

The Resolutions Process is one of the most important undertaken by the Illinois Association of School Boards. It culminates at the annual Delegate Assembly where the decisions reached by member boards of education determine the direction of the Association's advocacy efforts on behalf of its members. School boards that seek to change or add to IASB's position statements and belief statements are encouraged to take advantage of the Resolutions Process.

Who develops resolutions?

School boards that are members of the Association, write, and submit resolution proposals. Every proposal includes a statement of resolution and a statement of rationale. IASB staff works with the proposing school board(s) as needed, by reviewing and researching proposed resolutions to provide background on current law and ensure proper formatting. Then, each proposed resolution is reviewed by the Resolutions Committee.

What is the Resolutions Committee and what does it do?

The Resolutions Committee is made up of 21 school board members representing each of the Association's divisions. They are elected by school board members in that division to represent them on the statewide committee. The Resolutions Committee consults with the proposing boards of education, deliberates on each proposal, and makes recommendations "to adopt" or "not adopt" each measure. A Resolutions Committee report is sent to all member boards of education and includes resolutions and recommendations selected for referral to the full membership at the Delegate Assembly. Regardless of the Committee recommendation, all proposals have an opportunity to be considered by the Delegate Assembly.

What is the Delegate Assembly?

The Delegate Assembly, held annually at the Joint Annual Conference, is the meeting where school board members vote on the proposals submitted by local school boards. Each school board that is a member of the Association is entitled to one voting delegate at the Delegate Assembly.



Every member board is entitled to select one individual board member to serve as its delegate, and to review proposed resolutions with the full board before determining its vote.

What happens during the Delegate Assembly?

At the Delegate Assembly, the proposed resolutions are brought for a vote of the Assembly. Discussion is held before votes are taken. Voting must be done in person (though a delegate is not required to be registered for the entire Conference). Delegates vote "to adopt" or "not adopt" the resolutions as put forth by the Resolutions Committee. The Delegate Assembly vote determines the final decision on all resolutions. If approved by the Delegate Assembly, resolutions become Position Statements or Belief Statements in the IASB Constitution, and thus give IASB staff direction on legislative positions.

Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For indeed, that's all who ever have.

– Margaret Mead

What is the timeline for the Resolutions Process?

The timeline opens annually in April, when resolutions forms are available to member school districts. Proposed resolutions are due in June, for review by IASB staff and the Resolutions Committee, which meets in August. Per the IASB Constitution, the report of the Resolutions Committee is published and sent to all member districts in September. One day prior to the Delegate Assembly, the Resolutions Committee meets at the Joint Annual Conference to consider late resolutions, appeals to Committee recommendations, or for further discussion on resolutions submitted. The Delegate Assembly meets on the Saturday of the Conference.

What is the importance of the Resolutions process?

The price of inaction silences the voice of school boards and has critical impact on our schools, while at the same time, sending conflicting messages to lawmakers about what school districts want or need. The Resolutions process allows school boards, who have a direct tie to their local district and community, to drive the agenda for change.

Email mbuch@iasb.com with questions.