



ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL BOARDS

Lighting The Way To
Excellence In School
Governance

July 16, 2013

Jackie Mickley
Geneseo CUSD 228
648 N. Chicago St.
Geneseo, IL 61254

Dear Jackie:

My office is in receipt of the resolutions your district submitted to the Illinois Association of School Boards. Thank you for your participation in this important function of your association.


Enclosed are summary sheets, regarding your resolutions. It is designed by staff to give the members of our Resolutions Committee some background on your resolutions.

You are encouraged to attend the Resolutions Committee meeting on Friday, August 2, 2013, at the Oak Brook Hills Marriott Resort, 3500 Midwest Road, Oak Brook, IL, Phone 630-850-5555. Your testimony on behalf of your resolutions is important. The more information the committee receives regarding your resolutions, the better the deliberation will be in making a recommendation. The committee will recommend either "Do Adopt" or "Do Not Adopt" on all resolutions at that meeting.

We will attempt to schedule testimony beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please call the IASB office in Springfield at (217) 528-9688 to schedule a time convenient for your representative. Ask for the Governmental Relations staff (Deanna Sullivan, Susan Hilton, Zach Messersmith or me).

Again, thank you for your work on behalf of our public schools.

Sincerely,


Ben Schwarm
Deputy Executive Director

✓ Copy: Scott Kuffel, Supt.

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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Springfield, Illinois
62703-5929
217/528-9688
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□ One Imperial Place
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SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: OPPOSE P.A.R.C.C. CURRICULUM R: 13-09 (BH)

SUBMITTING DISTRICT: Geneseo CUSD #228
648 N. Chicago Street
Geneseo, IL 61254

CONTACT PERSON: Jackie Mickley
648 N. Chicago Street
Geneseo, IL 61254

STAFF RATIONALE:

The resolution would direct the Association to oppose any efforts by the Illinois State Board of Education to mandate statewide curriculum due to the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Assessment.

The PARCC Assessment is a response to the adoption by many states of the Common Core Standards. Many of the states involved in developing and adopting the Common Core Standards recognized that current assessments would not line up well with the new Standards. Current assessments used by many states were created by individual states and state standards vary widely. The ISBE has the authority to adopt the new Common Core Standards and the PARCC Assessment without the need for approval by the General Assembly.

The PARCC Assessment is supposed to be implemented for the 2014-2015 school year, but it may not be ready by then. There are also concerns about adequate bandwidth for many rural communities to provide the Assessment as it is to only be given online.

The ISBE has publicly expressed that the Common Core Standards are intended to be a broader framework and that curriculum will be decided at the local level.

The IASB has a current Position Statement on assessments. The Committee may want to review the current Position Statement to check compatibility with this resolution.

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)*

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: MANDATES SUNSET

R: 13-10
(BH)

SUBMITTING DISTRICT: Geneseo CUSD 228
648 N. Chicago Street
Geneseo, IL 61254

CONTACT PERSON: Jackie Mickley
648 N. Chicago Street
Geneseo, IL 61254

STAFF RATIONALE:

This resolution asks the IASB to support legislation that would cause underfunded and unfunded mandates to sunset until sufficient funds are appropriated for their implementation.

If enacted, this position would complement position 2.03 FUNDING MANDATED PROGRAMS which regulates the Association's position on mandates. Balancing existing positions of conditional support, the resolution calls for formalized opposition to the underfunding of mandates.

Currently, Public Act 96-1441 relieves school districts of the obligation to implement underfunded and unfunded mandates. It states that compliance is not compulsory unless funds have been appropriated that will fully reimburse the school district. The act further lays out the process by which school districts may discontinue or modify a mandated activity, though it is important to note that this process is unnecessarily cumbersome. Some exceptions are present, and the State Mandate Act holds ultimate authority in contested situations. Neither this legislation nor the resolution prohibit school districts from implementing mandated programs.

Another perspective on this issue supports allowing individual school boards to opt out of unfunded mandates through a board resolution. This process requires renewal on a yearly basis and includes safeguards to ensure the integrity of the mandate and the district. These protections include communication with the local teachers union, publication of the board's intention in the matter, and a public hearing. Local school boards have ultimate authority in this scenario.

For details and history of mandates for school districts, please see the attached items:

- a) the compiled list of all unfunded mandates enacted from 1991 through 2012,
- b) a list of all mandate bills proposed during the most recent legislative session, including summaries of each,
- c) a summary compiled for legislators at the beginning of the Spring 2013 session, which highlights the particular challenges Illinois school districts face with underfunded and unfunded mandates.

- Fiscal Year 2013 State funding for public schools was equal to 2008 funding levels. FY 2014 levels will likely be even less.
- In January 2013, the Education Funding Advisory Board recommended a per pupil Foundation Funding Level of \$8,672. The current actual per pupil Foundation Funding Level is \$5,733, and mandated categorical programs like transportation and special education continue to be prorated and underfunded.
- Federal Funding is tied to specific program mandates and they are severely underfunded, e.g. Race to the Top dollars amount to 6% of Title I allocation, far below the cost of district-wide implementation.
- Increasing local funding for schools to offset these losses in State support has increased reliance on local property taxes and brought the statewide local share to over 54% of total education costs.
- There were **12** Unfunded Mandates imposed upon schools by Illinois Legislature 1991-1999 and **111** between 2000-2012!
- During the 2012-2013 school year, local districts will have to comply with **68** more mandates than were required in 2007-2008, with the same amount of state funding.
- Numerous costly Mandates have also been imposed by the Illinois State Board of Education and other State Agencies through Rulemaking, the U.S. Department of Education and by new Federal Laws.

Resolution 13-20 submitted by Glen Ellyn SD 41 and Naperville CUSD 203 is related addressing the costs of mandates as legislation is introduced.