

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)

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)

THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS SHALL support changes to the Tax Increment Financing statute to include the following: a municipality cannot reset a TIF district, which would extend the life of the TIF beyond the 23 years. (Adopted 2014)

**Rationale:** A school district has no control, no vote, and no say over TIF's placed upon them. This financially straps a district for over 20-years in the inability for them to collect increased tax dollars. Over 20-years is unpredictable in terms of the economy, the state of education, financial stability of local tax dollars to make a commitment to lose taxes for that time.

The Resolutions Committee RECOMMENDS DO ADOPT

**Resolutions Committee Rationale:** The original proposal called for the Association to support legislation to disallow tax increment financing redevelopment projects that are approved by other local governments in order to protect a school district's access to local property tax revenues.

The Committee agreed that Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts cause financial hardship for schools and suggested reaffirming the current position statements that already address the issues of TIF districts and erosion of the local property tax base. The submitting district agreed and modified its proposal to reaffirm the above position statements.

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## BOARD-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

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### 15. Position Statement 5.05 Prevailing Wage Act

Submitted by: O'Fallon CCSD 90

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, or amend the Prevailing Wage Act to exempt school districts from its scope. (Amended 1982, 1990, 2011; Reaffirmed 1985, 1988, 1996, 2009, 2012, 2013)

**Rationale:** The O'Fallon CCSD 90 Board of Education believes the Prevailing Wage Act inhibits competition by artificially setting wages that would otherwise reduce the cost of school district construction projects and causes increased cost to the school district which reduced the amount of construction, repair and replacement projects which the school district can't afford to complete.

The Prevailing Wage Act negatively affects the students, taxpayers and residents of O'Fallon CCSD 90. The Illinois Association of School Boards has adopted, and on several occasions reaffirmed, Position Statement 5.05, which calls for the repeal of legislation that regulates the wages of laborers, mechanics and other workers employed by school districts and those under contract for work being done in school districts, or, alternatively, for the exemption of school districts from the scope of such legislation.

The O'Fallon Board of Education fully supports the efforts of the Illinois Association of School Boards described above and wishes to express its position.

The O'Fallon board hereby finds that all of the recitals contained in the preambles to this resolution are full, true and correct and does incorporate them into this resolution by this reference.

The Board of Education hereby states its objection to the Prevailing Wage Act and further states its support for any and all efforts of the Illinois Association of School Boards or any other legislative efforts to repeal the Prevailing Wage Act so long as it remains in full force and effect.

The Resolution Committee RECOMMENDS DO ADOPT.

**Resolutions Committee Rationale:**

The submitting district's resolution expresses support for IASB Position Statement 5.05 and are requesting a reaffirmation of the statement. The Committee recommended DO ADOPT.

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## LOCAL-STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS

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### 16. Position Statement 6.01 Local Control

Submitted: Woodland CUSD 5

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. In the event any such rule, regulation, or legislation is promulgated or adopted, the Association shall take all appropriate actions calling for amendment (s) to return the decision making powers back to the local school district. (Adopted 1976; Amended 2014; Reaffirmed 2006, 2012, 2014)

**Rationale:** We have elected officials in terms of our school boards to make decisions in the best interest of our students, our schools, and our communities. There are

many different factors to consider when making these decisions and not every community, not every school, and not every student fits the “cookie cutter” approach of “Springfield Legislation.” We elect these people for a reason, allow them to make decisions at the local level for their schools not be forced upon decisions by Springfield. Washington is doing this in terms of Federal guidelines being moved to the State level, recognizing the importance of them knowing their state, they should make decisions on behalf of the people. This should be the same case for the state putting these responsibilities on local control as well. If federal legislation is increasing flexibility for school districts, increasing stakeholder engagement and enhancing program integrity provision.

The Resolution Committee RECOMMENDS DO ADOPT.

**Resolution Committee Rationale:** The original proposal called for the IASB to not require school districts to comply with legislation which eliminates local control decision making for school districts. The District argues that there are many different facts to consider when a school board makes decisions and “cookie cutter” requirements from the State remove local input.

The Committee agreed that mandates from the State are still a significant issue for school districts and agreed that reaffirming Position Statement 6.01, Local Control, was the best way to continue to keep this issue in front. The submitting district agreed.

## PROPOSED DELETIONS OF CURRENT POSITION STATEMENTS

The Illinois Association of School Boards’ resolutions process results in the adoption of several new position statements each year. Though the IASB Constitution (Article X, Resolutions, Section 3, Annual Review) requires that the Resolutions Committee “annually review all position statements and resolutions in force”, the association does not delete out-of-date position statements every year.

Without some type of re-evaluation, the IASB Constitution and Position Statements booklet will continue to grow to the point of being unwieldy (not unlike the Illinois School Code).

Some position statements are no longer needed because the objective has been accomplished, some are issues that may never be accomplished, and some simply are no longer relevant because of the passage of time. These are the current position statements that the Resolutions Committee proposes to delete.

- amend the provision allowing for one high-stakes test to determine student achievement;
- remove the provisions for local school district sanctions per Section 103 of Public Law 96-88 (20 USC 3401) which created the U.S. Department of Education;
- 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, 2011)

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### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

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#### 1.10 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 constitutional 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.

**Rationale:** This Position Statement needs to be deleted as No Child Left Behind no longer exists and the provisions in ESSA take care of many of these concerns.

#### 1.12 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

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

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 postsecondary 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)

**Rationale:** This objective was accomplished with Public Act 99-0358, effective August 13, 2015. The legislation provides that a student who takes a College Board Advanced Placement examination and receives a score of three or higher is entitled to receive postsecondary level course credit at a public institution of higher education.

#### 1.14 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; Reaffirmed 2011)

**Rationale:** This Position Statement needs to be deleted as No Child Left Behind no longer exists and the provisions in ESSA offer significantly more flexibility in regards to assessments.

#### 1.16 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. (Adopted 2007; Amended 2012)

**Rationale:** This position statement is no longer necessary as the content was amended into Position Statement 1.06 earlier.

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## LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

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### 3.10 Legislative Pay Accountability

THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS SHALL support legislation that requires the Illinois General Assembly to include the salary and benefits of each individual legislator on the Illinois General Assembly website. Benefits include all stipends, bonuses, per diems and other compensation for serving in the General Assembly. (Adopted 2011)

**Rationale:** This information is currently available under the Freedom of Information Act tab on the Illinois General Assembly website.

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## BOARD OPERATIONS AND DUTIES

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### 4.05 Cyber-Bullying Definition

THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS SHALL advocate for legislation that requires all Illinois public school districts' "Policy on Bullying" to include a bullying definition, which includes "cyber-bullying". School districts are encouraged to include a wide range of local education stakeholders in the establishment of the policy and to include in their policy specific provisions on bullying reporting requirements, investigation procedures, intervention options and appropriate consequences. (Adopted 2012)

**Rationale:** The objective of this position statement was enacted into law under two bills, HB 4207 (PA 98-0801) and HB 5707 (PA 98-0669).

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## BOARD-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

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### 5.12 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)

**Rationale:** This concern has largely been eliminated with passage of legislation that has amended criteria for teacher professional development and licensure.

### 5.13 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)

**Rationale:** The Early Retirement Option authority given by the General Assembly expired this year as the deadline was not extended.

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## LOCAL-STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS

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### 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)

**Rationale:** Due to adoption of Public Act 99-0456, a law concerning student discipline, effective September 15, 2016, the language of this Position Statement is no longer applicable.

### 6.24 Open Meetings Act — Building Safety & Security

THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS SHALL advocate to the state legislature for an Open Meetings Act exception for the discussion of building safety and security. (Adopted 2014)

**Rationale:** This objective was accomplished with Public Act 99-0235, effective January 1, 2016. The legislation creates an Open Meetings Act exemption for a discussion of this nature.

### 6.25 Sale of Student Constructed Homes

THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS SHALL support legislation that amends statutory guidelines outlined in Section 5-22 of the Illinois School Code to allow a school district the initial option to advertise, list, and sell a structure, constructed or renovated by students as part of the its curricular program, by other means than the sealed bid process (i.e.: Sale By Owner, Licensed Real Estate Agent). (Adopted 2015)

**Rationale:** The objective of this position statement is met in Senate Bill 2823, now Public Act 99-0794, effective January 1, 2017.

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## DISTRICT REORGANIZATION AND ELECTIONS

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### 7.04 School Board Election At-Large

THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS SHALL 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)

**Rationale:** This objective was accomplished with Public Act 99-0091, effective January 1, 2016.

## BELIEF STATEMENTS

### 1. Promote Healthier Schools

Submitted by: Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview SD 89

**The Illinois Association of School Boards believes** in healthy, environmentally sustainable schools providing a healthy environment for students, staff and visitors.

**Rationale:** Schools have the potential to make positive, tangible environmental change in the world while teaching students to be stewards of their communities, the earth and its resources.

Our current school system often suffer from inadequate facilities that frequently use energy, water and other resources unsustainably; use pesticides, cleaning agents and other chemicals that pose health risks; and can result in “sick building syndrome” from indoor air pollution and poor ventilation.

Schools are important consumers of natural resources, including energy, water, food, and paper, and generators of waste materials, including garbage, runoff, and air emissions, which contribute to the world’s larger environmental problems like global warming, water and air pollution, and habitat destruction.

Children, teachers, and staff are regularly exposed to toxic chemicals at school, are offered poor and unhealthy food choices, and use and manage resources unsustainably resulting in negative impacts on their health and their ability to teach and learn.

There is a tremendous opportunity to teach children about ecological sustainability, environmental health and nutrition; meet math, science and social studies standards; integrate environmental education into curricula; and support students

to become leaders in making their own school a healthier and more ecologically friendly place.

The Resolutions Committee RECOMMENDS DO ADOPT.

**Resolution Committee Rationale:** The original proposal was a resolution for a position statement that called for IASB to support legislation that promotes healthier, more environmentally sustainable schools as well as, calling schools to promote environmental leadership.

Committee members voiced concerns about what could be construed as supporting legislative mandates regarding junk food bans and school lunch requirements. The submitting district then modified its proposal to a more general Belief Statement.

The committee discussed the importance of having a safe and healthy environment for students and staff and voted to recommend “Do Adopt”.

### 2. Student Readiness

Submitted by: IASB Resolutions Committee

**The Illinois Association of School Boards believes** in frameworks of researched-based metrics and multiple readiness indicators that assess and demonstrate student readiness to succeed in college, career and life.

**Rationale:** This issue was first contained in Resolution 2. That resolution, though, contained a very specific program which might not have been the best option for some Illinois school districts. Further, the resolution called for a new State law requiring the adoption of this program.

This Belief Statement addresses the need for assessments that look at the whole child and not just scores on a standardized test, yet does not require school districts to adhere to one, rigid set of metrics. The concept is also imbedded in the

Vision 20/20 plan supported by the IASB and our education organization colleagues.

The Resolutions Committee RECOMMENDS DO ADOPT.

## CURRENT IASB BELIEF STATEMENTS

1. **The Illinois Association of School Boards believes** in improving the image of school boards and public education at the state and national levels
2. **The Illinois Association of School Boards believes** school administrations and faculties should be composed of persons supporting the principles of constitutional government because schools should continue with vigor their programs for giving young citizens a clear understanding of the principles of the American way of life and a desire to make these principles prevail in their own lives and in the life of their country.
3. **The Illinois Association of School Boards believes** that local boards of education should provide the necessary leadership for educational reform by sharing information and resources and collaborating with each other and the larger educational community.
4. **The Illinois Association of School Boards believes** that a comprehensive restructuring is needed in the way public schools are funded in Illinois and that IASB should be an active partner in responsible grassroots initiatives for school funding reform.
5. **The Illinois Association of School Boards believes** that schools should provide a safe and secure environment for all students. School board members and staff should try to protect students from the effects of bullying and offer appropriate instruction to improve intergroup relations and to promote peaceful resolution to conflict.
6. **The Illinois Association of School Boards believes** strongly in the non-partisan election of local school boards.
7. **The Illinois Association of School Boards supports** teacher salaries which are performance-based, market-sensitive, professionally competitive and which are tied to an effective evaluation system.
8. **The Illinois Association of School Boards believes** in the vigorous support and the rigid enforcement of the laws pertaining to the sale, possession and/or use of firearms.
9. **The Illinois Association of School Boards believes** that local boards of education should be prepared for possible public health crises (such as an Avian Flu pandemic) and other public safety concerns. The IASB should obtain the most recent and accurate information from the pertinent federal, state, and

local agencies and disseminate such information to school districts throughout the State. School districts are encouraged to adopt proactive pandemic preparedness strategies. IASB also encourages school participation in the National Fire Protection Association's campaign for fire escape planning and practice among our member families and citizens.

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

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

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

13. **The Illinois Association of School Boards believes** that the work of locally elected, volunteer school board members should be valued and that employers should be encouraged to allow employees to utilize vacation days or days off with pay to attend mandated school board member training and professional development opportunities offered by IASB or other approved training providers.

14. **The Illinois Association of School Boards believes** that effective local school board governance is vital to the success of our public schools and urges local boards of education to abide by IASB's Foundational Principals of Effective Governance, avoid real or perceived incidents of impropriety, and adopt policies or procedures to ensure that board members and elected board officers have no conflicts of interest.

# CURRENT POSITIONS

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## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

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### 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 including opposing any mandated curriculum that comes from the Common Core Standards. (Adopted 1981; Amended 1983, 1988, 2001, 2013)

### 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 and appropriate exemptions for physical education at the K-12 level. (Portions Adopted 1982, 1986; Reaffirmed 1984, 1987; Amended 1988, 1995, 2013)

### 1.04 P. E. Exemption for Show Choir

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall attempt to have legislation passed that would amend 105 ILCS 5/27-6 of the School Code of Illinois to grant an additional exemption for students, grades 9-12, enrolled in an ongoing Show Choir program for credit. (Adopted 2012)

### 1.05 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)

### 1.06 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)

### 1.07 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)

### 1.08 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; Reaffirmed 2011)

### 1.09 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; Reaffirmed 2011)

### **1.10 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 constitutional 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 per Section 103 of Public Law 96-88 (20 USC 3401) which created the U.S. Department of Education;
- 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, 2011)

### **1.11 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)

### **1.12 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 postsecondary 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)

### **1.13 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)

### **1.14 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; Reaffirmed 2011)

### **1.15 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)

### **1.16 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. (Adopted 2007; Amended 2012)

### **1.17 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)

### **1.18 Student Academic Placement**

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. (Adopted 2010; Reaffirmed 2011)

### **1.19 Virtual Charter Schools**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall encourage the Charter School Commission to develop regulations that ensures State-authorized virtual charter schools meet the full needs of Illinois students and follow the intent of current State laws prohibiting the use of public funds for profit-driven educational firms. Examples of such regulations might include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Assurance of student access to teachers, including information regarding teacher accessibility, teacher/student ratio, and amount of teacher/student contact time
- Evidence of the social-emotional well-being of students, such as information regarding opportunities for peer interaction and collaboration, adult advisory resources, and protocols to prevent bullying or other inappropriate online behavior
- Not-for-profit entities that sponsor virtual charter schools shall be in existence for at least one year before submitting a virtual charter school proposal and operate under the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act once a charter school has been approved
- Entities proposing virtual charter schools are limited to submitting a proposal to only one school district per year

- Members of the not-for-profit board that proposes a virtual charter school must demonstrate a direct link to the community in which it is proposing a charter school, either through residency, employment, or education
- Funding for State authorized virtual charter schools shall be reduced proportionately to reflect annual State aid prorations, as well as per pupil expenditure used for building maintenance, classroom supplies, transportation, and other costs unique to the services provided by a “brick and mortar” school. (Adopted 2013)

### **1.20 Student Discipline Practices**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall oppose legislative and rulemaking initiatives that enact statewide student discipline policies. The IASB encourages school districts to consider policies and procedures that develop sound discipline practices which may:

- Ensure a safe, responsive and effective instructional environment
- Strive to meet the social, emotional and behavioral needs of all Illinois students
- Strive to expedite investigations in response to alleged student misconduct and communicate findings and determinations to parents/guardians. (Adopted 2014)

### **1.21 Data Equity**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation allowing non-unit districts to enter into agreements to share student data to the same extent and with the same ease as unit districts. (Adopted 2014)

### **1.22 Longitudinal Data Systems**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation allowing local districts to enter into the necessary student data sharing agreements to build, maintain, and utilize local longitudinal data systems in order to improve their student outcomes including college and career success. (Adopted 2014)

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## **FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION — STATE**

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### **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, 2012, 2014)

### **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, 2014; 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 support legislation that causes all statutory and regulatory educational mandates to sunset if sufficient funding is not provided to implement such mandates and requirements. Local school districts may choose to continue to implement the mandated programs voluntarily until such time that the General Assembly appropriates the funding necessary to cover the costs of the required programs. (Adopted 1976; Amended 1988, 1989, 2001, 2005, 2013; Reaffirmed 1980, 1991, 1994, 1999, 2002, 2009, 2014)

### **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 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 residential 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)

### **2.11 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. Furthermore, the Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation that requires the State of Illinois to pay interest at the current legal rate on any payments which are late. (Adopted 1991; Reaffirmed 2000, 2014; Amended 2011)

### **2.12 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, 2014)

### **2.13 Heat Days Funding**

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

### **2.14 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)

### **2.15 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)

### **2.16 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)

### **2.17 Alternative Schools**

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

### **2.18 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)

### **2.19 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 2.37 – School Finance Reform. (Adopted 2004; Amended 2005; Reaffirmed 2014)

### **2.20 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. School districts shall receive a priority ranking within 90 days of the end of the current year’s application cycle. The Illinois State Board of Education shall priority rank, by grant year, all school districts that have been waiting for longer than 90 days for school construction grant funds. (Adopted 2006, Amended 2014, Reaffirmed)

### **2.21 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)

### **2.22 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, 2014)

### **2.23 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)

## **2.24 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; Amended 2010)

## **2.25 Multi County School District GSA Offset**

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. (Adopted 2010)

## **2.26 Categorical Reductions Prospective Only**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation requiring that any reductions in line item funds for categorical payments which are subject to reimbursement by the State (e.g. transportation or special education) shall be prospective only and shall not affect such line item costs incurred by a school district prior to such reduction but not yet claimed or approved for reimbursement. (Adopted 2011)

## **2.27 State Authorized Charter School Funding**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall urge adoption of legislation which would create a new methodology for the funding of State Authorized Charter Schools which would not have a negative financial impact on the host district. With respect to State authorized virtual charter schools, further limit the withholding of State funds from host school districts in proportion to the per pupil expenditure used for building maintenance, classroom supplies, transportation, safety and security, and other costs unique to "brick and mortar" schools. For all State-authorized charter schools, require that proof of continuing enrollment and attendance be

submitted quarterly, with prorated refunds to the host school district upon withdrawal of students from the charter school. (Adopted 2012; Amended 2013, 2014, Reaffirmed)

## **2.28 Special Education Student Transportation Cost**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislative, administrative or legal remedies to limit and equalize cost for Special Education Student Transportation. (Adopted 2014)

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# **FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION – LOCAL**

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## **2.29 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)

## **2.30 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)

## **2.31 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)

## **2.32 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)

## **2.33 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 dedications and to allow cash payments to be used for operational expenses. (Adopted 1971; Amended 2004)

### 2.34 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)

### 2.35 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)

### 2.36 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)

### 2.37 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.

IASB supports the need for transparency and dissemination of information, regarding the impact of proposed education funding reforms as they are developed, formally proposed, considered and enacted. Additionally, IASB will utilize the following criteria to evaluate proposals for school finance reform:

- 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, 2014; Reaffirmed 2001, 2012)

### 2.38 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)

### **2.39 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)

### **2.40 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)

### **2.41 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)

### **2.42 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)

### **2.43 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)

### **2.44 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)

### **2.45 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)

### **2.46 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)

### **2.47 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)

### **2.48 PTELL — Debt Service Extension Base**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation (currently House Bill 1341) to modify the Debt Service Extension Base (DSEB) formula established by the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) to allow the limited number of school districts that do not have DSEB to have one established for them creating more equity among districts affected by the PTELL and equal opportunity in school funding. (Adopted 2011)

### **2.49 PTELL No Penalty for Under Levy**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation that allows school districts to levy an amount less than the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) formula would allow without penalty in future years. This would require that when a district "under" levies, that the full allowable extension amount be tracked and made accessible in future years. (Adopted 2012)

### **2.50 EAV Adjustments — Timely Notification**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation to require timely notification between county assessors of substantial adjustments to assessed values for a taxing district that has assessed property in multiple counties. (Adopted 2011)

### **2.51 Pension-Normal Cost Shift**

The Illinois Association of School Boards recognizes that legislation to sensibly resolve Illinois' current pension crisis must be fully compliant with prevailing actuarial scientific standards in order to achieve fully-funded and sustainable pension funds. The Illinois Association of School Boards therefore shall not support a "cost-shift" to local districts as a true sensible solution to the pension burden. (Adopted 2013)

### **2.52 School Facility Occupation Tax**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support an amendment to State Statute 55 ILCS 5/5-1006.7 School Facility Occupation Tax, to include the purpose to purchase or lease technology to aid instruction, education, or efficiency of the school district. (Adopted 2014)

### **2.53 Tax Increment Financing**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support changes to the Tax Increment Financing statute to include the following: a municipality cannot reset a TIF district, which would extend the life of the TIF beyond the 23 years. (Adopted 2014)

### **2.54 Charitable Tax Exemption for Hospitals**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation that amends statutory guidelines outlined in Section 5-22 of the Illinois School Code to allow a school district the initial option to advertise, list, and sell a structure, constructed or renovated by students as part of the its curricular program, by other means than the sealed bid process (i.e.: Sale By Owner, Licensed Real Estate Agent) (Adopted 2015)

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## **FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION – FEDERAL**

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### **2.55 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)

### **2.56 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)

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## **FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION – OTHER**

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### **2.57 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, 2012)

### **2.58 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)

### **2.59 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)

### **2.60 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)

### **2.61 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 conditioning 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)

### **2.62 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)

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## **LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY**

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### **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; Reaffirmed 2012)

### **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 legislative session. (Portions Adopted 1980, 1984; Amended 1988; Reaffirmed 2012)

### **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; Reaffirmed 2012)

### **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)

### **3.09 Budget Stability for School Districts**

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) and enact a biennial budgetary cycle. (Adopted 2010; Reaffirmed 2011; Amended 2012)

### **3.10 Legislative Pay Accountability**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation that requires the Illinois General Assembly to include the salary and benefits of each individual legislator on the Illinois General Assembly website. Benefits include all stipends, bonuses, per diems and other compensation for serving in the General Assembly. (Adopted 2011)

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## **BOARD OPERATIONS AND DUTIES**

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### **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 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)

### **4.03 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)

### **4.04 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, and any such legislation requiring school board member training shall specifically list the IASB as a training provider. (Adopted 2008; Amended 2012)

#### **4.05 Cyber-Bullying Definition**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall advocate for legislation that requires all Illinois public school districts' "Policy on Bullying" to include a bullying definition, which includes "cyber-bullying". School districts are encouraged to include a wide range of local education stakeholders in the establishment of the policy and to include in their policy specific provisions on bullying reporting requirements, investigation procedures, intervention options and appropriate consequences. (Adopted 2012)

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### **BOARD – EMPLOYEE RELATIONS**

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#### **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) maintain the tenure rights of teachers in cooperatives in a single district but not in multiple districts; and
- (d) 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, 2012; Reaffirmed 1992, 2011)

#### **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; Reaffirmed 2012)

#### **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; Reaffirmed 2012)

#### **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; Reaffirmed 2012)

#### **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, or amend the Prevailing Wage Act to exempt school districts from its scope. (Amended 1982, 1990, 2011; Reaffirmed 1985, 1988, 1996, 2009, 2012, 2013)

#### **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; Reaffirmed 2012)

#### **5.08 Workers' Compensation Law**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall actively support legislation to reduce the costs of Workers' Compensation. (Adopted 1993; Reaffirmed 2012)

#### **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 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; Reaffirmed 2012)

#### **5.11 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; Reaffirmed 2012)

#### **5.12 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)



### **5.13 Early Retirement — District Options**

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)

### **5.14 Third Party Contracting**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall strongly oppose legislation or rulemaking that regulates and restricts the ability of school boards to contract with third-parties for the provision of non-instructional services. The Illinois Association of School Boards shall seek to repeal or amend the provisions of the School Code which unreasonably restrict the ability of school boards to enter into contracts with third-parties for the provision of non-instruction services. (Adopted 2012)

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## **LOCAL - STATE - FEDERAL RELATIONS**

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### **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. In the event any such rule, regulation, or legislation is promulgated or adopted, the Association shall take all appropriate actions calling for amendment (s) to return the decision making powers back to the local school district. (Adopted 1976; Amended 2014; Reaffirmed 2006, 2012, 2014)

### **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)

### **6.21 Freedom of Information Act Changes**

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 business day 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 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 a virtual legal opinion as to why they are claiming an exemption
- Delete provisions requiring public bodies to prepare a virtual 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. (Adopted 2010)

### **6.22 Homeless Student Transportation**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation conforming Illinois law with federal law, specifically related to 105 ILCS 45 and the requirement for school districts to transport homeless students beyond district boundaries. (Adopted 2012)

### **6.23 Mandate Cost & Periodic Review**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support modifications to the Illinois State Mandates Act (30 ILCS 805) that will strengthen the ability of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to accurately and sufficiently provide timely information on the costs of mandates including input

from local elected boards of education. In addition, the mandates report required for other local governments shall be required of ISBE to provide timely, updated information on the impact of new mandates as they are enacted. (Adopted 2013; Reaffirmed 2014)

#### **6.24 Open Meetings Act — Building Safety & Security**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall advocate to the state legislature for an Open Meetings Act exception for the discussion of building safety and security. (Adopted 2014)

#### **6.25 Sale of Student Constructed Homes**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation that amends statutory guidelines outlined in Section 5-22 of the Illinois School Code to allow a school district the initial option to advertise, list, and sell a structure, constructed or renovated by students as part of the its curricular program, by other means than the sealed bid process (i.e.: Sale By Owner, Licensed Real Estate Agent). (Adopted 2015)

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## **DISTRICT ORGANIZATION AND ELECTIONS**

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### **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)

### **7.10 Board Vacancy Filings**

The Illinois Association of School Boards shall support legislation to increase the timeline to fill a school board vacancy from 45 days to 60 days to allow school boards more time to fill such vacancies. (Adopted 2014)