

Report to the Membership

for the 2010 Delegate Assembly Meeting
on November 20, 2010, Chicago

October 2010



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TO: Board Members and Administrators

FROM: Carolyne Brooks, Resolutions Committee Chairman

DATE: September, 2010

SUBJECT: 2010 Resolutions Committee Report

Thank you for your interest in the 2010 Resolutions Committee Report to the Membership. Proposals set forth in this Report will be acted upon at the Annual Meeting of the IASB Delegate Assembly which convenes at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 20, 2010, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago (Regency A/B Ballroom, West Tower).

The Delegate Assembly is one of the most important functions held at the IASB Annual Conference. It gives member districts ownership in the association and the opportunity to establish the direction of the association and its major policies. Every member district has a delegate, a vote, and a voice.

Participation in the resolutions process is of vital importance. Submitting new resolutions, discussing the resolutions at your local board meeting, sharing your insight with other boards at division meetings and sending a well-informed delegate to the assembly all are key actions for you to take.

This booklet is provided in the fall and is intended to allow your board more time to discuss the resolutions. We hope that this will increase participation and enthusiasm from member districts.

We will again prepare a packet of information for distribution at the Delegate Assembly meeting. This packet will provide any information needed by delegates that was not available in the Report to the Membership. Advanced registration for delegates is not necessary. Upon arriving at the conference in November your districts' delegate should check in at the "Delegate Registration" desk across the hallway from the main conference registration desk.

If you have materials that you will need to distribute on the assembly floor, 500 copies must be provided to the staff at least 24 hours in advance (an additional day or two would be appreciated). This should expedite matters at the Delegate Assembly and provide for a more organized meeting.

On behalf of the Resolutions Committee, thank you for your interest in the resolutions process. I look forward to seeing you in November.

**For further information
please contact Ben Schwarm
at IASB, Springfield office
217/528-9688, ext. 1132**

**SERVICE OF THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL BOARD
MEMBERS ON THE 2010 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
IS ACKNOWLEDGED WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION.**

Armstrong, John	.....Wauconda	.....Lake
Brooks, Carolyne	.....Noble	.....Chair
Brunson, Tony	.....Matteson	.....South Cook
Cantlin, Jack	.....Earlville	.....Starved Rock
Doering, Amy	.....Dunlap	.....Central Illinois Valley
De Neal, Tom	.....Harrisburg	.....Shawnee
Eades, Linda	.....Hettick	.....Kaskaskia
Flessner, Joe	.....Amboy	.....Northwest
Hoffman, Karen	.....Dubois	.....Egyptian
Geyer, Kathy	.....Loves Park	.....Kishwaukee
Kelly, Mike	.....Joliet	.....Three Rivers
Kessler, Rick	.....Hillsdale	.....Blackhawk
Klimkowicz, Anna	.....Schaumburg	.....North Cook
LePere, Vicki	.....Millstadt	.....Southwestern
Lowrance, Debbi	.....Robinson	.....Wabash Valley
Majewski, Carola	.....Hanover Park	.....DuPage
Mammen, Jim	.....Lincoln	.....Abe Lincoln
Phillips, Howard	.....Greenfield	.....Two Rivers
Pierce, Cherese	.....Hillside	.....West Cook
Shafer, Tom	.....Lewiston	.....Western
Uhlott, Sandra	.....Rantoul	.....Illini
Weers, Doug	.....Flanagan	.....Corn Belt

Delegate Assembly Agenda

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Call to Order | 8. Election of Officers |
| 2. Report of the Credentials Committee | A. Nominating Committee Report,
Mark Metzger |
| 3. Approval of Delegate Assembly
Business Rules | 9. Resolutions Committee Report,
Carolyne Brooks |
| 4. Approval of Conference Program | A. New Resolutions |
| 5. President’s Report, Joe Alesandrini | B. Amended Existing Positions |
| 6. Report from the Executive Director
Emeritus, Dr. Michael Johnson | 10. Belief Statements |
| 7. Financial Report, Dane Tippet | 11. Adjournment |

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**My Board’s
Recommendation**

Support *Oppose*

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DELEGATE ASSEMBLY BUSINESS RULES

1. Business Procedures — Robert's Rules of Order shall govern.
2. Credentials — Delegates shall be registered with the Credentials Committee.
3. Delegate Seating — Only those delegates seated in the reserved section will be permitted to participate in the business session.
4. Recognition by Chair — Delegates wishing to speak on a motion shall rise and be recognized by the Chair before speaking. They shall give their full name and the name of the board they represent.
5. Debate on the Floor — No delegate shall speak in debate more than twice on the same question and no longer than five minutes at one time. No delegate shall speak a second time on the same question until all persons have had an opportunity to speak at least once.
6. Calls for the Question — A delegate may "call for the question" to end debate on a motion. The delegate may not make such a motion if, immediately preceding the motion, he or she has engaged in discussion of the motion or otherwise participated in the debate. A motion, a second, and a 2/3 majority vote is required to end debate.
7. Appeals — Those delegates wishing to appeal a "do not adopt" recommendation of the Resolutions Committee, to present a late resolution, or to amend a resolution or position statement, and have met the notice provisions required by Article X, Sections 4 and 5 of the IASB Constitution shall have a period of time not to exceed five minutes in which to explain why the proposed action should be considered by the Delegate Assembly.
8. Reaffirmation of Existing Position Statements — The Delegate Assembly has the authority to reaffirm existing Position Statements. Proposals to reaffirm an existing position may be initiated by member school boards or the Resolutions Committee. All such proposals shall be submitted through the same procedure as all other resolutions and shall meet all criteria and constitutional timelines applicable to all resolutions.
9. Other Recognition — Members of the Resolutions Committee and IASB staff shall be given the privilege of the floor at the discretion of the presiding officer.
10. Nomination — Consent of nominee must be secured prior to presentation to the Delegate Assembly.

RESOLUTIONS PROCEDURES

1. Types of Resolutions — Resolutions may be either in the form of a position statement or a belief statement. Position statements address issues affecting or concerning local boards of education; they direct the Association's advocacy efforts. Belief statements express significant values commonly held by local boards of education; they may or may not call for action to be taken by the Association.
2. Proposals — Resolutions for proposed position statements or belief statements may be proposed by any Active Member, Association Division, Association Council, the Association's Board of Directors, or the Resolutions Committee. Resolutions to be published and distributed to the Active Members must be submitted to the Resolutions Committee at least 150 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly.
3. Presentation of Resolutions — The Resolutions Committee shall review all proposed resolutions, distribute a final draft of proposed resolutions to the membership not less than 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly, and may recommend the approval or disapproval of any resolution to the Delegate Assembly. The Resolutions Committee has the prerogative to determine which resolutions are to be presented to the Delegate Assembly; and whether they are presented as position statements or non-debatable belief statements. However, all resolutions that are timely submitted to the Resolutions Committee according to Section 2 above, must be distributed to Active Members not less than 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly.
4. Annual Review — The Resolutions Committee shall annually review currently in force position statements and belief statements to determine whether they are consistent with the current positions or beliefs of Association members. The Resolutions Committee shall recommend that the Delegate Assembly amend or rescind any position statement or belief statement that is not consistent with the current positions or beliefs of Association members. All position statements and belief statements currently in force will be published annually and distributed to Active Members prior to the Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly.

5. Appeals—(Article X, Section 4), Any Active Member, Association Division, Association’s Council, or Association Board of Directors shall have the right to appeal decisions of the Resolutions Committee at the Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly. Notice of appeal must be submitted in writing to the Resolutions Committee. The committee must be in receipt of the written appeal no later than the close of business 8 calendar days before the Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly. A majority of the delegates present at the Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly is required for consideration of appeals.
6. Late Resolutions—(Article X, Section 5), Resolutions which are not presented to the Resolutions Committee at least 150 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly may be considered only by the following procedure: Such resolutions may be proposed by an Active Member, Association Division, Association’s Council, Association Board of Directors, or the Resolutions Committee and submitted in writing to the Resolutions Committee. Any resolution which is not submitted in the manner described above shall not be considered by the Delegate Assembly. Late resolutions shall be considered for approval by the Resolutions Committee. The Resolutions Committee may recommend approval or disapproval of the late resolution to the Delegate Assembly. Any such resolution disapproved by the Resolutions Committee may be appealed by a seventy-five (75) percent majority vote of the delegates present. Delegates seeking authority to present late resolutions at the Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly shall provide copies for all delegates present at the meeting, including rationale and relevant supporting documentation.
7. Order of Resolutions — Each resolution to be adopted will be considered in the following order of categories: Educational Programs, Financing Public Education, Legislative Activity, Board Operations and Duties, Board Employee Relations, Local-State-Federal Relations, and District Organization. Reaffirmation or deletion of existing positions will be done with a single motion unless a delegate wishes a particular position or positions to be considered separately.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

August 2010

The 2010 Nominating Committee proposes the following officer slate for Delegate Assembly consideration, 10:30, Saturday, November 20, 2010, Regency Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Chicago:

President — Joe Alesandrini
Pekin CHSD 303

Vice-President — Carolyne Brooks
West Richland CUSD 2

2010 Nominating Committee Membership:

Mark Metzger, Chair
IASB Immediate Past President

Jackie Mickley
Geneseo CUSD 228

Michelle Skinlo
Mattoon CUSD 2

Tom Cunningham
Orland SD 135

Joanne Zendol
Berwyn South SD 100

Dave Barton, Alternate
Pikeland CUSD 10

John Metzger, Alternate
Benton CCSD 47

NEW RESOLUTIONS

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

1. High School Exams

Submitted by: East Peoria CHSD 309

BE IT RESOLVED that the Illinois Association of School Boards shall: support legislation to allow school districts to elect to include the Prairie State Achievement Exam or any other state-authorized test or any parts thereof as a portion of their high school graduation requirements. Students would be evaluated according to their ability to pass said test. Students not passing could remedy discrepancies during their senior year and/or be given an option to retake the test to meet graduation requirements.

Rationale: School districts are held accountable for student results on the PSAE, a high-stakes test. Therefore, there is no valid reason why students, and even families, should not be part of the accountability process. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, twenty-six states have high school exit exams: AL, AK, AZ, AR (2010), CA, FL, GA, ID, IN, LA, MD, MA, MN, MS, NV, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OH, OK (2010), SC, TN, TX, VA, WA.

Resolutions Committee RECOMMENDS "DO NOT ADOPT"

Resolutions Committee Rationale: The submitting district has proposed this idea (or a version thereof) the last eight years. This resolution is identical to the resolution submitted last year.

In each of the last eight years, the Resolutions Committee has recommended "Do Not Adopt" and in each of those years, the Delegate Assembly has rejected the proposal.

Again, the Resolutions Committee voiced concerns that the resolution is contrary to other IASB Position Statements that are against "high stakes tests". There is also the persistent concern that legislators could eventually mandate the tests if prompted first to create permissive language in legislation. Further, while the resolution calls for the ability of the student to "retake the test to meet graduation requirements", a law was just recently passed eliminating the administration of the test a second time.

2. Student Academic Placement

Submitted by: Millstadt CCSD 160

BE IT RESOLVED that the Illinois Association of School Boards shall: support local school district and parent collaboration, evaluation and decision-making regarding the grade-level placement of students based upon their academic, social, and emotional maturity and readiness to advance. When parental advancement requests deviate from normal school advancement, school districts maintain the authority to evaluate and place students.

Rationale: In light of the recent passage of PA 96-0864, school districts must have the local control to ensure that a child is placed at the grade level that provides the best educational experience for the student. The IASB already

has a position in favor of local control. This position statement is just an extension of our original position in regard to a specific need that often affects school districts; and to protect school districts in response to legislation that has the potential to infringe on this specific area of local control.

Resolutions Committee RECOMMENDS "DO ADOPT"

Resolutions Committee Rationale: There have been several pieces of legislation in the Capitol over the last few years regarding student placement. And though the IASB has position statements on a multitude of issues, there is no specific position regarding schools maintaining their authority over evaluation and placement of students. It was the consensus of the Resolutions Committee that having a position fortified by the Delegate Assembly process gives weight to IASB staff during legislative negotiations.

FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION – STATE

3. Multi County School District GSA Offset

Submitted by: Consolidated SD 158 – Huntley

BE IT RESOLVED that the Illinois Association of School Boards shall: support legislation to modify the GSA (General State Aid) Formula calculation for multi-county PTELL (Property Tax Extension Limitation Law) school districts which have lost GSA for current and prior years due to an estimate of Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) utilized by the county providing the limiting rate to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) for use in calculating a District's GSA.

Rationale: Adversely affected districts are losing 10-25% of their GSA annually due to the rollover indexing calculation in the GSA formula. Thus, even though a district may have been affected in one year, there is a continuous loss of GSA year after year. The GSA EAV component of the GSA Formula, since the estimated EAV used in the limiting rate can dramatically skew what appears to be Available Local Resources to a district, when, in fact, the district's actual tax extension is significantly less than the charged Available Local Resources. This is an issue that places multi-county districts at a significant disadvantage as compared to single county districts, which have only one limiting rate, and therefore, are never at risk of the loss of GSA due to this issue.

The GSA for PTELL districts utilizes an indexing formula to determine GSA EAV, which calculates an increase to the prior year GSA EAV by the percent increase in tax extensions from one year to the next, to determine the district's Available Local Resources in the formula. The actual calculation (Extension Limitation Ratio) of this percent increase utilizes the PTELL term "limiting rate" in the numerator of the ratio. The limiting rate is a technical term used to define the maximum tax extension rate that a PTELL district may receive in a year.

The problem is the limiting rate is calculated in each

county that the district is in, and often is calculated using different EAV information. Often a county will use an "estimate" or just use prior year information to make the limiting rate calculation, which can create a large disparity in extended rates between a county using estimated EAV and a county using actual EAV.

The ISBE has typically utilized the limiting rate from the "home" county, where Regional Office of Education (ROE) affiliation is located, even though that county may have used an estimate in calculating the limiting rate. The legislature has recently acknowledged the inadequacy of this methodology and passed legislation that may remedy the use of the "correct limiting rate". However, no provision has been put into law that would fix the significant damage that has already been done to several school districts.

Resolutions Committee RECOMMENDS "DO ADOPT"

Resolutions Committee Rationale: Periodically, one or more of the counties must estimate the Equalized Assessed Value for that portion of the school district located in that county. When this estimation occurs and the Limiting Rate is calculated for the school district, it impacts GSA and may result in lost state revenue to the school district. Those numbers are never corrected to reflect the actual EAV for calculating available local resources in future years, resulting in inaccurate calculation and exponential loss extending into the future.

The Illinois State Board of Education has been opposed to making this change in the calculation of GSA primarily because fixing the calculation requires a complicated calculation in how the modified figure is applied into the future. And though there would be an impact on GSA for all other schools as a result of the state's finite resources and the mechanics of calculating and distributing GSA, it was the consensus of the committee that this is a fairness issue for the school districts that are impacted by this phenomenon. It is consistent with past practice, as when the IASB supported the fix for the "Double Whammy" calculation of the State aid formula after the passage of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law.

4. Income Tax Payment Offset

Submitted by: Indian Prairie CUSD 204

BE IT RESOLVED that the Illinois Association of School Boards shall: support legislation to allow school districts to "set-off" income tax payments due to the state against amounts owed by the state to school districts, when the state is delinquent in their already approved and appropriated payments to school districts.

Rationale: The state has consistently delayed payments to school districts as a means of financing its budget shortfalls (as of May 2010, the State is behind \$1.4 billion in payments to school districts). This practice negatively impacts the financial operation of school districts. In addition, many school districts are forced to incur substantial borrowing costs to make up the funding shortfall. Currently, school districts are forwarding millions in income tax payments to the same entity that is behind \$1.4 billion in payments to school districts.

Allowing school districts to "set-off" income tax payments due the State against amounts owed by the State to school districts will provide school districts critical funding and lessen the impact of past-due payments on district operations.

Resolutions Committee RECOMMENDS "DO ADOPT"

Resolutions Committee Rationale: The proposal spurred a lengthy debate among the committee members. Responses varied from applauding the ingenuity and creativeness of the proposal to dismissing the resolution as a misuse of the Association's time. Though there were concerns about the proposal – the prospect of other entities (pharmacies, nursing homes, hospitals, other units of local government) pushing for the same opportunity and the fear of the State losing even more dollars that could be sent to suffering school districts – it was the consensus of the committee to recommend "Do Adopt". Committee members stressed the difficult financial times, the lack of a legitimate response to the fiscal crisis by the General Assembly, and the opportunity to "send a message" to the legislature.

FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION – LOCAL

5. TRS Pension Levy

Submitted by: United THSD 30

BE IT RESOLVED that the Illinois Association of School Boards shall: support legislation allowing for the addition of Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) pension obligations to be levied and paid under the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) pension levy or a newly established levy for TRS.

Rationale: Currently, local school districts and other governmental entities are allowed to levy taxes to cover IMRF obligations. This obligation is separate from existing operating funds (Education, Operations and Maintenance, Transportation and Working Cash). TRS obligations, however, are paid out of an operating fund (usually the Education Fund). By allowing school districts to levy for TRS (similar to IMRF) more revenue would be available for direct educational expenditures.

Resolutions Committee RECOMMENDS "DO NOT ADOPT"

Resolutions Committee Rationale: The resolution is written as supporting the option to levy separately, and the IASB usually supports additional flexibility for districts. There were, however, concerns among the committee members: TRS is a State system while IMRF is not, co-mingling of the funds could be a problem; if the pension levy remains under the property tax cap, school districts in tax-capped counties may not be able to access the amount necessary to cover the pension costs; considering the current economic climate, it could be extremely difficult to pass a referendum to increase property taxes only to pay for teachers' pensions when many taxpayers receive little to no retirement income support from their employers.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

6. Budget Stability for School Districts

Submitted by: Consolidated SD 158 – Huntley

BE IT RESOLVED that the Illinois Association of School Boards shall: support legislation requiring the Illinois General Assembly to determine the amount of funding for educational entitlements and General State Aid no later than March 31 (3 months prior to the start of the budget year).

Rationale: The lack of responsibility and leadership in the General Assembly can no longer be tolerated by the educational community. School boards and administrators are unable to make sound budgeting decisions without any guidance provided by the State on the level of funding that can be relied upon to fund the operations of our respective school districts. Key decision making is required several months before the budget year starts. School districts have been forced to make decisions that adversely affect the quality of education throughout the State, without this critical piece of information. School boards and administrators are willing to make tough budget decisions that the General Assembly appears to be unable to do, however, we need to know the funding that we are working with prior to the start of a budget year, so that precise and informed decisions can be made. Also, we believe legislators should hold themselves to the same Open Meetings Act standards that School Boards do when going through the budget process.

Resolutions Committee RECOMMENDS "DO ADOPT"

Resolutions Committee Rationale: Schools face great uncertainty in budgeting for the upcoming year's programming and operations because of Illinois' state budgetary process. Though school districts are beginning budget planning in the early spring of the year, with Reduction in Force notices due in early April, the General Assembly does not complete the State budget until late May. Over the past several years, the State budget battles have drawn out throughout the summer and into the fall.

Though the committee agreed that the disconnect between the State's budget deadline and the school districts' fiscal needs is problematic, there was some hesitation regarding this proposal. Since the final budget is always part of the larger legislative picture, the likelihood of legislators changing the budgetary process for one special interest is not great.

7. Education Funding Stability

Submitted by: Indian Creek CUSD 425

BE IT RESOLVED that the Illinois Association of School Boards shall: support the following: A balanced state budget must be approved by both houses of the state legislature by March 1 of any calendar year. Failure to do so shall result in:

- A) The funding for PK-12 education remaining at the previous fiscal year's levels.

OR

- B) A personal fine of \$500 for each elected official involved with the passage of said budget.

Rationale: It's self explanatory.

Resolutions Committee RECOMMENDS "DO NOT ADOPT"

Resolutions Committee Rationale: The Resolutions Committee acknowledges the challenges that occur because the Illinois General Assembly does not adopt a State budget until late in the spring (usually the end of May). This causes problems because the local school district must be making budgetary decisions much earlier (i.e. issuing Reduction-in-Force notices in early April).

Resolution #6, which has been recommended "Do Adopt" by the committee, addresses this same issue. Resolution #6 strives to move the State budget deadline to March 31 (as opposed to March 1 in this proposal). And Resolution #6 does not include the provision to fine individual lawmakers for failing to approve the budget on time. The Resolutions Committee did not support the personal fine for lawmakers, and it was noted that the IASB has consistently opposed legislation that proposed personal fines for school board members because of certain actions taken.

It was the consensus of the Committee to not recommend approval of this resolution, but to endorse Resolution #6.

LOCAL-STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS

8. Attorney General Monitoring

Submitted by: Woodland CCSO 50

BE IT RESOLVED that the Illinois Association of School Boards shall: in their role of representing their member school boards establish and enact procedures to monitor monthly the official website of the Office of the State Attorney General and notify monthly in writing member Illinois School Districts of all binding orders. Further to establish procedures for receipt and notification of all binding orders received by the member Illinois School Districts and sent to IASB for dissemination to its members.

Rationale: The Attorney General's Office has been granted new authority regarding the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Open Meetings Act (OMA) pursuant to Illinois Public Act 96-0542. Illinois School Districts are bound by the decisions of the Public Access Counselor in the Office of the Attorney General. These decisions are binding and are considered a final decision of the Attorney General thereby affecting all Illinois School Districts. The Attorney General is required to post his/her binding opinions on the official website of the Office of the Attorney General. However, no requirement appears to exist for the Attorney General's office to notify school districts of these decisions that affect them. Each school district that is affected when the decision is made will need to have information of that decision from the Illinois Attorney General's office. That information needs to be sent to the IASB to be distributed to all member districts. Without notification, districts may inadvertently fail to comply with the binding order whereby putting all districts at risk for violation.

Resolutions Committee RECOMMENDS "DO NOT ADOPT"

Resolutions Committee Rationale: The committee agreed that the proposal has merit and the issue should be addressed. The new FOIA law, and the resulting decisions of the Attorney General's Public Access Counselor, are of major importance to local boards of education. Closer monitoring of that office, and subsequent notification to local school boards, is certainly a function of IASB staff.

However, it was the consensus of the committee that the decision to specifically direct staff is not a function of the Delegate Assembly, or of the IASB Board of Directors. The board hires an Executive Director who is in charge of directing association staff. Therefore the proposal should not become an IASB Position Statement.

The Resolutions Committee directed the resolution to the IASB Board of Directors and requested that this issue be brought to the attention of the IASB Executive Director Emeritus for further action.

9. Freedom of Information Act Changes

Submitted by: Keeneyville SD 20

BE IT RESOLVED that the Illinois Association of School Boards shall: support legislation to modify the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to facilitate school districts' compliance with the Act and to remove unnecessary burdens on units of local government. The legislative changes should:

- Increase allowable FOIA response time from 5 business days to 10 business days
- Exclude official school breaks in counting days for required response time
- Allow denials for commercial purposes
- Allow denials for any request that is unduly burdensome
- Clarify language that would allow a request to be denied if it is unduly burdensome to the public body if the public body deems compliance with the request would result in excessive response costs
- Allow the imposition of reasonable fees regardless of the number of pages being provided
- Remove the balancing test between the public's interest and the employee's right to privacy in the privacy exception
- Expand the personnel evaluation exemption to cover all school employees
- Exempt employment applications to protect the privacy of individuals that apply for high profile employment positions
- Delete provisions requiring public bodies to write what is essentially a legal opinion as to why they are claiming an exemption
- Delete provisions requiring public bodies to prepare what is essentially a legal pleading before being challenged for a denial
- Limit public bodies' liability by limiting a court's inquiry

to violations of the FOIA Act and not the content of information provided

- Force the Public Access Counselor to defend its decisions before a court of law if a public body is sued
- Allow public bodies to seek review of a binding opinion of the Public Access Counselor in the county in which they are located rather than just Sangamon or Cook Counties.

Rationale: (Extension of time limit and delaying response during a published break) – The education community agrees that the public should have access to public information. However business and school office staffs have been drastically reduced due to the lack of State funding. Fulfilling FOIA requests is an additional responsibility and can be burdensome, depending on the amount and type of information requested. Allowing 10 business days for a response to a valid FOIA request is realistic; 5 days is not.

Very limited staff, if any, is available during the published school break periods. This makes the timely fulfillment of FOIA requests unlikely and sets the District up for failure.

(Denying a FOIA request for commercial purposes) – School personnel should not be utilized to provide sales information (i.d., vendor names, addresses, product purchases, etc.) to business entities. School personnel should be utilized to support the educational community. Fulfilling FOIA requests for commercial purposes allows businesses to use school personnel to do their sales research/work. This is inappropriate use of school funds.

Resolutions Committee RECOMMENDS "DO ADOPT"

Resolutions Committee Rationale: The Resolutions Committee quickly agreed that this was a significant issue which needs to be re-addressed by the legislature. In fact, it was the consensus of the committee that the proposal as originally drafted may not go far enough to address all of the problems with the new FOIA law.

The committee, along with the submitting district, agreed that there is support by the committee but that the proposal should be re-drafted (with the guidance of IASB staff) to include even more proposed changes to the FOIA law. The above resolution is the final, revised FOIA proposal.

DISTRICT ORGANIZATION AND ELECTIONS

10. Consolidation into Unit Districts

Submitted by: Barrington CUSD 220

BE IT RESOLVED that the Illinois Association of School Boards shall: seek and support legislation to promote the consolidation of all Illinois' school districts into unit districts.

Rationale: in 2002, the IASB adopted position statement number 7.09 which states: "The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support a provision to allow the unit district formation of those districts wishing to consolidate."

This position is not strong enough given the import of this matter to the health and viability of the public school system in Illinois.

The current economic environment only underscores the need to promote and incentivize consolidation.

Formation of unit school districts across the state would save administrative costs, put more money into classrooms, and/or reduce tax rates. Unit districts help school administrators provide more continuity in curriculum between elementary, middle and high schools.

Illinois' 875 school districts are a far cry from the 12,000 one-room schoolhouse districts in Illinois in 1940. But since a law designed to ease consolidation restrictions passed in 1985, the number of districts has dropped by only about 125.

Illinois remains one of only a handful of states that allow schools in the same area to be divided into elementary districts and high school districts, with separate sets of administrators. Most states require all schools to be in unit districts-kindergarten through 12th grade under one administration.

Current IASB position statement 7.01 ("District

Reorganization") would need to be amended or superseded with approval of this resolution for consistency.

Resolutions Committee RECOMMENDS "DO NOT ADOPT"

Resolutions Committee Rationale: This is the fifth consecutive year that the submitting district has proposed this resolution. In those years, the Resolutions Committee has recommended "Do Not Adopt" and the Delegate Assembly has rejected the proposal.

The committee believes that the decision to reorganize or consolidate a school district should be at the discretion of the local board and the local community. Arbitrary requirements to reorganize a school district based on district type or enrollment is contrary to the association's belief in the local control of school districts.

Further, there was some concern over the idea that consolidating school districts automatically results in cost savings. Depending on the salary schedule of the school districts involved (most high school districts have higher salary schedules than the elementary school districts), it could actually be more costly in the long run for school districts to consolidate if they use the highest salary schedule of those school districts involved.

AMENDED EXISTING POSITIONS

FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION - LOCAL

11. ISBE Oversight Agreement

Submitted by: IASB Resolutions Committee

2.26 ISBE OVERSIGHT AGREEMENT

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall work to modify state statutes governing Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) school district oversight panels or finance authorities. Statutory changes should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Unless called for by the local school district, an oversight panel or finance authority shall not be imposed without a rigorous set of criteria proving the school district will not or can not serve the needs of its students, staff and community;
- Clear benchmarks and goals shall be included in the establishment of an oversight panel or finance authority and once substantially met, the oversight panel or finance authority shall be dissolved;
- Bonding authority and issuance must remain the responsibility of the elected school board so that the duration of the oversight can be minimal;
- Progress toward benchmarks and goals must be reviewed and shared with the school district under oversight on a regular basis including any reasons or

criteria for inability to make progress. Review should also recommend any modifications needed to achieve success;

- Due process and review by the Attorney General must be afforded school districts when appropriate; and
- ISBE authority to establish oversight panels or finance authorities shall not be broadened to facilitate imposition of a panel or authority or to expand their oversight once put in place. (Adopted 2009)

Resolutions Committee RECOMMENDS "DO ADOPT"

Resolution Committee Rationale: The third bullet point was inadvertently left off of the suggested language adopted 2009 for this new Position Statement. Bullet three reflects attempts by the Illinois State Board of Education to expand its authority and the authority of a School Finance Authority Panel or Financial Oversight Panel to include bonding on behalf of the district without approval of the locally elected board of education. This bonding authority would also extend the existence of the oversight for the school district to the number of years the bonds are in place and outstanding.

The ISBE continues to forward legislation that would combine the Financial Oversight Panel law with the Finance Authority Law and expand the scope of oversight and takeover on the part of the ISBE. The IASB has been diligent in opposing this effort, however it will aid Association efforts to have a comprehensive position statement as well.

CURRENT POSITIONS

1.01 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Illinois Association of School Boards urges its member districts to develop educational programs so as to maximize educational opportunities for students by fully utilizing teacher and staff potential, community resources and physical facilities. The goal of each district shall be to serve the interest, talents and needs of each child through an outstanding well-balanced program. The Association shall also encourage its members to increase their awareness of the Mental Health Code (405 ILCS 49/15) which supports developments and implementation of a plan to incorporate social and emotional standards as part of the Illinois Learning Standards. (Adopted 1959; Amended 1988, 2009)

1.02 CURRICULAR MATERIAL DETERMINATION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support the right and responsibility of each local school board to determine its curricular content. (Adopted 1981; Amended 1983, 1988, 2001)

1.03 PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support modifications to existing state mandates which shall allow boards of education to establish time requirements for physical education at the K-12 level. (Portions Adopted 1982, 1986; Reaffirmed 1984, 1987; Amended 1988, 1995)

1.04 STUDENT RETENTION AND HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall urge Congress and the Illinois General Assembly to commit the appropriate resources and develop programs that would reduce the dropout rate throughout the state of Illinois with specific emphasis on early intervention in the elementary level and continuous intervention at the secondary school level to facilitate graduation. (Adopted 1986; Amended 2003)

1.05 PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation to fully fund with new monies for both staffing and infrastructure costs associated with early childhood programs for such children as originally defined in PA 84-126, and further addressed in Public Act 94-0506 and Public Act 94-1054. (Adopted 1986; Amended 2001, 2006, 2007)

1.06 DISCIPLINE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall develop and implement a legislative agenda at the Federal and State levels which urges the adoption of legislation easing the legal restrictions imposed on local school boards for disciplining students enrolled in special education programs, including the suspension and expulsion of such students, and providing for a less restrictive access to

records of transferees due to expulsion. (Adopted 1994; Amended 1995)

1.07 STANDARDIZED TEST PROCEDURES

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall urge the Illinois State Board of Education to contract with a national testing company to develop a state assessment test that will test the Illinois Learning Standards on a yearly basis in compliance with, and only testing those areas required by, the federal "No Child Left Behind" Act. Further the IASB shall support legislation to:

- require that the test be given no later than October of each year with results received by local school districts no later than December of that same year;
- provide that assessments include both an annual overall performance measure as well as a system of formative classroom-level assessments that are linked to desired standards;
- require that the test will remain the same for 10 years with only changes in the test items to maintain security;
- require that the cut scores be set before the test results are tabulated, leaving the score ranges the same from year to year and from grade to grade; and
- expedite and fully fund test development and implementation of an appropriate assessment instrument for English language learners. (Adopted 2002; Amended 2003, 2008)

1.08 STUDENT ASSESSMENT

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation that will modify required State student assessments so testing does not go beyond what is required by federal law, and that prohibits the Illinois State Board of Education from pursuing activities designed to expand student assessment without legislative approval. Further, the Association shall support efforts to modify the Illinois and federal student assessment processes so that they will:

- reduce costs to schools, the state and therefore taxpayers
- enhance student achievement;
- increase student instructional time;
- facilitate test score comparability within and across state lines;
- fairly test students who are English language learners so that their academic progress can be accurately assessed regardless of their fluency;
- return test results in a manner that will allow school districts to maximize student learning;
- comply with the federal accountability mandate tied to testing;
- maintain a needed emphasis on the Illinois Learning Standards; and

- develop a reporting process that reflects a school's progress beyond simply student assessment scores. (Adopted 2002; Amended 2008)

1.09 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

The Illinois Association of School Boards:

- strongly disagrees with the premise that the quality and complexity of teaching and learning can be adequately and solely assessed by one achievement test given once during the school year;
- disagrees with the practice of assessing all schools with inconsistent standards allowed to be used by individual states to determine school accountability and adequate yearly progress;
- believes that the federal government has no authority to sanction local school districts; and
- believes that the current Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) accountability model for students with disabilities is not consistent with the goals of the new IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), as amended.

Therefore, the IASB shall work with the National School Boards Association and other coalitions to urge Congress and the Illinois General Assembly to:

- amend the provision allowing for one high-stakes test to determine student achievement;
- remove the provisions for local school district sanctions;
- focus on professional development for teachers and administrators;
- fully fund any requirements placed on local school districts;
- amend the Act to permit alternate assessments and other appropriate measures of achievement for students with disabilities as specifically addressed by the student's Individual Education Program (IEP);
- amend the act to permit alternate assessments and other appropriate measures for English language learners, including but not limited to providing directions and question content in their most fluent language, or to allow removal of individual English language learners from the subgroup when no appropriate test at their language level exists;
- allow academic progress to be charted by comparing performance measures made at periodic intervals within cohorts of students rather than by comparing the grade level group test scores from year to year; and
- reject the adoption of an NCLB requirement that high school students be tested annually as the sole measure of academic achievement. (Adopted 2003; Amended 2005, 2008)

1.10 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND – MILITARY RECRUITMENT

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall work with the National School Boards Association and other coalitions to urge Congress and the General Assembly of Illinois to, regarding the No Child Left Behind Act, replace

the opt-out burden on parents with an opt-in provision with regard to the requirement of secondary schools to disclose student information to military recruiters. (Adopted 2005)

1.11 ADVANCED PLACEMENT FOR STUDENTS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall offer and support legislation guaranteeing that the graduates of Illinois public high schools who achieve the following scores on Advanced Placement examinations shall be accorded, at minimum, the following benefits by all Illinois public colleges and universities:

For scores of 3, 4 or 5, full credit for completion of the college or university course corresponding to the Advanced Placement exam, including the award of the semester or credit hours (or their equivalent) which would have been earned if the student had successfully completed the coursework and any predecessor coursework at the post-secondary institution.

In all cases, Illinois public colleges and universities shall be free to award credit or benefits for scores below 3 as they see fit. Similarly, Illinois public colleges and universities shall continue to be free to grant such additional credit and placement in still higher coursework for scores of 4 and 5 as they see fit. (Adopted 2004)

1.12 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DAYS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support a policy variance by the Illinois State Board of Education to allow Unit School Districts the option to stagger the start and end date of schools within their district based on developmental and educational appropriateness, without penalty to state aid appropriations, provided that all students in the district meet required student attendance requirements. (Adopted 2004)

1.13 IEP OUT-OF-GRADE LEVEL ASSESSMENT

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall advocate for, offer, encourage and support legislative action designed to:

1. Issue findings that No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is in conflict with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), in particular in reference to the failure of NCLB to permit the use of out-of-grade level assessments to evaluate the achievement of students whose Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) calls for such testing;
2. Call on, petition and recommend that the United States Department of Education clarify the assessment rules of NCLB to permit the use of out-of-grade level assessments to evaluate students whose IEP calls for such testing;
3. Compel the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to take all steps available to it (including, but not limited to, granting such exceptions and flexibility as it is maximally allowed under NCLB and altering its plans for NCLB implementation in Illinois) to permit as much IEP-consistent assessment testing as students' IEPs may dictate in evaluating the progress of students with IEPs;

4. Take such steps as ISBE and the General Assembly may determine are necessary to cause the implementation of NCLB in Illinois to be harmonized with the requirements of IDEA; and
5. Make it clear to all persons that out-of-grade level assessments are not "alternate assessments" for purposes of NCLB. (Adopted 2006)

1.14 FUNDING FOR DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall seek administrative and legislative actions calling for the provision of separate and sufficient new monies to support programs of differentiated instruction for those students identified as having exceptional talents and abilities, permitting these students to reach their potential. Such student talents and abilities may be in areas that expand beyond the core curricula. To ensure efficiency and productivity in the implementation of these programs, school districts should be provided sufficient flexibility in the acquisition and expenditure of such State funds. (Adopted 2007)

1.15 PRESCHOOL—PRIORITIZE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support full funding of early childhood programs operated by public schools as a priority. All programs receiving any public monies shall be required to meet all standards and oversight applicable to programs operated by public schools. (Adopted 2007)

1.16 BILINGUAL EDUCATION OPTIONS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall request the Illinois State Legislature to pass legislation to amend the current Illinois School Code to make Transitional Bilingual Education optional and not mandatory. (Adopted 2008)

FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION — STATE

2.01 PRIORITY AND SUPPORT

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall urge the Governor and General Assembly of Illinois to establish education as the number one priority of state government, to increase funding of education to such levels as would be necessary to implement the constitutional requirement that the state have primary responsibility for financing the system of public education, including the funding of educational reform, and to adjust the state aid formula to offset increased inflationary costs. (Portions Adopted 1973, 1977, and 1986; Amended 1988; Reaffirmed 2000, 2004, 2006)

2.02 FUNDING SOURCES

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support the enactment of additional sources of state revenue if, after thorough examination of state funding priorities, it is determined that such additional taxes are necessary. (Adopted 1975; Reaffirmed 1987; Amended 1988)

2.03 FUNDING MANDATED PROGRAMS

The Illinois Association of School Boards believes that legislation encroaching upon local and lay control of the public schools should be curtailed, and, therefore:

- shall oppose programs or services mandated by the Illinois General Assembly, the State Board of Education, or any other State agency, unless there is clear evidence of need for the mandate and the Illinois General Assembly provides non-local revenues to fully fund the additional costs of those programs;
 - shall urge the members of the General Assembly to strictly comply with the State Mandates Act, including specifying and labeling in the descriptions of legislation containing unfunded mandates that such mandates occur, and to refrain from passing any legislation which contains an exemption from the Act, and urge the Governor to veto any such legislation that may reach the Governor's desk;
 - shall urge State agencies and commissions that adopt regulations accompanying legislative mandates to specify required outcomes and criteria for determining compliance, and allow local districts to determine the specific methods and procedures by which required outcomes will be accomplished. Required time lines for accomplishment should reflect consideration of the human and material resources and amount of deliberation and development necessary to accomplish the mandate
 - shall urge the General Assembly to adopt legislation which would allow school districts greater flexibility in regard to state mandates and the use of grants.
- (Adopted 1976; Amended 1988, 1989, 2001, 2005; Reaffirmed 1980, 1991, 1994, 1999, 2002, 2009)

2.04 FUNDING SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall urge the Congress of the United States to adequately fund Public Law 94-142 (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) commensurate with the mandates required by the Act:

- shall strongly encourage the State of Illinois to totally fund with new monies, in a timely manner, the extra costs of educating children with special needs including transportation and accessibility costs;
- shall seek changes in current practice to fund local districts for special education professional personnel at 51% of the prior year's average salary for such professionals; and
- shall continue to oppose any requirement that local public school districts pay room and board costs for any handicapped child placed in private facilities. (Portions adopted 1977, 1980, 1986; Portions Reaffirmed 1985, 1986, 2002; Amended 1988, 2000, 2001)

2.05 CORPORATE PERSONAL PROPERTY REPLACEMENT TAX

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall oppose any attempt to reduce the Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax revenues provided by the current Act. (Adopted 1981)

2.06 IMPACT AID (STUDENT HOUSING)

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation reinstating Impact Aid to school districts where there are students residing in housing provided on state property from which no property taxes are received. The Impact Aid shall be based on the number of students generated from the state property. (Adopted 1986)

2.07 CONTRACTING DRIVER'S EDUCATION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation authorizing school districts to provide a comprehensive driver education program through contract. Such contracts shall be made with properly authorized persons or agencies and may include provisions calling for the use of school property. (Adopted 1982)

2.08 TAX ASSESSMENT SCHEDULES

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall seek and support legislation to promote the beneficial realignment of tax assessment dates and school levy deadlines. (Adopted 1988; Reaffirmed 1998)

2.09 PERMISSIVE RATE EQUALIZATION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall urge the Illinois General Assembly to equalize taxing authority without referendum of dual and unit districts in all funds so that the unit districts' authority would be equal to the sum of the dual districts' tax rate. (Adopted 1981; Amended 1986; Reaffirmed 1988)

2.10 MOBILE HOME TAXATION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislative changes in the calculation and collection of Local Services Tax on Mobile Homes which will more adequately reflect the value of the dwelling and value of services afforded the owners of the dwelling. (Adopted 1978; Amended 1986; Reaffirmed 1988, 1996)

2.11 TRANSPORTATION LEVY (EXCESS COST)

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation which will permit school districts, which have reached a levy of 12 cents in the transportation fund and which transport children in accordance with the statutes of the state of Illinois, to increase the levy in the transportation fund subject to backdoor referendum, to a figure necessary to compensate for the transportation expenditures which are not covered by the amount of funds obtained from local taxes and the amount of reimbursement received from the state of Illinois. (Adopted 1981)

2.12 RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT COSTS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall inform the General Assembly and Governor's Office that children who are wards of the State create a significant impact on local school district budgets when they are placed in temporary shelters and foster homes. Further, the State shall provide 100% of the cost of these placements. The Association:

- shall work to increase the financial incentives to those local school districts which provide alternatives to resi-

dential placement for those students;

- shall initiate and support legislation that will require the Department of Children and Family Services to involve local school districts in any plans for group placements of children in those districts and that funds for educating the placed youngsters must be earmarked (appropriated, planned for) in the agency's budget prior to finalizing any plan; and
- shall seek and support legislation for the State of Illinois to provide funds to local school districts for purchasing or constructing additional classrooms that are required to provide instruction for students who reside in state facilities located within the district. (Adopted 1991; Amended 2001)

2.13 STATE AID PAYMENTS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation that requires the State of Illinois to make general state aid payments to school districts, on a monthly basis, during the entitlement year in which they are appropriated. (Adopted 1991; Reaffirmed 2000)

2.14 CAPITAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall actively work with the Illinois General Assembly and the Illinois State Board of Education to increase capital funding for public school infrastructure improvement and development. The IASB shall advocate that the General Assembly study and consider additional forms of financial revenue for school construction needs, including but not limited to, sales tax revenue. Any new revenue shall supplement current school construction funds, not supplant them. (Adopted 1994; Amended 1998, 2006; Reaffirmed 2007)

2.15 HEAT DAYS FUNDING

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall strongly support legislation to totally fund "heat" days for our schools. (Adopted 1996)

2.16 SUMMER SCHOOL FUNDING

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation to provide adequate funding to school districts to provide summer school "at risk" academic programs. (Adopted 1996)

2.17 LOCAL TAX COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall seek legislation to amend the tax code, or other prescriptive procedures, to minimize the punitive effects of delinquent collection and disbursement to districts of tax moneys raised by local levy. In the event tax monies are not collected or disbursed as required by State law, it shall be the county's obligation to reimburse the taxing district for any loss incurred. (Adopted 1996; Amended 1999)

2.18 TAX LEVY AMENDMENTS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall seek legislation to provide that a duly constituted Board of Education may submit an amended tax levy to avail itself

of potential additional revenue through a change and increase in district EAV (Equalized Assessed Valuation), provided the original levy was properly filed on time, based upon the best information available at the time of filing, and the change in EAV has occurred since the filing of the original levy. (Adopted 1996)

2.19 ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support adequate State funding for regional alternative schooling programs. (Adopted 1997)

2.20 TORT IMMUNITY FUND

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall oppose legislation that seeks to limit a school district's legitimate use of the tort immunity fund. This includes amendments to the Local Government and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act that would prohibit the issuance of bonds or the levying of taxes by a school board to fund the costs of complying with equitable remedies or relief, or with an injunction agreed to by the school board or ordered by any court. (Adopted 1998)

2.21 SCHOOL FUNDING AND TAXATION REFORM

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall actively support the general concepts regarding school funding reform, property tax relief and tax reform identified in the legislative outline prepared by the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability in June of 2004. Legislation resulting from that legislative outline shall be supported by the Illinois Association of School Boards provided that: the State guarantees the payment of property tax relief grants will be made in a timely fashion with no loss of funds to the school district: school districts have continued access to local property tax revenues through levies and referenda the legislation meets the criteria outlined in the IASB Position Statement 2.34 - School Finance Reform. (Adopted 2004; Amended 2005)

2.22 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall continue to support the current School Construction Grant Program and its provisions for grant applications, grant entitlements, grant awards, and local school district authority to select architects, engineers, contractors, and laborers. All school districts with an approved school construction grant entitlement shall be paid the amount of the entitlement in its entirety before a new school construction program can be implemented. (Adopted 2006)

2.23 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION GRANT INDEX

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation that would amend Section 5-5 of 105 ILCS 230 to calculate the grant index in the school construction program for each of those school districts that consolidate or join for a cooperative high school after July 1, 2006

and utilize whichever grant index is highest for the newly consolidated district or cooperative high school rather than a composite index of all districts involved. (Adopted 2006)

2.24 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON SCHOOL FUNDING

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support passage of an amendment to the Illinois Constitution that would make education a fundamental right, would make it a paramount duty for the State to provide a thorough and efficient system of public education, and that would provide that the State has the preponderant financial responsibility for financing the system of public education. (Adopted 2006; Reaffirmed 2007)

2.25 NON-RESIDENT STUDENT TUITION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation to allow legally enrolled students who have become non-residents of the district to attend the school as a non-resident student, tuition-free, only until the end of the grading period in which the student was determined to be a non-resident. The legislation should allow students who are seniors in high school, and legally enrolled on the first day of school to continue in the district, tuition free, only until the end of that school year. (Adopted 2007; Reaffirmed 2008)

2.26 ISBE OVERSIGHT AGREEMENT

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall work to modify state statutes governing Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) school district oversight panels or finance authorities. Statutory changes should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Unless called for by the local school district, an oversight panel or finance authority shall not be imposed without a rigorous set of criteria proving the school district will not or can not serve the needs of its students, staff and community;
- Clear benchmarks and goals shall be included in the establishment of an oversight panel or finance authority and once substantially met, the oversight panel or finance authority shall be dissolved;
- Progress toward benchmarks and goals must be reviewed and shared with the school district under oversight on a regular basis including any reasons or criteria for inability to make progress. Review should also recommend any modifications needed to achieve success;
- Due process and review by the Attorney General must be afforded school districts when appropriate; and
- ISBE authority to establish oversight panels or finance authorities shall not be broadened to facilitate imposition of a panel or authority or to expand their oversight once put in place. (Adopted 2009)

FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION — LOCAL

2.27 PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall oppose the assessment and collection of property taxes at the statewide level. (Adopted 1987)

2.28 PROPERTY TAX BASE

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall oppose any reduction in a district's access to local property tax revenue and shall oppose legislation that would erode the property tax base to educate children in the state of Illinois. (Adopted 1987; Amended 1988, 2001; Reaffirmed 2005, 2006)

2.29 STANDING ON TAX APPEALS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislative action to enable public school districts, in Cook County specifically, to (1) receive notices of assessment appeals in excess of \$100,000; (2) become participants in assessment reduction proceedings at the administrative and judicial levels; and (3) allow the refund to be credited toward future property tax payments. Further, the IASB urges that the necessary resources be made available in order to facilitate the timely processing of property tax appeal proceedings. (Adopted 1975; Amended 1988, 2000, 2005, 2006; Reaffirmed 1985)

2.30 TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support changes in the current Tax Increment Financing statute that will model adoption procedures after those established for Enterprise Zones, continue to provide definitions for terms such as "blighted" used in the statute, develop procedures for disbanding TIF areas that do not produce anticipated growth, remove the requirement that all taxing bodies participate equally, to be monitored by the TIF Joint Review Board at each of its scheduled meetings, reduce the financial impact of the TIF area so that the percentage loss of Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) involved in the TIF will not exceed twice the average loss of EAV to each taxing body, limit its use in new residential development, and make the recommendation of the Joint Review Board binding. (Adopted 1986; Amended 1990, 1997; Reaffirmed 2006)

2.31 SEPARATE UTILITY ASSESSMENTS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation which provides that regulated companies and other taxpayers (including single family dwelling homeowners, farmers, and non-regulated companies) be assessed separately. (Adopted 1982)

2.32 SITE DEVELOPMENT

The Illinois Association of School Boards supports requiring builders and subdividers to dedicate land for school purposes or to make cash payments in lieu of such dedi-

cations and to allow cash payments to be used for operational expenses. (Adopted 1971; Amended 2004)

2.33 PROPERTY TAX CAP

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall oppose any limitation which would require school boards to have to go to referendum to gain authorization to extend taxes to limits previously authorized by the voters. The Association shall support legislation designed to:

- exempt the districts in counties under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) from the restrictions of the tax cap in their Fire and Life Safety, IMRF, Social Security and Tort Immunity funds
- base the property tax cap on the Employment Cost Index (ECI) rather than the Consumer Price Index;
- base any such index (CPI or ECI) on a method for calculating average over time to lessen the unpredictability of tax capped local resources; and
- to establish a "floor" to PTELL to ensure that the allowable percentage increase in
- the extension cannot be less than the allowable percentage increase in the 1998 levy year. (Adopted 1990; Amended 2001, 2002, 2006, 2009; Reaffirmed 1991)

2.34 PROPERTY TAX CAP – GSA CALCULATION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation to modify the General State Aid Formula calculation for school districts subject to PTELL (Property Tax Extension Limitation Law) such as that they are not penalized when successfully passing an operating fund rate increase referendum. (Adopted 2008)

2.35 PROPERTY TAX CLASSIFICATION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall oppose any reduction in real estate assessment for residential property which is not offset on a one-to-one ratio. (Adopted 1991)

2.36 SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall adopt as a position statement the recommendations contained in the Report of the Finance Initiative Committee of the Illinois Association of School Boards which reads:

"The State of Illinois, having the responsibility of defining requirements for elementary and secondary education, establishes that the primary purpose of schooling is the transmission of knowledge and culture through which children learn in areas necessary to their continuing development. Such areas include the language arts, mathematics, the biological, physical and social sciences, the fine arts and physical development and health.

Each school district shall give priority in the allocation of resources, including funds, time allocation, personnel, and facilities to fulfilling the primary purpose of schooling." (The School Code, 105 ILCS 5/27-1)

The Illinois Association of School Boards believes that adequate funding must be provided for each student in order to guarantee the opportunity for an appropriate public education.

An appropriate education is defined as an education that provides for all students educational opportunities that meet the goals for learning established by the state in the Education Reform Act of 1985 and local community expectations as expressed through local board policy.

The following is criteria by which proposals for school finance reform shall be evaluated:

- 1) The state's funding of public education should provide for a stable, reliable and predictable commitment of revenue.
- 2) State funding levels for public education should be a function of the actual cost of providing an appropriate education.
- 3) Adequate funding should be sought through the addition of new state revenues for public education.
- 4) Any funding formula developed by the General Assembly shall place high priority upon achieving the goal of equity in providing financial resources to local school districts.
- 5) Increased state funding for public education should not reduce the access of school districts to the local property tax base.
- 6) In the distribution of state funds to local school districts:
 - a) funding differentials for various levels of schooling are appropriate only if based on verified costs;
 - b) consideration should be given to regional differences in the cost of providing an appropriate education;
 - c) the method of calculating the number of students coming from disadvantaged backgrounds should be based on current, verifiable data;
 - d) size of school district is important only to the extent that a district provides an appropriate education.
- 7) A specified local tax effort should be required to qualify for state aid.
- 8) Authority for changing a district's aggregate tax levy should be retained by the local board of education.
- 9) Taxing authority without referendum for unit districts in all funds should be equal to the sum of the taxing authority in dual districts.
- 10) Funding should not be tied to mandated training of local Boards of Education.

In order to obtain substantial new state revenues for funding an appropriate education, the following considerations should have an impact on any proposal for school finance reform:

- a. A legitimate level and type of accountability will be needed.
- b. The physical plant needs of Illinois' school districts should be addressed.
- c. Taxpayer equity and relief, including uniform tax assessment and procedures as well as tax relief for limited fixed income and disabled citizens, should be provided. (Adopted 1990; Amended 1996, 2008; Reaffirmed 2001)

2.37 CHANGES IN SCHOOL ACCOUNTING PRACTICES

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall oppose legislation or rulemaking proposing cosmetic and costly changes in the school accounting practices or fiscal year, including but not limited to, mandatory accrual basis accounting, major program determination, depreciation allocation, and management's discussion and analysis. (Adopted 1992; Amended 2003)

2.38 TAX LAW AND ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation to create uniformity and equality in Illinois property tax laws regarding assessment practices. (Adopted 1993; Reaffirmed 2002)

2.39 IMPACT FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall participate in the development and passage of statewide enabling legislation allowing local boards of education to impose residential development impact fees with the option of local municipal control through intergovernmental cooperation. (Adopted 1994; Reaffirmed 1996, 1998)

2.40 BOND AND INTEREST LEVY

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall attempt to have legislation passed that would permit a school district to increase the bond and interest levy to recover taxes lost from an adverse Property Tax Appeal Board Decision, that caused the district to expend operating funds to amortize debt. (Adopted 1994)

2.41 LOCAL TAXES ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation that would exempt public schools from all taxes imposed by state, federal, and units of local government. They shall neither seek to deprive or deplete public schools of their funds. Each public school district shall be issued its own district's State and Federal Tax Exemption Identification Number for such exemption. It shall be the responsibility of the taxing body to notify the agency collecting the tax of its exemption and assure its implementation. (Adopted 1996; Reaffirmed 2001, 2008; Amended 2004)

2.42 PROPERTY TAX RATE INCREASES

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation that would require that new property tax rates levied immediately following successful passage of tax rate increases be used as the calculating rate and extended as required under the School Code (105 ILCS 5/17-3.2). (Adopted 2002)

2.43 PROPERTY TAX CAP EXPIRATION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support a change in State law to create a four-year sunset on the implementation of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) in each county in which PTELL has been enacted. The four-year sunset would also

apply to the enactment of PTELL in any county approving PTELL after the effective date of the legislation. Any desire to extend PTELL beyond the four years would require the County Board to again place the question on the ballot and receive a positive majority of votes in the next general election. (Adopted 2004; Reaffirmed 2006, 2007)

2.44 TRUTH IN TAXATION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall seek a modification in the Truth in Taxation Notice that reflects the natural economic appreciation effect of changes in property values when reporting the percentage increase or decrease over the previous year's tax levy. (Adopted 2006)

2.45 SALES TAX FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall advocate that the General Assembly study and consider legislation allowing school districts access to additional forms of financial revenue, both state and local sources, including but not limited to, sales tax revenue. Further, any form of additional revenue for schools must provide that school districts determine the fund(s) in which to place the additional revenue. (Adopted 2006)

2.46 ABATEMENTS FOR HOME BUILDERS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation to amend the Illinois Property Code (35 ILCS 200/18-165, et seq.) to enable Boards of Education to develop criteria for awarding abatements of school property tax to individual homebuilders. Said legislation shall provide rural school boards that are struggling with declining enrollments and loss of assessed valuation with a tool to stimulate the growth of both tax base and population base of their districts. (Adopted 2008)

FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION — FEDERAL

2.47 STATE AND LOCAL FEDERAL TAX DEDUCTION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall work with the National School Boards Association and other coalitions to defeat any legislation or regulation that would eliminate the federal income tax deduction for state and local taxes. (Adopted 1985)

2.48 E-RATE DISCOUNT PROGRAM

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall urge Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to continue to support discount programs, including but not limited to the "E-Rate" program created in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, to provide affordable Internet access, distance-learning, and other educational programs for school districts and libraries. (Adopted 1998)

FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION — OTHER

2.49 NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

The Illinois Association of School Boards opposes payment of state funds directly or indirectly to non-public elementary and secondary schools. Specifically, the Association is opposed to the use of any form of "Educational Voucher", "Tax Deduction" and "Tax Credit" plan at the state or national level. (Portions Adopted 1970, 1975, 1982; Amended 1988; Reaffirmed 2006)

2.50 NON-PUBLIC STUDENT REPORTING

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation to require that non-public schools receiving the benefit of public funds or services, submit to the Illinois State Board of Education an annual report including the names, ages and addresses of all students enrolled in their schools. (Adopted 1980)

2.51 TRANSPORTATION FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall pursue and support legislation amending 105 ILCS 5/29-4 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes (School Code) to require schools other than public to conform to public school attendance dates and times as needed to minimize busing costs, or pay the additional costs as a result of scheduling differences in busing students attending those schools. (Adopted 1995)

2.52 TAX EXEMPT BOND USE

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall oppose any reduction by the Federal Government in the amount of tax exempt bonds which can be issued. In addition to this continuing opposition, the IASB shall explore alternatives available should such limitation be forthcoming at the Federal level. This would include but not be limited to income tax credits for individuals, commercial bonds property casualty companies, etc., to provide incentives within the State of Illinois for the purchase of said bonds. (Adopted 1989)

2.53 LIFE SAFETY FUND USE

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation that allows the State Board of Education to approve the use of monies generated from the health/life safety tax levy or the sale of health/life safety bonds for building projects that, while not specifically listed as a State Board approved project, will directly result in the improved safety of the students and/or community. Specifically, such funds shall be eligible to cover the costs for the following purposes: 1) repair or replacement of property such as school sidewalks, driveways, parking lots and playground equipment, in instances when a specific safety hazard is demonstrated by a licensed architect or engineer; 2) mandated alterations to facilities and school property pursuant to requirements of the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act; and 3) to provide air con-

ditioning and climate control in the classrooms, and to provide for the lease and/or purchase of air-conditioning equipment under the tax for leasing (including lease purchase and installment purchase) of educational facilities. (Adopted 1989; Reaffirmed 1991; Amended 1993, 2006)

2.54 STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT CARRYOVER

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall encourage the state and federal governments to remove restrictions on grant programs which currently require local school districts to return grant fund balances back to the state. (Adopted 1991)

2.55 UTILITY RATE REDUCTION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall endorse legislation for regulated utility companies (electric, gas, water) to provide service to school districts at cost. (Adopted 1991; Amended 1995)

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

3.01 BOARD MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall continue its legislative involvement and encourage increased legislative activity by local school board members at the district, division and state levels while providing leadership in guiding those board members in their efforts to seek public support of legislation essential to good school government. (Portions Adopted 1974, 1981; Amended 1988; Reaffirmed 2006)

3.02 CANDIDATE SUPPORT

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall actively encourage and assist school board members to effectively evaluate positions of legislative candidates relative to public education and to support those candidates who have demonstrated understanding and support for the principles of school management to ensure the best education for public school students in Illinois. (Adopted 1975; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 2006)

3.03 LIMITED BILL INTRODUCTIONS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall encourage the Illinois General Assembly to limit the quantity of legislation introduced in each two-year period to allow time for each bill to be researched, debated and thoroughly investigated before action by the General Assembly. (Adopted 1987)

3.04 GENERAL ASSEMBLY RULES

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support changes in the operating procedures of the Illinois General Assembly which would promote maximum exchange of information between legislators and interested citizens and ensure enlightened debate on the merits of all proposed bills and take the action necessary to prevent legislation from being changed by amendments which are not germane to the original purpose of the bill, or establish a time limit for such amendments sufficient to avoid last minute changes in the final weeks of a leg-

islative session. (Portions Adopted 1980, 1984; Amended 1988)

3.05 EFFECTIVE DATE AND STATE BOARD RULES & REGULATIONS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall encourage the Illinois General Assembly to allow a minimum of one year lead time for implementation of any regulation or legislation increasing costs in public schools. Any such changes to existing educational programs should not be implemented until the final regulations have been adopted by the State Board of Education. (Adopted 1981; Amended 1993)

3.06 DATA UTILIZATION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation requiring the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent to base rules, regulations, and recommendations regarding legislation affecting public schools on empirical research, which shall be made available to the Illinois General Assembly and the interested public. (Adopted 1987)

3.07 LOCAL LEGISLATIVE VISITS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support and encourage each local Board of Education throughout the State of Illinois to make a "good faith" effort to initiate, undertake and make an in-person visit with their local legislators in order to discuss specific issues and proposed legislation affecting local school districts. Further resolve that conducting any such visits will be part of any Awards Program adopted by the IASB that recognizes outstanding leadership and development activities by local Boards of Education. (Adopted 1995; Reaffirmed 2006)

3.08 ELECTED STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation or other appropriate action requiring that the members of the Illinois State Board of Education be elected on a regional basis. (Adopted 2002)

BOARD OPERATIONS AND DUTIES

4.01 ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall encourage the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to continue to study Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and methods to accurately identify and meet the educational needs of children with this disorder. Further, the IASB shall seek clarification of state policies and categories of special education to provide for consistency in special education placement and disseminate relevant information from the ISBE to local school districts. (Adopted 1992)

4.02 READING LOCAL RESOLUTIONS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall endorse an amendment to the state statute to make it absolutely clear that Board resolutions do not have to be read aloud. (Adopted 1992)

4.03 SELF-INSURE RISK

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall propose legislation which would allow school districts, by board resolution, to self-insure the risk previously covered by surety bonds. (Adopted 1993)

4.04 BOARD MEMBER – TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation which will allow members of Boards of Education to be reimbursed for mileage for school board meetings held in compliance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act and for events regarding school district staff. Mileage reimbursement would be paid at the federally allowable travel reimbursement rate. (Adopted 2008)

4.05 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER TRAINING

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall oppose any legislation that includes a provision for mandatory training of school board members. The IASB encourages local boards of education to model continuous improvement by pursuing all professional development and training opportunities. The IASB, with its unique combination of expertise and resources, is uniquely in the position to be the primary agency responsible for school board member training and professional development as recognized by Article 23 of the Illinois School code. (Adopted 2008)

BOARD – EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

5.01 BOARD RIGHTS

The Illinois Association of School Boards supports local boards of education's rights to determine and control, as duly elected representatives of the community, the employment, dismissal and staff reduction of certificated and non-certificated employees. To this end, the Association shall support statutory, rules and regulations changes that will:

- (a) enable the initial placement of employees on the salary schedule without regard to years of experience or graduate credit;
- (b) allow for greater flexibility in staffing patterns to improve efficiency and effectiveness of programs;
- (c) require periodic re-evaluation of tenured faculty in order to maintain tenure status (i.e., every five years);
- (d) maintain the tenure rights of teachers in cooperatives in a single district but not in multiple districts;
- (e) repeal that portion of Public Act 81-515 which requires that school boards dismiss teachers by order of seniority within the district; and
- (f) allow school districts to take action on reductions in force up to sixty calendar days following the date elementary and secondary appropriations bills become law. (Portions adopted 1976, 1979, 1980, 1983, 1984, 1988; Amended 1988, 1996, 2006; Reaffirmed 1992)

5.02 TEACHER SALARIES (LENGTH OF CONTRACT)

The Illinois Association of School Boards believes that teacher salaries should be determined at the local level; if teacher salary increases are legislatively mandated, they should be linked to an increase in the length of the teacher contract year for purposes to be determined locally. (Adopted 1985)

5.03 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall strongly oppose legislation that diminishes the local school board's ability to collectively bargain with employees and shall encourage the General Assembly, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the State Superintendent to refrain from passing legislation that tips the balance of the bargaining process in favor of employee bargaining units. The Association shall continue to oppose any change in the collective bargaining law which fails to protect the rights of students, employees, taxpayers and boards of education and their administrative staffs. (Adopted 1981; Amended 1985, 2001)

5.04 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS)

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation which would exempt substitute teachers from being eligible for unemployment compensation. (Adopted 1986)

5.05 PREVAILING WAGE ACT

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall work to repeal legislation that regulates wages of laborers, mechanics and other workers employed by school districts and those under contract for work being done in school districts. (Amended 1982, 1990; Reaffirmed 1985, 1988, 1996, 2009)

5.06 ESP PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation that allows local school boards to determine locally all contractual arrangements for education support personnel. (Adopted 1990)

5.07 ILLINOIS EDUCATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support the proposed amendment to the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act, Section 10, which provides that an employer's duty to bargain over specified matters does not include a duty to bargain over a decision to reduce the number of employees and the impact of a reduction of employees. (Adopted 1993)

5.08 WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall actively support legislation to reduce the costs of Workers' Compensation. (Adopted 1993)

5.09 IMRF QUALIFICATION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation that would amend the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) laws for non-certified school staff to change, at each local district's option, the number of minimum hours an employee would work to qualify for IMRF from the current 600 hour standard to a 1,000 hour standard. This change would only be for new employees after the effective date of the legislation. (Adopted 1994)

5.10 PROBATIONARY TEACHER DISMISSAL

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall encourage state legislators to refrain from enacting legislation further restricting a Board of Education from declining to rehire probationary teachers with or without cause. (Adopted 1994)

5.11 TENURE REPEAL

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall seek reform of the School Code to eliminate contractual continued service for teachers as currently provided by 105 ILCS 5/24-11. (Adopted 1995)

5.12 SCHOOL EMPLOYEE STRIKES

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall strongly seek and support legislation forbidding public school employees from striking. The Association shall also work with legislators, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the teachers' unions to develop alternatives to striking, including mediation and binding arbitration. (Adopted 1996; Amended 2009)

5.13 STAFF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall urge the Illinois State Board of Education to offer alternative times for staff development workshops other than during regular school hours when classes are in session. (Adopted 2000)

5.14 EARLY RETIREMENT-DISTRICT OPTION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation which will allow Boards of Education to determine if a teacher may retire exercising the Early Retirement Option (ERO) with the Teachers Retirement System (TRS). (Adopted 2006)

LOCAL - STATE - FEDERAL RELATIONS

6.01 LOCAL CONTROL

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall take all appropriate action to encourage members of the U.S. Congress, the Illinois General Assembly, related administrative agencies, and state and federal courts to refrain from introducing, supporting or promulgating rules, regulations and legislation which deprive local school districts of decision-making powers on matters in which there is not a clear and compelling state or national interest. (Adopted 1976; Reaffirmed 2006)

6.02 PERIODIC REVIEW OF STATE AND FEDERAL MANDATES

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support at the state and national level periodic review of all mandates, rules and regulations affecting local districts. Such mandates, rules and regulations should be broad in scope providing great flexibility in implementation, eased or reduced during periods when state supporting funds are unavailable or reduced, and eliminated if not of benefit to educational opportunities and outcomes. (Adopted 1981; Reaffirmed 1985; Amended 1988)

6.03 EDUCATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD PROCEDURES

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall work with the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board to increase their sensitivity to the need for timely decisions and establish criteria to identify matters in need of expedited attention. Further, the Association shall utilize the legislative process to remove statutory barriers to timely and expedited decisions and support legislation to enhance the decision making process. (Adopted 1989)

6.04 STATE BOARD COMMUNICATION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall continue to work with the Illinois State Board of Education to provide opportunities throughout the state each fiscal year to render local boards of education the time to express their concerns as well as to discuss their position on various pertinent educational issues. (Adopted 1982; Amended 1988)

6.05 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERSHIP

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall participate in the development of legislation amending Section 105 ILCS 5/1A with a goal of insuring fair representation on the State Board of Education from all geographic areas of Illinois. (Adopted 1999)

6.06 ZONING HEARING PARTICIPATION

The Illinois Association of School Boards supports requiring planning commissions, zoning boards, and the governing bodies of the jurisdiction in which real estate developments or zoning changes are proposed to notify the school district affected about such proposals and hearings about them and, if any, about the effect of the proposed changes and developments before completing any action to approve or adopt such a change or development. (Adopted 1973; Reaffirmed 2006)

6.07 RAILROAD CROSSINGS

The Illinois Association of School Boards urges the Illinois General Assembly, the Congress of the United States, state and federal commerce commissions, and railroad industries to continue working toward the installation of adequate warning devices at all railroad crossings maintained for public use in Illinois. (Adopted 1976; Reaffirmed 2006)

6.08 ISBE RULES AND REGULATIONS REVIEW

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall encourage the Illinois State Board of Education to include school board members, administrators and other practitioners on committees to review proposed rules and regulations. (Adopted 1990)

6.09 STUDENTS ON PUBLIC AID

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall seek and support legislation to mandate that students of families receiving State/Federal financial assistance (e.g. welfare, AFDC) maintain "regular" attendance as a stipulation for receipt of same. (Adopted 1995)

6.10 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS-LOCAL OPTION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation that would allow local school districts the authority to decide whether to observe legal holidays as a day of non-attendance for students. (Adopted 1996)

6.11 HOME SCHOOLING POLICY

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation to enact appropriate laws and policies to demonstrate that the education received by home-taught students is of sufficient quality to ensure appropriate transfer to schools that have current certification and recognition status from the Illinois State Board of Education. (Adopted 1996; Amended 1998; Reaffirmed 2000)

6.12 DESIGN PROFESSION SELECTION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation in the Illinois General Assembly amending or repealing the Local Government Professional Services Selection Act, or any other applicable laws, rules or regulations, to the extent necessary to permit Illinois school boards to solicit, and to permit licensed architects, engineers and land surveyors to submit cost proposals for these professional services as part of a school board's design professional selection process. (Adopted 1997)

6.13 SUPPORT SERVICES TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support modifications in the Illinois Intergovernmental Agreement Act to allow public school districts to work together in a time and cost efficient manner to provide support services to private schools as required by the U.S. Supreme Court rendered in the case of *Agostini v. Felton*, 65 U.S.L.W. 4526. (U.S. June 23, 1997). (Adopted 1997)

6.14 STATUTORY JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall oppose legislation which allows job descriptions for employees of school district to be placed into state law. (Adopted 1997)

6.15 ADMINISTRATIVE CAPS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall not support recent Illinois State legislation concerning Administrative Caps and Superintendent's Contracts as this legislation takes away local control from duly elected Boards of Education. Be it further resolved that the IASB calls for

the repeal of these provisions of PA 90-548 so that these provisions are again placed in the hands of local school boards. (Adopted 1998)

6.16 STUDENT EXPULSION HEARINGS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation and/or encourage the National School Board Association to support legislation that gives local school districts more latitude than the law currently mandated by *Honeig v. Doe*. Particularly, school districts should have more latitude than the 10 day suspension limitation to accommodate the needs of the accused to acquire legal counsel, bring forth evidence, or testimony pertinent to the hearing. (Adopted 2002)

6.17 BILINGUAL EDUCATION

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall promote legislative action calling for the Illinois State Board of Education, the U.S. Department of Education and school districts to study the alignment of, and full financial support of, the implementation of second language, native language and bilingual education programs. (Adopted 2004)

6.18 FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation at both the Federal and State levels to exempt school district employees from overtime and salary regulations as described in the Fair Labor Standards Act. (Adopted 2005)

6.19 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION SUPPORT

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall actively participate in promoting a Constitutional Convention for the State of Illinois when the question is submitted to the voters in 2008 (or earlier, if submitted before) and shall begin planning strategy and marshalling resources for the promotion of a vote in favor of conducting the Constitutional Convention. (Adopted 2005; Reaffirmed 2006, 2007)

6.20 BIDDING CONTRACTS-LOCAL BIDDERS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation that allows the local Board of Education to award a contract, under certain circumstances, to a qualified bidder that may not be the lowest responsible bidder. The bid must not be more than 2% over the lowest responsible bid and the bidder must be considered a local contractor by the local Board of Education. (Adopted 2006)

DISTRICT ORGANIZATION AND ELECTIONS

7.01 DISTRICT REORGANIZATION

The Illinois Association of School Boards favors school district reorganization and consolidation intended to facilitate educational improvement rather than changes in district organization based only on enrollment or geographical location. Further, IASB shall oppose any future

attempts by the Legislature, Governor, and/or State Board of Education to mandate, by statute or rules and regulations, the reorganization and consolidation of school districts. Reorganization and consolidation studies should be initiated by local citizens. In addition, IASB shall oppose legislation containing financial incentives based solely on district size or organizational pattern intended to force school district consolidation or reorganization. (Adopted 1962; Amended 1985; Reaffirmed 2006)

7.02 SCHOOL DISTRICT REORGANIZATION VOTING REQUIREMENTS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall seek, encourage, and support efforts for school district reorganization – in all forms – to include a requirement that before such reorganization is deemed passed, a majority vote of voters in each of the affected districts is necessary. (Adopted 1987; Amended 1988, 2006)

7.03 ANNEXING DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall seek an amendment to Article 7 of The School Code providing that neither a petition initiated by the citizens of one school district nor a petition initiated by a local school board of education seeking to annex their entire school district or a portion of the school district above and beyond one (1) home to another should be permitted without the affirmative vote of the citizens of each of the school districts affected. Specifically, 105 ILCS 5/7-1 and 7-2 shall be amended to include the following language: "When a petition is initiated by two-thirds (2/3rds) of the registered voters in one school district seeking to annex said district in its entirety to another school district or school districts and the board of education of such receiving school district or school districts has not adopted a resolution agreeing to such annexation, such annexation, if approved by the regional board of school trustees, shall not become effective until it is approved in an election called for the purpose of voting on the question of the voters in each school district affected." (Adopted 1988; Amended 1996, 2006; Reaffirmed 2000)

7.04 SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION AT-LARGE

The Illinois Association of School Boards support legislation to repeal the provisions of the School Code that

require a school district to have a ballot question approved in each congressional township before the district can move to electing its board members at-large. (Adopted 2009)

7.05 DETACHMENT FROM UNIT DISTRICT

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall oppose any efforts to amend the Illinois School Code to allow for less restrictive procedures for school districts to detach and form a new district. (Adopted 2005; Amended 2006)

7.06 PUBLIC QUESTION VOTING DATES

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation to repeal the statute in the Election Code, amended by Public Act 84-739, which became effective January 1, 1986, which restricts school districts from placing a public question on the ballot other than when voters are scheduled to cast votes for any candidates for nomination for, election to, or retention in public office. (Adopted 1986)

7.07 SCHOOL BALLOT FORMAT

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall urge the State Legislature to review and revise the school ballot formats as established in section 9-12 of the School Code to more clearly identify for whom the voter is casting a ballot. (Adopted 2001)

7.08 ELECTION SCHEDULES

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall continue to support the non-partisan election of school board members at a non-partisan election. (Adopted 2003; Amended 2006)

7.09 POLLING PLACES IN SCHOOLS

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation that amends the Election Code to allow a school district to refuse to be used as a polling place during elections for student safety reasons. If a school building is used as a polling place, the safety of the children and staff should not be compromised, and voters must be physically separated from students when the school is in session. (Adopted 2007; Amended 2009)