**OSSBA 2023-24 TARGET LEGISLATIVE GOALS**

**State**

* The Oklahoma State School Boards Association supports the local board’s authority in retaining autonomy over local matters including consolidation and exercising the authority of their roles and responsibilities as defined in the School Laws of Oklahoma.
* Continue the progress made to bring state per-student expenditures to the regional average, equipping schools with the tools and resources to improve student achievement and produce college and career-ready students.
* Amend the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act to allow public bodies to enter into executive session for the purpose of self-evaluation of the public body.
* Standardize the date school board members would begin a new term following annual elections so that all new terms for school board members would begin following the April general election date.
* Continue to examine ways to reduce the teacher shortage crisis, including but not limited to the pathways to teacher certification.
* Maintain the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology as an independent state agency supporting all facets of Oklahoma’s career and technical education programs.
* Oppose the use of vouchers masquerading as tax credits and/or incentives as a method of funding non-public education.

**Federal**

* Advocate for funding to provide free meals to every public school student.
* Ensure the United States Department of Education rules and regulations retain flexibility and local control provided for under the Every Student Succeeds Act.
* Protect federal funding for education.
* Advocate for funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) at 40% of special education costs.