



Long-Term Legislative Goals

LOCAL REVENUE RESOURCES

Millage Elections

Support constitutional changes allowing local school district voters the option to raise the cap on the school millage; make any locally voted increase non-chargeable in the school funding formula.

Bond Issues

Support a constitutional amendment allowing local school district voters the option to pass school general obligation bonds by a simple majority.

Support a constitutional amendment allowing local school district voters the option to increase the maximum bonded indebtedness of a school district above 10%.

Funding Base

Oppose any reduction in the funding base for public schools.

Ensure ad valorem taxation is equitable and preserved as a funding source for schools. *(adopted August 2008)*

Support legislation to **FULLY** reimburse schools for **ALL** Ad Valorem exemptions. *(adopted August 2009)*

Tax Diversions/Exemptions

Support the preservation of ad valorem tax monies normally apportioned for the support of public schools for that purpose alone and oppose any diversion of those funds to any other purpose.

Support the examination of all existing ad valorem exemptions in an effort to ensure accountable and equitable taxation. *(adopted August 2008)*

Technology Funding

Support legislation designating new revenue sources for technology funding

STATE ISSUES

Adequate Funding

Oppose any measure to rebate any tax revenue. *(adopted August 2008)*

Support the full funding of the teacher salary schedule and employee health insurance.

Support adequate funding for common and career technology education to raise per pupil expenditure to the national average.

Support legislation to provide more operating funds for public schools without any additional mandates attached.

Support legislation to formulate a comprehensive long-term statewide school finance plan to increase education funding. *(adopted August 2007)*

Support legislation to provide increased salary and benefits to all school employees.

We oppose the diversion of any public school funds to any private school or for-profit charter school. *(adopted August 2010)*

Administrators

Ensure the discretion of a local board of education to recruit and compensate their administrative personnel as the board deems appropriate. *(proposed August 2011)*

Alternative Education

Support legislation to increase funding for alternative education programs at all grade levels.

Capital Improvements

Support legislation to increase funding options for capital improvements to schools.

Common School Building Equalization Fund

Support legislation identifying a dedicated revenue source for the Common School Building Equalization Fund. *(adopted August 2007)*

Gross Production

Support revision of the gross production tax statute to classify additional natural resources as subject to gross production tax. *(adopted August 2007)*

Loss/Diversion of Funds

Oppose all efforts to divert from education any currently dedicated revenue sources for education.

Support repayment of expenditures by the plaintiff to a school district for lawsuits filed against the school district in which the school district prevails, including due process hearings.

Operations

Support the appropriation of unrestricted funds to schools to address dramatically increased operations needs. *(adopted August 2007)*

School Funding Formula

Support allocation of all appropriations for schools through the school funding formula, provided no school is adversely impacted. *(adopted August 2007)*

Support legislation that ensures research-based equity and accuracy of weights and counts in the school funding formula.

Sex Offenders

Support legislation to further restrict access to school grounds for all sex offenders.

State Impact Aid

Support legislation to authorize state impact aid for local school districts impacted by state-owned property.

Vouchers

Oppose the use of vouchers masquerading as tax credits and/or incentives as a method of funding non-public education.

FEDERAL ISSUES

Accountability

Support the establishment of more flexible multiple criteria to measure the Academic Yearly Progress of schools.

Impact Aid

Support the conversion of federal impact aid money from a discretionary federal program to an entitlement for public schools. *(adopted August 2008)*

Special Education

Support legislation requiring the federal government to fund 40% of special education costs.

Support measures to test special needs students *and compile test results* at their appropriate cognitive level rather than at arbitrary or age-based grade level.

Support legislation which would share the cost of special education services with other agencies, but would protect an individual district's authority to receive medical reimbursements for special services students.

Support legislation to further define Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). *(adopted August 2009)*

CURRICULUM AND STUDENTS

Advanced Placement

Support funding for Advanced Placement courses and programs.

High School Graduation and Beyond

Support initiatives such as career planning and worksite learning that enable students to transition successfully from high school to either post-secondary education or directly to the workplace.

Support legislation that would require higher education to standardize requirements for remedial classes.

State Curriculum Mandates

Support legislation requiring the State Department of Education to continue to provide state funding to school districts even though a student may have been suspended out of school for more than ten days, as long as the school district is required by law to provide educational services to the student.

We support that all virtual curriculum programs are held to the same standards, accountability and reporting formats as the traditional student learning environment. *(adopted August 2010)*

Ensure state testing is in line with state standards.

Transfers

Support legislation to require both receiving and sending local school board's authority to determine all term and conditions of all student transfers, including online students. *(adopted August 2009)*

LOCAL CONTROL

Audits

Support legislation requiring at least 51% of the number of voters voting in the previous district-wide school election in order to call for a school audit.

Support legislation requiring the posting of a cash bond by audit petitioners to be forfeited to the district upon the finding of no wrongdoing.

Support legislation exempting members of the school board of the district in which a charter school is located, from financial and legal liability.

Consolidation

Oppose legislation or regulation requiring forced consolidation of school districts.

Control

Remove restrictions on school districts' use of construction management. *(adopted August 2007)*

State Board of Education

Oppose all unfunded mandates.

PERSONNEL

Assault & Battery

Support legislation making assault and battery against any school employee or school official a felony instead of a misdemeanor, and to extend this penalty to cover assault and battery against school officials during his/her duty as a school employee or school official, including attending school events and traveling to and from school meetings and activities, and any assault and battery where the offender committed the act because the individual is or was a school official or school employee.

Employee Insurance

We support that the state shall fully fund the flexible benefit allowance, as they're bound by law to accomplish. (*adopted August 2010*)

Support legislation requiring all state insurance companies to offer health insurance to school employees statewide, regardless of zip code or address.

Support legislation removing the option of employees receiving cash benefits in lieu of the flexible benefit allowance.

Employee Records

Support legislation that would permit school districts to request and receive from other school districts information relating to unprofessional, unethical, or illegal conduct by a current or former employee.

Support legislation that would create a state database for Oklahoma school employees for school districts to access information on employment history.

Support legislation to fully fund OSBI and FBI criminal background checks on all school employees.

Felony Conviction

Support legislation authorizing a school district to terminate a convicted felon before a due process hearing can be held.

Liability

Support legislation to reduce school districts' liability for unemployment benefits to substitute teachers and other similar employees.

Librarians

Support legislation to waive the requirement of certified Librarian for school (district) with a population of less than 1,000 students.

Negotiations

Support the authority of the local board of education to make the final decision concerning a fact finder's report on issues at impasse, and oppose any form of binding arbitration.

Professional Development

Support flexibility in professional development. (*adopted August 2009*)

Recruitment

Support legislation providing for a system of student loan forgiveness to teachers who are trained/educated in Oklahoma and remain in Oklahoma to teach.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Candidacy

Support legislation that would place the responsibility for validating the legitimacy of an individual filing for school board member candidacy with the county election board during the initial filing period.

Liability

Support legislation to provide for dissenter's rights which allows school board members a legal mechanism for individual liability protection in appropriate circumstances.

Support legislation limiting a public school districts' exposure to legal liability to \$5,000.

Nepotism

Support legislation to amend current law regarding contracting with a business concern which employs a board member or a board member's spouse to include relatives within the second degree.

Training

Support legislation requiring all accredited board member training to be submitted to and approved by the Oklahoma State School Boards Association under the direction of the State Department of Education.

CAREER TECH

Support increased Career Technology appropriations to address: the increased demand for Career Technology's Training for Industry Programs (TIP) recruitment incentive; the increased demand for Career Technology's customized training for existing businesses; and to maintain Oklahoma's competitive advantage in skills training. *(adopted August 2007)*

Support statewide coverage of Career and Technology Education.

Support curriculum and graduation requirements that allow students to attend Career-Tech.

Support Career Technology's key role in economic development.

Support legislation to allow the continued operation of the career technology system as an autonomous system available to high school and post-secondary students.