

# **Final Resolutions**

## **81st Annual Delegate Assembly**

**Adopted on  
Saturday, October 23, 2021**



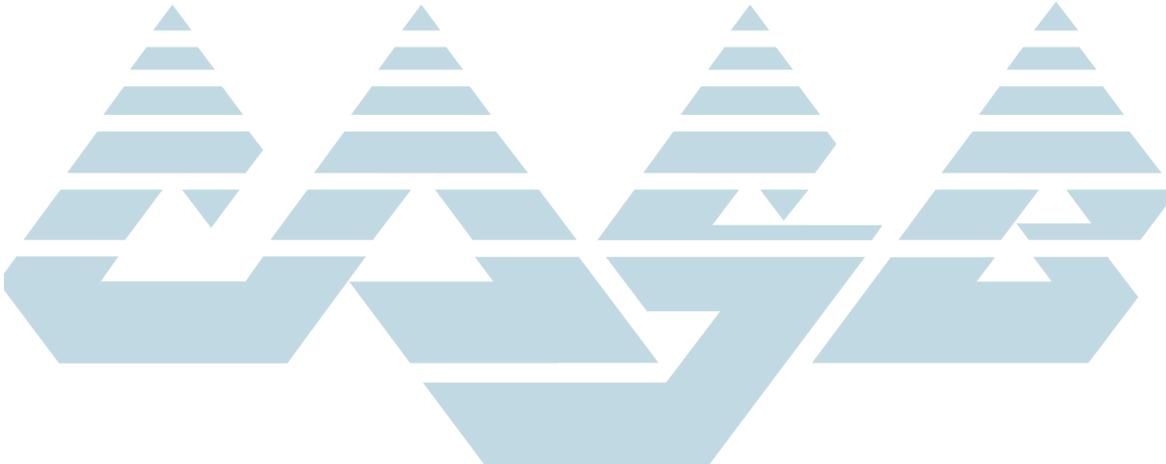
**Colorado Association of School Boards**

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# STANDING RESOLUTIONS

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## Student Academic Growth and Achievement

- SR1** The Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) supports a system of accountability that stresses local measures that inform instruction and separately acknowledges a need for a statewide system that allows measurement of school and district effectiveness and comparison between school districts.
- SR2** CASB opposes any state mandates beyond the federal minimums with respect to assessment and educator licensure to assure local boards' flexibility to allocate instructional time and place the best teacher in every classroom.
- SR3** Colorado school boards' constitutional authority includes the right to develop schools and programs to supplement current programs and ensure student access to diverse learning opportunities.

## Finance

- SR4** The state must provide Colorado's public schools with adequate and reliable funding pursuant to a formula that balances federal, state and local revenue sources and is intended to fully fund the legal requirements for and meet the educational needs of all Colorado students. Further, the state must increase the total annual appropriation of state special education funding by at least at the cost of inflation and caseload growth, to reduce unreimbursed special education expenditures at the local level.
- SR5** New legislation must expressly consider cost at the state and local levels and be fully funded before it may be enforced by the state.
- SR6** Existing mandates that are ineffective or that have a larger cost than benefit must be rescinded so local boards may dedicate those financial resources to better use.

## Local Governance

- SR7** Colorado's Constitution acknowledges the diverse nature of Colorado school districts and establishes locally elected school boards vested with control of instruction as the guarantor of educational quality responsive to local needs.
- SR8** Control of instruction, including efforts to restructure and fund public education, must be guided by student needs, improved academic growth and achievement, with responsible use of financial resources as determined by the locally elected school board.

**SR9** Essential functions of the local board of education’s constitutional authority include establishing the course of curriculum and instruction, the process for determining the terms and conditions of employment for school district employees, and the budget to be used to implement the local community’s priorities.

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## **FEDERAL STANDING RESOLUTIONS**

### **Full Funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)**

**FSR1** The Colorado Association of School Boards calls on the United States Congress to meet the funding requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). Since the implementation of IDEA in the early 1970s, Congress has never fully funded the Act as written. The nation's most vulnerable students deserve the adequate funding required to provide each and every student the resources needed to achieve their full academic potential.

### **Career and Technical Education**

**FSR2** To be successful contributing members of a global society, Colorado students need access to Career and Technical Education in addition to other academic and extracurricular activities. The Colorado Association of School Boards supports ongoing and sustainable funding by the United States Congress to support the “Strengthening the Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century” Act, such as by providing resources to lessen the financial impact of a qualified instructor entering the field of Career and Technical Education. Career and Technical Education must be available to all Colorado students regardless of where they live within the state.

### **School Nutrition Funding**

**FSR3** The Colorado Association of School Boards supports enhancements to the various federal nutrition programs to allow for the most flexibility in menu choices, a reduction in regulations, and maximum reimbursements to Colorado schools. Colorado community schools are an important source of healthy meals and nutrition education for the state’s preschool and K-12 students. Further, CASB supports programs to allow school meal programs to locally source ingredients produced in Colorado.

## 2022 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

### LOCAL GOVERNANCE

- LR #1** CASB is opposed to granting BOCES the ability to operate schools within the boundaries of a school district without the agreement of the elected Board of Education. CASB supports local control by elected Boards of Education within the state. The Colorado Constitution in Article IX, Section 15 clearly states that locally elected Boards of Education have control of instruction within their district boundaries. This includes the ability to regulate the number and type of schools that operate within the district boundaries. The attempt by the Education reEnvisioned BOCES (Boards of Cooperative Education Services) to operate “brick and mortar” schools without the consent of the duly elected local Board of Education is a violation of the state constitution and the applicable laws that regulate how BOCES operate. These schools are counting students and receiving funding from the State of Colorado using the school finance formula. CASB is opposed to granting BOCES the ability to operate schools within the boundaries of a school district without the agreement of the elected Board of Education.
- LR #2** CASB supports the adoption of policies and legislation amending the Colorado Charter Schools Act regarding the process of obtaining waivers from Colorado law, including requiring the requesting charter school to provide a written rationale for seeking each such waiver.
- LR #3** CASB supports legislation requiring candidates for Boards of Education to undergo fingerprinting and background checks that are currently required of all Colorado educators and support staff
- LR #4** CASB supports a standard of review for new charter school application appeals to the State Board of Education that is the same for the Charter School Institute and Local District Boards of Education. The standard of review for appeals for both chartering authorities should be whether the chartering authority’s decision was arbitrary and capricious, which is the common standard of review for nearly all administrative reviews.

The current language for the Charter School Institute states:

C.R.S. 22-30.5-510 (5): “Within sixty days after receipt of a notice of appeal by the state board and after reasonable public notice, the state board shall review the decision of the institute and determine whether the decision was arbitrary and capricious.”

The current language for local boards of education reads:

C.R.S. 22-30.5-108 (3)(a) (referring to the first appeal) and (3)(d) (referring to the second appeal): The State Board of Education is directed, for both the first and second appeal, to determine whether a local board’s decision was “contrary to the best interests of the pupils, school district, or community.

- LR #5** CASB supports clarifying the Colorado Open Meetings Law subsection pertaining to school boards that itemizes what topics can be discussed in executive session to add the following: If a school board names more than one finalist for a superintendent opening, and If there is a public

forum with the finalists where finalists answer questions from members of the public, Then the Board of Education can meet in executive session to interview each of the finalists, and can also meet in executive session to deliberate on the merits of the finalists (though not to vote on which finalist should be selected for the job – which still must be done in public).

## FINANCE

- LR #6** CASB advocates for increased school funding to support rural Colorado students and their communities
- LR #7** CASB is opposed to the Learning Enrichment and Academic Progress (LEAP) ballot Proposition #119. The state of Colorado should first fully fund Pre-K to 12 education, as was the intent of voters when they approved Amendment 23 to the Colorado Constitution, before instituting new programs that may or may not help our students. By reducing the funds available to construct classrooms via the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) many students across the state will be forced to continue their pursuit of their education in unsafe and inadequate school buildings. CASB encourages voters to reject the LEAP ballot Proposition #119.
- LR #8** CASB is opposed to the permanent reduction of Colorado property taxes as proposed by Proposition #120. Property taxes are an important component for funding Colorado Pre-K to 12 public education. Colorado students currently bear the burden of the \$572 million reduction due to the Budget Stabilization Factor and chronic underfunding due to Colorado’s Constitutional Tax Code. As the Colorado economy begins to recover from the COVID-19 health pandemic, now is not the time to further reduce the much-needed dollars available to fund the success of Colorado students.
- LR #9** CASB will work with members of the Joint Budget Committee and House and Senate Education Committees to pass legislation that requires the School Finance Act to be adopted by both chambers of the General Assembly no later than the 100th day of the legislative session each year.
- LR #10** CASB supports current efforts to build a coalition addressing Colorado state funding requirements resulting from TABOR or other provisions that may result in a future statewide referendum or initiative for a ballot measure amending the Colorado Constitution.
- LR #11** CASB supports expansion of and funding for the E-Rate program for school broadband connectivity to include efforts for students in a virtual learning environment lacking reliable internet connections.
- LR #12** CASB supports additional federal funding, with fewer restrictions, for school districts to compensate for COVID-19 related expenses and shortfalls in budgets resulting from economic effects of the pandemic.

- LR #13** CASB will work with the Colorado Department of Education to develop statutory protections for school contracts similar to those contained in § 24-106-109, C.R.S.
- LR #14** CASB supports the adoption of policies and legislation to change the Public School Finance Act of 1994 to provide more equity among districts generally and more support for rural school districts. The state funding formula needs to be updated to better reflect the needs of modern educational environments, such as recognizing advances in educational technology, innovation and creativity in delivering educational programs, online and other blended learning opportunities complementing seat time requirements, and equity for high-poverty districts. It is time to modernize these requirements with methods more compatible with existing technology for measuring and reporting attendance and work time.
- LR #15** CASB will support and advocate for a study of educational spending in districts accredited with distinction.

## **STUDENT ACADEMIC GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT**

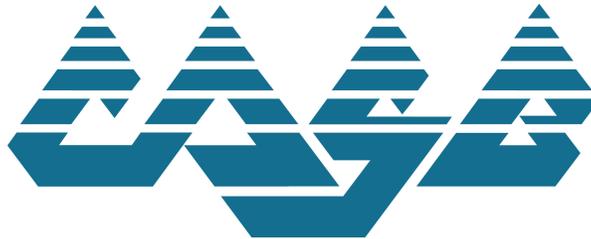
- LR #16** CASB supports continued reform in the teacher evaluation process to encourage courageous conversations between administrators and teachers that lead to real goal setting and effective feedback. Evaluations are more effective when trust and communication are paramount, rather than rigidly imposed accountability measures that discourage continuous improvement in teaching methods.

## **Mission Statement**

*Advancing excellence in public education and equity for each and every student through effective leadership by the collective action of locally elected boards of education.*

## **Vision Statement**

*The Colorado Association of School Boards through leadership, service, training and advocacy prepares local boards of education to advance a system of public schools where all students are challenged to meet their full potential.*



Colorado Association of School Boards

2253 S. Oneida Street, Suite 300  
Denver, Colorado 80224  
303-832-1000 CASB.org

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