

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS, INC.

Madison, Wisconsin

February 4, 2019

**REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP ON RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED
BY THE 2019 DELEGATE ASSEMBLY**

WASB Policy & Resolutions Committee

Brett Hyde, Muskego-Norway School Board, Chair

Resolutions Adopted (Approved) By Delegates:

Resolution 19-01: *Technical Resolution—Revisions to Repeal Outdated or Obsolete Resolutions*

- a) **Repeal existing resolution 2.13;**
- b) **Repeal existing resolution 4.40**

Resolution 19-02: *Reducing the Number of School Board Members in a District*

The WASB supports legislation allowing a school district board with more than three members to reduce its number of board members to the next lowest odd number of board members in a single step.

Resolution 19-03: *Student Poverty & Revenue Limits*

Resolution 2.20 (q) was **amended** to read as follows:

The WASB supports using student poverty as a factor in the state equalization aid formula and revenue limits and categorical aid based on student poverty.

Resolution 19-04: *Community Schools*

The WASB supports state funding for inclusive “community schools” programming that utilizes strategic community partnerships to provide support services such as health and nutrition as well as enhanced learning opportunities to meet the diverse needs of students and families.

Resolution 19-05: *Funding for Gifted and Talented Programming*

The WASB supports increasing state funding for Gifted and Talented programming in Wisconsin’s public schools.

Resolution 19-06: *Competitive Grants*

The WASB opposes the use of competitive grants as a vehicle to deliver state funding to school districts that should be distributed through categorical aids. The WASB supports ensuring that competitive grant programs recognize the diversity of school districts and resources available to them, that applications are simple and easy to complete, and, to the extent possible, that grant application deadlines are staggered so they do not all fall at the same time.

Resolution 19-07: *Special Education Reimbursement Rate and Other Special Education Provisions*

Resolution 2.31 was **amended** to read as follows:

The WASB supports increasing the special education categorical aid reimbursement level to not less than ~~33~~60 percent of prior year eligible costs and maintaining funding at not less than this percentage each year thereafter. The WASB further supports the following provisions related to funding for children with disabilities:

- (a) Funding that follows the student on a pro-rated basis within the school year rather than being targeted to the district.
- (b) Funding for special needs vouchers will not impact a public school's state aid, nor will private schools that receive special needs vouchers be reimbursed at a higher percentage rate for their special education costs than the reimbursement rate public schools receive for their special education costs.
- ~~(b)-(c)~~ Full federal and state funding for students living in rehabilitation centers and foster homes within the school boundaries.
- ~~(c)-(d)~~ Full federal and state aid for mandated special education transportation costs.
- ~~(d)-(e)~~ Full federal and state funding for the cost of assistance to students required by law, which is not related to a child's education, including but not limited to nursing assistance, interpreters, auxiliary mechanical devices, physical therapy, psychological evaluations and programming and individualized behavior modification programming.
- ~~(e)~~ ~~Increases in state and federal resources for serving severely emotionally disturbed students.~~
- ~~(f)~~ ~~Streamlined processes for settling special education disputes to minimize legal costs.~~
- ~~(g)~~ ~~Limitations on legal fees school districts are required to pay attorneys for pupils who prevail in special education disputes.~~
- ~~(h)-(f)~~ The WASB supports the use of federal, state and local resources in a collaborative manner to support transition programs for students with disabilities to achieve better employment and postsecondary opportunities for these students.
- ~~(i)-(g)~~ The WASB supports full federal and state funding for children with high cost/low incidence disabilities, ensuring that the additional resources come from increasing the current special education appropriation.
- ~~(j)-(h)~~ The WASB supports full state and federal government funding of services provided by cooperative public agencies for students ~~with the most severe disabilities.~~

Resolution 19-08: *Common School Fund/Library Aid*

Resolution 2.82 Fines and Forfeitures was **amended** as follows:

2.82 Fines & Forfeitures Common School Fund

The WASB opposes any legislation to repeal, modify, or jeopardize the constitutional provisions ~~of fines and forfeitures as a source of income for~~ establishing and endowing the common school fund.

The WASB supports ensuring that the income of the common school fund will continue to be directed toward public school libraries as library aid and opposes efforts to divert common school fund monies to provide general support for public schools.

Resolution 19-09: *Reading Interventions*

The WASB supports legislation to provide commensurate state funding for ongoing assessment, intensive interventions and remediation for students who have reached third grade but do not read at grade level.

Resolution 19-10: *Private School Aid/Voucher Funding*

Resolution 2.70 Private School Aid was **repealed and recreated** to read as follows:

2.70 Private School Aid/Voucher Funding

The WASB strongly opposes the use of state or federal taxpayer dollars to subsidize nonpublic schools or nonpublic students/parents through a system of vouchers, scholarship tax credits, tuition tax credits or deduction plans or other similar arrangements.

All publicly funded schools, including private schools receiving voucher funding, must have the exact same accountability and transparency standards and requirements.

The WASB opposes the current voucher funding mechanism, under which taxpayer-financed vouchers are provided to private schools through deducting state aid from public school districts harms the majority of Wisconsin's students by diminishing resources available for public schools or requiring school boards to raise local property taxes to compensate for the lost aid. Creating two publicly supported education systems threatens the sustainability of public school districts.

The WASB supports legislation to require property tax bills to include information from the school district in which the property is located regarding the dollar amount (and percentage change) of the net reduction in state aid, if any, to the school district between the current year and the previous year as a result of pupils enrolled in statewide voucher

program, the Racine voucher program, the Milwaukee voucher program, or the special needs voucher program.

Resolution 19-11: *Oppose/Eliminate Special Education Vouchers*

Resolution 2.705 Oppose Special Education Vouchers was **amended** as follows:

The WASB opposes the use of state tax monies to provide special education vouchers for students with disabilities or other special educational needs to attend private schools located anywhere in the state and supports eliminating the Special Needs Scholarship program.

Resolution 19-12: *Indigenous Peoples' Day*

The WASB supports legislation to add Indigenous Peoples' Day to the list of public school observation days in Wisconsin.

Resolution 19-13: *Tobacco-, Nicotine- & Vaping-free Schools*

Resolution 6.02 was **amended** to read:

6.02 Tobacco-free, Nicotine-free & Vaping-free Schools

The WASB supports ~~tobacco-free school environments~~ school learning environments free of tobacco, nicotine and vaping products and devices.

Resolution 19-14: *Mental Health Revenue Limit Exemption*

The WASB supports legislation to allow local districts to exceed the revenue limit for mental health related services by creating a new fund. This newly created fund would allow school districts to levy taxes above their revenue limit for the purposes of providing mental health related services as identified and determined at the local level. Services may include, but not be limited, to the following:

- Contracting with mental health service providers;
- Hiring a mental health coordinator;
- Hiring of an autism coordinator;
- Hiring a behavioral specialist or interventionist;
- Contracting with outside agencies for mental health screening in grades preK-12;
- Hiring a parent/peer advocate; or
- Training for staff in the areas of trauma sensitive schools, restorative practices, youth mental health first aid, and emotional regulation.

Resolution 19-15: *Trauma-Informed Care*

The WASB supports the use of trauma-informed care in schools, including recognizing how adverse childhood experiences can have an impact on a child's development and can increase needs for counseling or support.

Resolution 19-16: *School Safety*

The WASB supports stronger relationships and communication between school districts and law enforcement agencies to improve school safety. To further enhance school safety, the WASB requests that the state Legislature and Governor enact comprehensive school safety legislation, including:

- Legislation allowing prosecutors to bring appropriate charges against any individual who intentionally conveys a threat or false information concerning an attempt to use a dangerous weapon (including a firearm) to injure or kill a person on school property, on transportation provided by a school, or at an event sanctioned by a school; and
- Allocating sufficient funds:
 - to increase the number of school resource officers (SROs) who are fully trained law enforcement officers in school buildings;
 - to enable school districts to make needed security improvements;
 - to enable school districts to offer enhanced mental health services for students and staff who need help; and
 - to equip school crisis teams to react to threats before they become actual emergencies.

Resolution 19-17: *Early Childhood Development and Education*

WASB members support the participation of the WASB in discussions of early childhood initiatives and in coalitions that help prepare children to succeed in school.

In addition, the WASB recognizes the benefits of:

- Universal screenings of pre-school children to ensure that children are attaining key developmental milestones prior to enrolling in school;
- Early intervention, prior to kindergarten or 4K, for children found to and be at-risk of not attaining developmental milestones or for those who have social-emotional deficits that could impair their ability to learn and/or interfere with the ability of other children to learn in a school environment;
- Early literacy initiatives that encourage parents and other caregivers to introduce children to books at an early age; and
- Providing parent education to equip parents of pre-school children to better aid their children in their development.

- Promoting early childhood development information as part of high school health curriculum to better educate our students who may be Wisconsin's future parents.

Resolution 19-18: *DPI Licensing of Clinical Counselors*

The WASB supports legislation authorizing the Department of Public Instruction to issue an educator license to clinical counselors, so school districts can employ clinical counselors to provide mental health services to students the same way other licensed district staff are employed to do so.

Resolution 19-19: *Higher Learning Commission*

The WASB supports federal legislation to require higher education accrediting agencies to relax credentialing requirements for high school staff who teach dual credit courses to maximize a district's ability to provide dual credit programming and coursework.

Resolution 19-20: *State Funding for Early College Credit Program and Start College Now Program*

Resolution 3.63 (f) was **amended** to read as follows:

3.63 (f) State Funding and Flexibility for Course Options Program

The WASB supports additional, adequate state funding to reimburse school districts for costs associated with students who take courses through postsecondary educational institutions at the expense of the students' resident school district (or primary district of attendance), including through the Early College Credit Program and the Start College Now Program. ~~the cost to school districts of students taking courses through the Course Options Program. The WASB further supports legislation to amend the Course Options Program to provide school districts with an adequate amount of time to make appropriate adjustments to course offerings, class schedules, and staffing assignments and to allow districts to give due consideration to their resident students in allocating spaces in Course Options Program classes conducted as concurrent enrollment classes in the district's own facilities and taught by a district teacher.~~

Resolution 19-21: *Early College Credit/Start College Now Programs*

Resolution 3.67 was **amended** to read as follows:

3.67 Youth Options Early College Credit/Start College Now Programs

(a) The WASB supports legislation which allows high school students to take courses at technical colleges, universities and colleges in this state and receive high school credit, with final approval by the school board.

(b) The WASB supports statutes, administrative laws-rules and decisions governing the Youth Options program-college credit in high school programs that show deference to local school board policies.

(c) The WASB supports state funding to support ~~this mandate~~ college credit in high school programs.

~~(d) The WASB supports further limiting the maximum number of college credits per school year.~~

~~(d)~~ ~~(e)~~ The WASB supports that college courses to be considered for school board approval be applicable to an academic degree, certification or diploma program at both the college and high school level as well as being different from existing high school courses.

~~(e)~~ ~~(f)~~ The WASB supports legislation indicating that under ~~the Youth Options Program~~ college credit in high school programs, school districts would have the final authority to approve or deny offering high school credits based on local policies and would only be responsible for payment of tuition for those courses approved by the school board for high school credit.

~~(f)~~ ~~(g)~~ The WASB supports limiting the level of tuition that districts are responsible for under the ~~Youth Options Program~~ Early College Credit Program to the average per credit UW tuition and requiring parents to make up the difference for ~~Youth Options~~ courses taken at greater cost.

~~(g)~~ ~~(h)~~ The WASB supports requiring students to reimburse school districts for ~~Youth Options~~ non-district, postsecondary courses for which they do not receive credit.

~~(h)~~ ~~(i)~~ The WASB supports ~~statutory changes to improve coordination between the Youth Options and Course Options Programs that provide opportunities for students to complete coursework at educational institutions other than the student's resident district.~~ The WASB further supports reasonable limitations on opportunities for students to initiate postsecondary coursework at other educational institutions at the expense of the student's resident school district as well as reasonable limitations on the maximum number of college credits a student may earn at the expense of the student's resident school district.

Resolution 19-22: *State Funding for Collaborative Efforts to Address Behaviorally Challenged/Expelled Students*

The WASB supports state funding for collaborative efforts involving school districts working with counties and law enforcement agencies to help ensure that the underlying issues that caused certain students to be expelled or that contributed to the behaviors that resulted in expulsion do not become school safety issues.

Resolutions NOT Approved

None.