestrian areas.

Rationale Statement:

Precedent for this type of cell phone use has been accomplished locally in Colorado (e.g., Steamboat Springs Schools) and in other states (e.g., Tennessee and Texas). “The inattentiveness caused by cell phones while driving is staggering. Studies show that the use of cell phones while driving is as dangerous as driving after consuming four alcoholic beverages. In addition, cell phone use while driving is four times more likely to cause an accident than drivers not using their cell phones. The second highest cause of accidents in 2009 was inattentive driving, following speeding. 4,691 accidents in 2008 were attributed to inattentive driving; this category includes talking on cell phones.” (<https://aliveat25.us/content/view/35/>) Currently, the only Colorado statute addressing school zone vehicle use is C.R.S. § 42-4-615, which speaks to moving traffic violations. “With respect to cell phone usage, House Bill 09-1094 (effective December 1, 2009) imposed new statutory restrictions regarding the use of a cellular phone device while operating a motor vehicle. For drivers 18 years of age and older, wireless telephones may not be used for text messaging or other similar forms of manual data entry or transmission. Drivers under 18 years of age may not use wireless telephones for any purpose.” Also, “during certain emergencies, Colorado law allows the use of cell phones while operating a vehicle. You may use a wireless telephone on the road in the following situations: -You have reason to fear for your life or safety. -You witness a criminal act or believe one may occur. -To report a fire, traffic accident, road hazards, and medical or hazardous materials. -To report a person driving in a reckless, careless or unsafe manner.” Or any other situation requiring first responder support. Enforcement may be a challenge (dependent on town/municipal law enforcement partnerships with districts), but good signage and an awareness campaign with the parents/community focused on safety would be helpful.

Submitted by – Adams 12 Five Star Schools and Boulder Valley School District

Resolution #43

Resolution: Vaping

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports legislation to address the epidemic of vaping by our youth. CASB supports legislation that employs proven means to reduce youth usage including: increasing the price of vaping products through a tax similar to the one on traditional tobacco products, raising the age of use, possession and purchase to 21, and through limitations of flavored products that would appeal to youth. Increased resources should be invested in public health programs that educate youth about the dangers of vaping and provide alternative to suspension opportunities for students caught using vaping products.

Rationale Statement:

Recent studies show that Colorado has the highest prevalence of teen vaping in the country with one of every three seniors admitting to using vaping products. Colorado kids are vaping at epidemic levels, with 27 percent reporting use, more than double the national rate (13 percent) and nearly four times the rate of traditional cigarettes, according to recently released Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS) data. Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm brain development, which continues until about age 25. Vaping by students is harmful to their health, to the school environment, and takes important time away from instruction. Currently at least 100 people in more than 12 states, including CO, have fallen seriously ill with lung complications linked to vaping.

Submitted by – Adams 12 Five Star Schools

Resolution #44

Forwarded with recommendation by the Legislation Resolutions Committee

Resolution: Charter Schools

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports legislation that requires charter school applicants to submit accurate data on intentions to enroll from new families. The number of letters of intent should meet the standard for a minimally viable number of students established by each local school board with at least 55% of the interested students residing within the district at the time of application. The local school district may only use data from letters of intent for the purposes of verifying numbers of interested students.

A letter of intent must be submitted for each family and include the following requirements:

- Student name(s) and date(s) of birth
- Parent or legal guardian name
- Proof of address/residency
- Grade(s), school(s), and district(s) where student(s) currently enrolled
- Intended grade level(s) at enrollment with charter
- Acknowledgement of plans to withdraw student(s) from current school(s)
- Any additional information required by policy

Rationale Statement:

It is difficult for local school boards to assess whether a charter school will have sufficient enrollment to open a viable school. There is no current requirement for charter schools to document actual student intent to enroll, only interest in the school. Additionally, given recent changes to law, local mill levy dollars are required to be shared with new charter schools. Local tax payers who voted on additional mill levy override should not have the responsibility for paying for a school if a majority of interested students reside outside of district boundaries.

Submitted by –Boulder Valley School District

Resolution #45

Resolution: Charter Schools

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports legislation that would require equal access for all students to attend charter schools. Charter schools must demonstrate that their lotteries and other admission processes are open and non-discriminatory. Charter schools may not at any time require or ask families to submit student performance or Individual Education Program (IEP) data before admissions decisions are made. Preferential admissions should not be allowed based on legacy. Charter schools must also show the capacity of the district supports the opening of the charter school.

Rationale Statement:

The overall statistics for the percent of students on IEPs or 504s in charter schools indicate that charter schools are not serving these students. Some charter schools also have admission policies that give preference to legacy.

Submitted by – Adams 12 Five Star Schools

Resolution #46

Resolution: Charter Schools

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports legislation that gives the local school board sufficient authority to set appropriate policies and direct charter schools to take corrective or remedial action when the school district may have legal liability for actions of the charter school. The standard of review by the State Board of Education shall be whether the local board's recommended corrective actions were arbitrary and capricious. In cases where the local board's authority to direct the charter school does not exist, the charter school shall be required to indemnify the school district, including but not limited to financial losses caused by the charter school, its policies, or acts of its agents.

Rationale Statement:

Local school districts as the authorizing body for charter schools often share legal liability for the actions of their charter schools. Office of Civil rights violations, including Title IX violations, service of special populations, and school security policies, are examples where the local school district may be held liable. As a charter authorizer, school districts have limited authority to mandate corrective action, especially in the area of personnel, leaving the district potentially open to legal liability for the charter schools' actions without any recourse. Currently there is also the possibility for a local board's decisions to be appealed to the State Board of Education.

Submitted by – Adams 12 Five Star Schools

Resolution #47

Resolution: Student Vaccinations

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports legislation that results in initiatives to increase the numbers of vaccinated children.

Rationale Statement:

Colorado has one of the lowest vaccination rates in the nation, putting students and staff at risk for exposure to vaccine preventable illnesses in public schools if an outbreak occurs. Medically vulnerable students and staff in particular need protection from exposure to these types of illnesses. To protect the health and safety of children who attend public schools, increasing the vaccination rate is a key priority.

Submitted by – St. Vrain Valley RE-1J

Resolution #48

Resolution: Grow Your Own Teacher Programs

The Colorado Association of School Boards encourages the state to inventory and assess the various teacher recruitment and incentive programs passed in the previous five years and determine the relative success of each program. Further those programs demonstrating little or no impact on teacher recruitment or retention should be eliminated and funding associated with such programs be applied to those demonstrating success. Additionally, the state should work with K-12 and higher education to develop a teaching-degree pathway starting in the 9th grade that utilizes concurrent enrollment to offer college-level teacher preparation courses to high school students considering careers in teaching. CASB also encourages the state to review mandated articulation agreements among and across 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities and ensure that all credits earned by high school students in concurrent enrollment teacher preparation programs be guaranteed to transfer toward a 4-year bachelor teaching degree.

Rationale Statement:

In recent years, a plethora of teacher recruitment and retention bills were passed by the legislature. Many of the bills were passed as pilot programs, receiving relatively small amounts of funding (i.e., \$300 thousand - \$1 million). It is time for the state to survey the effectiveness of the various programs to see if there is a specific model that works better than the others and to ensure they spend future resources on teacher recruitment and retention most efficiently.

Additionally, with the growth of concurrent enrollment and dual credit offerings in high schools, there is an opportunity to expand “grow-your-own teacher” programs by aligning curricular standards at the higher education level. This will empower local school districts to create teacher recruiting and retention pipelines and make 4-year teaching degrees less expensive and more attainable.

Submitted by – Primero School District

Resolution #49

Resolution: Educator Loan Forgiveness

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports the establishment of a program similar to that of the “Colorado Health Service Corps,” with the stipulation that it be created for educators in our state who choose to join our career field despite the many barriers that have conspired to forge a negative perception of teaching in general.

Rationale Statement:

The State of Colorado administers a college student loan forgiveness program entitled “Colorado Health Service Corps.” This program exists to aid dedicated individuals who have joined, or are planning to join, the health care field in support of a critically shortened employee base. The “Colorado Health Service Corps” program provides up to \$90,000 in loan forgiveness for qualified candidates. The requirements of the program include:

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants may be eligible to participate in this program and receive repayment of qualified student loans, if they are practitioners in a health field classified as a Health Professional Shortage Area. Additionally, candidates must deliver primary health care services in a public or nonprofit clinic. Furthermore, the practice must accept public insurance and offer discounted services to low-income, uninsured patients on a sliding fee scale.

Terms of Agreement: Candidates agree to work for a term of 3 years at an approved site, working either full-time or part-time. They must also meet hourly requirements for direct clinical contact. And whereas the State of Colorado sponsors two other loan forgiveness programs for in-state college graduates—targeting those attending specific universities and performing job functions in the field of law—there does not currently exist a state loan forgiveness program for teachers in the public education system.

Multiple federal loan forgiveness programs can be found by those seeking a career in public education. The most well-known and utilized is the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program. It forges a pathway for employees working a minimum of 10 years in a multiple of career fields—including teaching—to seek loan forgiveness.

Additional federal programs also exist that create pathways for financial easement. The Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program, which predates PSLF, addresses students in qualifying schools and forgives up to \$17,500 of specific loan types. The Perkins Teacher Loan Forgiveness Plan allows absolution of up to 100% of loan balances if candidates teach full time at a low-income school or instruct certain subjects considered “critical” in need. Those with Perkins Loans can have their entire loan balance purged over a five-year period. A positive aspect about this program is that it grants forgiveness in increments, so even if people don't make it the complete five years, they will at least see some of their loan balance disappear.

Numerous state and federal grants are available to most people seeking a college experience. Some loan repayment assistance programs also exist that are of tremendous assistance to college students; however, there are limitations to each of these avenues and none of them can provide what the Colorado Health Service Corps does for its recipients.

Health care is vitally important to any society. Our state has recognized the essential need for promoting involvement in this profession by establishing means by which its members are fiscally assisted. Do we not value public education to the same degree? While health care providers, on average, no doubt incur a greater monetary burden in pursuit of their education, they universally receive far more compensation following the advent of their chosen career paths. Most public school employees will never command salaries that allow them to pay off their student loans with ease, despite the fact that their outstanding loan balances may be significantly less than their health care brethren.

Submitted by – Colorado Springs District 11

Resolution #50

Resolution: Climate Change Action

The Colorado Association of School Boards supports school boards placing a high priority on reducing carbon consumption in making decisions regarding capital improvement, energy use, and transportation; and supporting climate change and environmental education. CASB also urges the Colorado General Assembly and federal government to take swift and effective action on climate change to protect current and future students.

Rationale Statement:

Colorado boards of education are committed to the safety, well-being, and future success of all children; research demonstrates that climate change adversely affects students' physical and mental health and negatively impacts student achievement. Climate change is not a partisan nor political issue, and local, state, and national policies should be guided by the best available science. If left unaddressed, the consequences of climate change will harm all Americans, most especially children and those living in poverty, and saddle future generations with the costly burden of a dangerously damaged planet. The financial impacts of climate change on our communities are projected to grow, potentially utilizing school resources better used for the education of students today and in the future. The global impact, urgency, and magnitude of the challenge of addressing climate change calls for leadership in all sectors of society, all institutions and all elected leaders. Climate change is of critical importance to our students and demands school leaders to be responsive both in the use of school resources and in the education and career preparedness of their students.

CASB Board of Directors

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Region 6	Jaye Sudar Huerfano Re-1		

LD* =Large District

CASB Districts by Region

1

REGION 1

Akron R-1
Arickee School District R-2
Brush RE-2(J)
Buffalo School District RE-4J
Fleming School
Haxtun RE-2J
Holyoke Re-1J
Idalia RJ-3
Julesburg School District RE-1
Liberty J-4
Lone Star #101
Morgan County Re-3
Otis R-3
Pawnee Re-12
Peetz Plateau School District RE-5
Prairie RE-11J
RE-1 Valley
Revere School District
Weldon Valley RE-20J
Weld County School District RE 10-J
Wiggins RE-50J
Wray RD-2
Yuma 1

2

REGION 2

Agate 300
Arriba-Flagler Consolidated 20
Bethune School District
Big Sandy 100J
Burlington RE-6J
Byers 32-J
Calhan RJ1
Cheyenne County Re-5
Deer Trail 26J
Edison 54JT
Elbert County School District C-2
Elbert #200
Elizabeth School District C-1
Genoa-Hugo C-113
Hi-Plains R-23
Karval RE-23
Kiowa County RE-1
Kit Carson R-1
Limon Public Schools
Miami Yoder JT-60
Plainview RE-2
Stratton R-4
Woodlin R-104

3

REGION 3

Aguilar Re-6
Branson RE-82
Campo RE-6
Cheraw #31
Crowley County RE-1J
Fowler R4J
Granada RE-1
Hoehne RE-3
Holly RE-3
Kim R-88
La Junta Public Schools
Lamar RE-2
Las Animas No. Re-1
Manzanola 3J
McClave RE-2
Primero RE-2
Pritchett RE-3
Rocky Ford R2
Springfield RE-4
Swink #33
Trinidad #1
Vilas RE-5
Walsh RE-1
Wiley RE-13-Jt

4

REGION 4

Eaton RE-2
Estes Park R-3
Platte Valley RE-7
Poudre School District
St. Vrain Valley RE-1J
Thompson R2-J
Weld County 6
Weld County RE-1
Weld County RE-3J
Weld RE-4
Weld RE-5J
Weld Re-8
Weld RE-9

5

REGION 5

Adams 14
Bennett 29J
Boulder Valley School District
Englewood Schools
Littleton Public Schools
Mapleton Public Schools
School District 27J
Sheridan School District
Strasburg 31J
Westminster Public Schools

6

REGION 6

Academy District 20
Canon City Schools
Cheyenne Mountain 12
Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind
Colorado Springs D-11
Cripple Creek-Victor RE-1
Custer County C-1
District No. 49
Ellicott 22
Fountain-Fort Carson 8
Fremont RE-2
Hanover No. 28
Harrison 2
Huerfano Re-1
La Veta RE-2 School District
Lewis-Palmer #38
Manitou Springs 14
Peyton 23-Jt
Pueblo 70
Pueblo City Schools
Widefield 3
Woodland Park Re-2

7

REGION 7

East Grand School District
Hayden School District
Moffat County RE-1
North Park R-1
South Routt RE-3
Steamboat Springs RE-2
West Grand 1-JT

8

REGION 8

Buena Vista R-31
Clear Creek RE-1
Cotopaxi RE-3
Eagle County Schools
Gilpin County RE-1
Lake County R-1
Park County RE-2
Platte Canyon #1
Salida R-32-J
Summit School District

LARGE DISTRICTS

Adams 12 Five Star Schools
Aurora Public Schools
Cherry Creek Schools
Denver Public Schools
Douglas County RE-1
Jeffco Public Schools

9

REGION 9

Alamosa Re-11J
Centennial R-1
Center Consolidated 26JT
Creede School District
Del Norte C-7
Moffat Consolidated #2
Monte Vista School District
Mountain Valley RE-1
North Conejos RE1-J
Sanford School District
Sangre de Cristo RE-22J
Sargent RE-33J
Sierra Grande R-30
South Conejos RE-10

10

REGION 10

Aspen School District
DeBeque 49-JT
Garfield County No. 16
Garfield Re-2
Meeker RE-1
Mesa County Valley 51
Plateau Valley 50
Rangely RE-4
Roaring Fork Schools

11

REGION 11

Delta County 50J
Gunnison Watershed RE1J
Hinsdale County RE-1
Montrose County RE-1J
Norwood Public Schools
Ouray R-1
Ridgway R-2
Telluride R-1
West End Public Schools RE-2

12

REGION 12

Archuleta #50 JT
Bayfield 10 Jt-R
Dolores County RE-2(J)
Dolores RE-4A
Durango 9-R
Ignacio 11-JT
Mancos Re-6
Montezuma-Cortez RE-1
Silverton Public Schools

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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