



Wisconsin Association of School Boards Resolutions Adopted by Delegate Assemblies Guiding Principles

Board Powers and Authority

The prime purpose of local school boards is to conceive and implement school programs designed to serve the local students, consistent with local needs, state goals and national programs.

- The local school district should have control of its local fiscal affairs and, within broad state guidelines, be allowed to manage its affairs with provision for inter-district cooperation.
- Accountability shall reside with the local school districts.
- School boards should have alternatives and flexibility to meet state and federal requirements.
- School boards are committed to a program of cooperation with other agencies, boards and organizations which share a concern or role in serving and supporting public education.

Local Leadership in Student Achievement

Local school boards have the responsibility to establish student course offerings and credit requirements that provide a comprehensive education and promote increased student achievement. School boards support flexibility to select, approve and implement standards and assessment measures that reflect the local community's expectation that each student achieve his or her maximum potential.

School Finance

School boards support a public K-12 school finance system that is fair and equitable to all taxpayers and students irrespective of their school district of residence. The system should:

- Provide two-thirds state funding of school costs, including capital costs;
- Provide at least 80 percent of state aids through the equalization aid formula and not more than 20 percent through categorical aids;
- Provide more resources for students with greater needs, including low income students, students with disabilities and English language learners; and
- Provide the necessary flexibility to establish sound local financial practices.

School boards oppose permanent limits on school district expenditures or tax levy increases. School boards have agreed to a temporary state control on annual school district expenditure growth that allows for individual school district growth and includes a corresponding control on arbitrated compensation/benefit increases. The revenue controls should allow for the needs of individual districts with respect to the requirements of their programs.

Personnel/Collective Bargaining

School boards recognize collective bargaining is one method for determining wages, hours and working conditions. Public sector collective bargaining laws should place responsibility and accountability for negotiating an agreement firmly with elected school officials and representatives of school employees.

Safe Schools/Healthy Students

School boards support safe learning environments for all children and initiatives that encourage healthy lifestyles as necessary strategies for improving student achievement.