



Arizona School Boards Association's

2010 POLITICAL AGENDA PRIORITIES PLAN OF ACTION

1. Seek legislation that adequately encourages, assists and financially supports the curriculum and instructional needs of Arizona's public schools to ensure college and career readiness of all students. **ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN AND STUDENT NEEDS**
 - *PLAN OF ACTION:* Work with policy makers, the Governor, and other regulatory bodies to ensure that a hybrid of revenue enhancements and cuts are implemented to minimize the impact to K-12 education students. To that end, ASBA has commissioned an update of the 2004 Tax Study to determine, in a revenue neutral manner, the best way to redesign Arizona's tax system. At the same time, ASBA has directed scenarios, if revenues were increased, how it would be best to do it to ensure stability, fairness, and competitiveness for the State's future. In the regulatory arena, ASBA remains active with the State Board of Education, where a number of policy issues (alternative certification, AZ Learns criteria changes, etc.) continue to be discussed and implemented. The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (the federal stimulus) has provided an opportunity for Arizona to delve into four critical areas to support our students' success. ASBA will continue to play an active role in the Governor's P-20 Coordinating Council's Task Forces as we apply for the Race to the Top funding and work to implement the stated goals. Last, ASBA's advocacy efforts have ramped up this fall and will continue into the New Year. This is only the first of our efforts to support our legislative efforts with the best advocates of all – you!
2. Advocate for preservation of community governance of school districts through elected representation and oppose efforts to erode the authority of governing boards. **LOCAL CONTROL/GOVERNANCE**
 - *PLAN OF ACTION:* Work to oppose any mandated dollar amount that districts must spend in the classroom, while educating legislators and the public on the diverse needs each district has, and thus, the differential in where dollars are spent.
3. Oppose unfunded legislative mandates and advocate for the removal of overly restrictive regulations. **LOCAL CONTROL/GOVERNANCE**
 - *PLAN OF ACTION:* Introduce an administrative reduction bill to continue to lessen the administrative burdens on our local districts, while also reinstating those local decisions to the local level.
4. Continue to work with the legislature to ensure full funding for inflation, especially in years in which the rate of inflation is greater than two percent and vigorously oppose at the legislature and in the courts any attempts to not fully fund at least the two percent inflation factor as approved by the voters in Proposition 301 (2000). **FUNDING**
 - *PLAN OF ACTION:* Focus on ensuring the 2% inflation factor is applied across the board in the FY11 budget with some flexibility in lump sum reductions. Further, ASBA will vigorously oppose efforts to undermine voter-approved measures, which created this 2%inflation factor.
5. Oppose any legislation that results in the direct or indirect use of public funds to support private schools, including school vouchers and tax credits. **TAXATION/REVENUES**
 - *PLAN OF ACTION:* Continue to oppose the continuance of private school tax credits; absent repeal or legal invalidation of program, introduce legislation to provide more transparency in the student tuition organization individual and corporate tax credit for private schools. Oppose any efforts to expand the credits.

2010 POLITICAL AGENDA PRIORITIES PLAN OF ACTION

6. Seek legislation that provides increased funding for school personnel salaries. **PERSONNEL**
→ *PLAN OF ACTION:* Due to the budget shortfall, additional personnel salaries are not realistic. However, there does exist a need to provide the necessary compensation for teachers and administrative staffs to ensure the most qualified leaders are in our public schools. To that end, we will work this year to educate legislators and the public on our administrative needs to set the groundwork for years when the state budget is healthier. Further, ASBA continues to be intimately involved in trust land reform negotiations to better maximize our trust lands that benefit mostly teacher salaries. In addition, we will work to put our members and the state in the best position to receive one of the Race to the Top grants which may provide additional resources for targeted teacher compensation.
7. Advocate for a complete revision of the school finance formula. **FUNDING**
→ *PLAN OF ACTION:* ASBA continues to participate in the ABEC School Finance Project, in which the eight principles have been adopted by the Board and efforts are now underway to strategize its implementation. (However, we do not endorse all of the preliminary recommendations of the Project.) Further, ASBA's tax study should prove useful if funds are needed to fulfill the newly-revised school finance formula.
8. Seek and support legislation requiring the Arizona State Legislature to pass a state budget for the ensuing fiscal year no later than April 1 of the previous fiscal year. **TAXATION/REVENUES**
→ *PLAN OF ACTION:* Introduce legislation to require this in the form of a referendum (which would be required due to constitutional concerns).
9. Oppose any effort that does not allow local school districts, through their governing boards and voters, to both initiate and decide for themselves efforts to consolidate or unify their districts. **LOCAL CONTROL/GOVERNANCE**
→ *PLAN OF ACTION:* Ensure the legislature leaves these decisions to local governing boards, while also working to incentivize those local districts wishing to do so.
10. Support the continued re-evaluation and refinement of the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS). **ACCOUNTABILITY**
→ *PLAN OF ACTION:* Continue to actively monitor and participate through testimony, research, and collaboration with the State Board of Education and Governor's P-20 Coordinating Council to ensure students are learning the standards, while at the same time, ensuring students and schools are treated fairly in the accountability portion. There may also be an effort to create an AIMS Task Force II to focus on college and career readiness, which ASBA will also take an active role in following.

