

Legislative Agenda at a Glance

2027 Session – Adopted by the CASB Delegate Assembly 9-12-26

Priorities / Bill Ideas for 2027

- Develop blueprint for sustainable full funding and collaborative implementation of Jan. 3, 2025 adequacy study recommendations
- Fully implement HB24-1448 school funding formula
 - a. Commit to long-term stability
 - b. Commit to 4-year averaging until full implementation
 - c. Ensure Budget Stabilization Factor (BSF), or any other defunding mechanism, is not reinstated or implemented
 - d. Ensure the School Finance Formula is used to determine need and should not be used to create budget cuts
- Ensure the preservation of federal funding essential to meeting Colorado's public education needs

2027 PLATFORM

Finance

The Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) believes the state must prioritize and provide Colorado's public schools (K-12) with adequate, equitable, reliable, and sustainable funding. Colorado must ensure the funding needed to meet today's and future educational needs of each and every Colorado public school student.

1. Ensure that public monies are NOT used for private schools, through vouchers, Scholarship Granting Organizations, or any other method
2. Increase total per pupil spending to the adequacy study funding levels (\$3.5–4 billion more)
3. Modernize TABOR to remove barriers to fully funding public education
4. Fully fund Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
5. Ensure adequate and sustainable funding for capital improvements, building safety enhancements, and including options like BEST
6. Ensure equitable distribution via the School Finance Act (SFA)
7. Oppose legislative mandates on school districts without full and recurring funding, and review and reduce current unfunded mandates
8. Adopt the School Finance Act (SFA) before long bill adoption
9. Evaluate grant programs and fully fund effective grant programs via SFA
10. Protect State Education Fund (SEF) and the long-term benefits to the Permanent Fund beneficiaries

Local Governance

CASB recognizes the authority granted under Article IX section 15 of the Colorado Constitution giving locally elected Boards of Education the right to adopt curriculum, implement instruction, and authorize employment to ensure student access to diverse learning opportunities.

1. Honor Constitutionally-mandated local control of BOEs
2. Protect Colorado's state and local control amid federal changes
3. Eliminate unfunded mandates placed on locally elected Boards of Education (BOEs)
4. Prevent legislation which attempts to override or circumvent Board of Education local control and/or erodes resources for public schools
5. Support limiting the role of the State Board of Education in new charter school appeals to determining whether the chartering authority's decision was arbitrary and capricious
6. Restore local control over educator evaluation systems, prioritizing measures of effectiveness and professional feedback

Student & Staff Safety and Success

CASB believes the state must provide Colorado's public schools with adequate, equitable, and reliable funding not only to educate, but also to provide a safe environment for students and staff — a safe environment is proven to be essential to successful student learning.

1. Expand mental health support for students and staff
2. Collaborate with other entities that support public education to fund and improve student success as well as student and staff safety
3. Increase systematic and systemic support of educator recruitment and retainment to ensure equitable, high-quality instruction for all students
4. Ensure strict compliance with IEPs, 504s, and ALPs to protect the rights of students

Accountability

CASB supports a system of accountability that emphasizes local measures that inform instruction as well as acknowledging a need for a statewide system that allows measurement of school and district effectiveness. CASB members are committed to advocating with legislators to accomplish the following:

1. Shape future legislation and monitor implementation of [HB23-1241](#) [Accountability Task Force Nov 7 2024 recommendations](#) as reflected in [HB25-1278](#)
2. Ensure consistent accountability and transparency processes are in place for all publicly funded school options (traditional, non-traditional, charter, single/multi-district online, etc.) to guarantee a learning environment which results in positive student outcomes/success
3. Ensure that all publicly funded school options equitably serve all students

CASB'S VISION

Excellence in public education through effective leadership and the collective action of locally elected school boards.

CASB'S MISSION

The Colorado Association of School Boards, through leadership, service, training, and advocacy, engages and supports local boards of education to advance a system of public schools where each and every student is equipped to meet their full potential.

For more information visit www.casb.org or contact Matt Cook, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy — mcook@casb.org