

IASB Belief Statements

The Illinois Association of School Boards' resolution process is a vital function of the organization. Newly adopted resolutions, submitted by local boards of education and approved by the Delegate Assembly, become IASB Position Statements. These statements establish the direction of the association.

Every year resolutions are submitted by member school districts that, while having a worthwhile objective, are not directly focused on the governance of local school districts. These proposals are significant and timely, but are not always appropriate as position statements. The Resolutions Committee has established an alternative method to disseminate these messages through the Association. For those issues that are not geared toward school governance, or that do not ask the Association to take some specific action, this new method of communication is necessary.

This publication provides special recognition for important philosophical issues brought to the Association. The Resolutions Committee proudly presents these IASB Belief Statements.

1 **The Illinois Association of School Boards** believes in improving the image of school boards and public education at the state and national levels.

2 **The Illinois Association of School Boards** believes school administrations and faculties should be composed of persons supporting the principles of constitutional government because schools should continue with vigor their programs for giving young citizens a clear understanding of the principles of the American way of life and a desire to make these principles prevail in their own lives and in the life of their country.

3 **The Illinois Association of School Boards** believes that local boards of education should provide the necessary leadership for educational reform by sharing information and resources and collaborating with each other and the larger educational community.

4 **The Illinois Association of School Boards** believes that a comprehensive restructuring is needed in the way public schools are funded in Illinois and that IASB should be an active partner in responsible grassroots initiatives for school funding reform.

5 **The Illinois Association of School Boards** believes that schools should provide a safe and secure environment for all students. School board members and staff should try to protect students from the effects of bullying and offer appropriate instruction to improve intergroup relations and to promote peaceful resolution to conflict.

6 **The Illinois Association of School Boards** believes strongly in the non-partisan election of local school boards

7 **The Illinois Association of School Boards** supports teacher salaries which are performance-based, market-sensitive, professionally competitive and which are tied to an effective evaluation system.

8 **The Illinois Association of School Boards** believes in the vigorous support and the rigid enforcement of the laws pertaining to the sale, possession and/or use of firearms.

9 **The Illinois Association of School Boards** believes that local boards of education should be prepared for possible public health crises (such as an Avian Flu pandemic) and other public safety concerns. The IASB should obtain the most recent and accurate information from the pertinent federal, state, and local agencies and disseminate such information to school districts throughout the State. School districts are encouraged to adopt proactive pandemic preparedness strategies. The IASB also encourages school participation in the National Fire Protection Association's campaign for fire escape planning and practice among our member families and citizens.

10 **The Illinois Association of School Boards** urges local boards of education to provide educational programs on awareness of the advantages of wearing bicycle helmets when riding bicycles.

11 **The Illinois Association of School Boards** urges its member districts to limit career exploration activities to non-school attendance days or to school-run career days. In addition, the association believes Take-Your-Daughter-to-Work- Day should be designated for a non-attendance day and should also consider working to make this day non-gender specific.

12 **The Illinois Association of School Boards** believes that the overall health of our students is of prime importance. Local boards of education and school district officials should have the authority and flexibility to access State and community health services as deemed appropriate. To that end, the IASB: urges school districts to comply with the required notification provisions regarding vision screening for students, recommends that parents provide for regular and on-going comprehensive vision examinations for their children, and encourages school districts to consider adopting a policy requiring optometric vision examinations for all children entering kindergarten.



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