

Alternative Options for Committee Consideration

Based on small group feedback and staff suggestions...

1. One Cent Sales Tax for School Infrastructure & Technology

Proposal as Submitted by Hudson:

The WASB supports the implementation of a statewide one cent sales tax to help districts build and upgrade facilities, upgrade technology equipment for students and help lower property taxes for Wisconsin taxpayers. Residents would need to approve a revenue purpose statement prior to expending funds and funding from the sales tax could not be spent on hiring additional staff or employee salaries.

Alternative Option(s):

1. The WASB supports the implementation of a statewide one cent sales tax to help districts build and upgrade facilities, upgrade technology equipment for students and help lower property taxes for Wisconsin taxpayers. School boards would need to approve a revenue purpose statement prior to expending funds and funding from the sales tax could not be spent on hiring additional staff or employee salaries.
2. The WASB supports the implementation of a new statewide one cent (one percent) sales tax to help public school districts build, maintain, and upgrade facilities, upgrade district technology infrastructure, software, and teacher training related to technology equipment for students and help lower property taxes for Wisconsin taxpayers. District electors would need to approve a revenue purpose statement before these sales tax funds could be expended and funding from the sales tax could not be spent on hiring additional staff or employee salaries. This tax is intended to provide equitable, designated funding for all public schools and all students, distributed on a per student basis, as a new, ongoing revenue stream for the stated purposes and should not be used by the legislature to replace existing state revenues or for other purposes. (This tax should remain in place for a long enough period for schools to borrow (issue bonds) against this revenue stream.)
3. **Amend Existing 2.04 State Taxes:** The WASB supports new state revenues, including sales and income taxes, and proposals to broaden the base of state tax programs in order to provide state revenues to school districts consistent with WASB policies. Specifically, the WASB supports the implementation of a statewide one cent sales tax to help public school districts build, maintain and upgrade facilities, upgrade technology equipment for students and help lower property taxes for Wisconsin taxpayers. District residents would need to approve a revenue purpose statement prior to expanding funds and funding from the sales tax could not be spent on hiring additional staff or employee salaries.

The WASB supports state general purpose revenues as the principal source of state school aids, rather than a segregated state tax source.

2. Broadband Access

Proposal as Submitted by Wausau, Ladysmith, Menomonie:

The WASB supports legislation to expand affordable, quality broadband access for all Wisconsin communities including funding for school districts to ensure broadband access for students and staff. The WASB further supports efforts of Governor Evers' Task Force on Broadband Access and others working to advise the governor and Wisconsin State Legislature on broadband actions and policy and initiatives for digital inclusion.

Alternative Option(s):

1. The WASB supports expanding affordable, reliable high-speed broadband to homes, businesses and public facilities throughout Wisconsin. The WASB also supports expanding state funding for this purpose, including using existing state bonding authority and loan programs to make grants and loans available to local and county governments for planning and building out the expansion of fiber networks and connecting to low-orbit satellite networks.

The WASB also supports expanding federal funding for school technology provided through the E-Rate program as well as loosening restrictions on the use of E-Rate funding that limit permissible expenditures of such funds to items on or pertaining to school premises.

2. The WASB supports legislation to expand affordable, quality broadband access for all Wisconsin communities including funding for school districts to ensure broadband access and devices for students and staff in their schools, school districts, and communities. ~~The WASB further supports efforts of Governor Evers' Task Force on Broadband Access and others working to advise the governor and Wisconsin State Legislature on broadband actions and policy and initiatives for digital inclusion.~~
3. **Replace existing 5.59** with selected option.

3. Enrollment Hold Harmless

Proposal as Submitted by Beloit:

The WASB supports legislation that creates a hold harmless exemption in district enrollment calculations for membership for the 2020-21 school year.

Alternative Option(s):

1. The WASB supports legislation that creates a hold harmless exemption in district enrollment calculations for membership ~~for the 2020-21 school year~~ during extraordinary school years caused by pandemics or other disasters that affect large portions of the state. This exemption would be authorized by the DPI upon consultation with state and local leaders.
2. The WASB supports legislation to create a hold harmless exemption in district membership calculations used for revenue limits and per pupil categorical aid to mitigate the effects of enrollment fluctuations ~~for the 2020-21 school year~~ caused by extraordinary public health emergencies or other disasters or emergencies that disrupt large portions of the state. This exemption would be authorized by the DPI upon consultation with state and local leaders.
3. The WASB supports legislation that creates a hold harmless exemption in district enrollment calculations for membership for the 2020-21 school year and/or allow a district to apply to DPI for emergency aid or revenue flexibility.

4. Instruction on Indigenous Tribes (Act 31)

Proposal as Submitted by Wausau, Ladysmith, Menomonie:

The WASB calls upon its member boards to recognize their responsibilities and fulfill the requirements of Act 31 including initiatives that promote increased student academic competency regarding Act 31. Further, the WASB supports legislation that would provide funding to better enable Wisconsin public school districts meet this mandate and urges the Department of Public Instruction to develop an audit process to ensure Act 31 requirements are met.

Alternative Option(s):

1. The WASB calls upon the DPI to provide sufficient curricular resources and professional development opportunities for teachers to assist all school districts in fulfilling the requirements of Act 31, including initiatives that promote increased student academic competency regarding Act 31. ~~Further, the WASB supports legislation that would provide funding to better enable Wisconsin public school districts meet this mandate and urges the Department of Public Instruction to develop an audit process to ensure Act 31 requirements are met.~~
2. The WASB calls upon the DPI to provide sufficient curricular resources and professional development opportunities for teachers to assist all school districts in fulfilling the requirements of Act 31, including initiatives that promote increased student academic competency regarding Act 31 and an increased understanding of the role and the importance of indigenous tribes and bands. The WASB further calls upon the DPI to work with teacher training programs in this state to ensure that all their graduates are well-equipped to meet the instructional requirements of Act 31. ~~Further, the WASB supports legislation that would provide funding to better enable Wisconsin public school districts meet this mandate and urges the Department of Public Instruction to develop an audit process to ensure Act 31 requirements are met~~
3. Add to chosen option: The WASB supports requiring all schools receiving taxpayer funds to comply with the Act 31 mandate.

5. Special Education in the Pandemic

Proposal as Submitted by Neenah:

The WASB requests that federal and state governments and agencies provide targeted and temporary flexibilities in response to the disruption of educational services due to the pandemic. These include allowing schools to provide, without penalty, COVID interruption-related services designed to get SPED students back to level they would have been at had schools not closed in Spring 2020.

Alternative Option(s):

1. The WASB supports legislation that would that allow districts state and federal flexibility in educational services, in particular Special Education, during extraordinary school years caused by pandemics or other disasters that affect large portions of the state.
2. The WASB supports legislation that would that allow districts state and federal flexibility in providing educational services, particularly Special Education services, to students during school years disrupted by extraordinary public health emergencies or other emergencies that affect large portions of the state or the nation. The primary goal of this flexibility should be to enable schools to bring students to the level of achievement they would have been at had the extraordinary emergency not occurred.

The WASB also supports efforts to relax certain federal financial requirements imposed on school districts such as maintenance of effort requirements and proportionate share requirements that are difficult or impossible to meet during periods when special education services are disrupted by extraordinary public health emergencies or other emergencies that affect large portions of the state or the nation. Enforcement of these requirements could unfairly penalize school districts for circumstances over which they had little control without benefitting students.

[Note: The second paragraph under Option 2 could be included with the first paragraph to form one resolution or it could be made a separate resolution under 3.48—i.e., a new 3.48 (b)—since it deals specifically with flexibility under federal law.]

3. Already covered by existing **3.43 Flexibility for Alternatives:** The WASB maintains that local school districts should have the flexibility to offer alternatives in addition to mainstreaming as “the least restrictive environment and most appropriate” for educating children with disabilities as required by law. (1982-16)(1999-1)

6. Assessment & Report Card Waivers

Proposal as Submitted by Beloit:

The WASB supports legislation that waives standardized testing & state report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year.

Alternative Option(s):

1. The WASB supports legislation that suspends state standardized testing requirements for the 2020-2021 school year and also suspends the requirement that the DPI issue state report cards in the 2021-22 school year.
2. The WASB supports legislation that waives standardized testing and state report card requirements for the 2020-2021 school year upon DPI approval, during extraordinary school years caused by pandemics or other disasters that affect large portions of the state.
3. The WASB supports that public school districts should continue to assess student growth and performance during the COVID-19 pandemic using assessments and measures approved locally. However, due to the impact of the pandemic, the WASB supports legislation specifying that current state law requiring assessments to be administered annually to pupils attending school in a public school district, independent charter school, private choice school, or special needs scholarship program school would not apply in 2019-20. The WASB also supports legislation prohibiting the DPI from publishing school and school district accountability reports in the 2021-22 school year.

The committee could also take this a step further (as was done in 2019 Wisconsin Act 185) and propose language to the effect that: "The WASB further supports legislation specifying that pupil performance on assessments in the 2020-21 school year could not be considered for the evaluation of teachers and principals under the statewide educator effectiveness system."

The topic of educator effectiveness was not included in the original resolution as submitted but it clearly relates to student assessments. (See note 3 below.) This is topic the committee could decide.

4. The WASB supports that public school districts should continue to assess student growth and performance using assessments and measures approved locally. However, the WASB supports legislation specifying that in any school year during which a public health emergency (pandemic) or other disaster emergency occurs that affects large portions of the state, state law requiring assessments to be administered annually to pupils attending school in a public school district, independent charter school, private choice school, or special needs scholarship program school would not apply and the DPI would be prohibited from publishing school and school district accountability reports in the following school year.

Notes:

- Current state law requires pupils to be given an annual reading test in the 3rd grade, as well as assessments adopted by the State Superintendent in the 4th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th grades.
- Current state law requires DPI to publish accountability reports (report cards) annually no later than November 30. The report cards issued each fall are based on data from assessments administered the previous spring.
- Under current state law, the educator effectiveness system must be based in part upon measures of pupil performance, including performance on state assessments.

7. Affordable Care Act

Proposal as Submitted by Neenah:

The WASB supports legislation to clarify and grant exemptions to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in the following situations:

- a) **Rehiring Retired Teachers** Clarify that under the ACA a retiree who participates in a school district's retiree-only Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) may return to employment in that district for less than 30 hours per week without jeopardizing his or her eligibility to receive retiree health benefits through the HRA and without jeopardizing the district's compliance with the ACA.
- b) **Rehiring Retired or Resigned Staff** Exempt school districts from paying insurance premiums to rehired staff who have not had a 6-month separation without jeopardizing the district's compliance with the ACA.

Alternative Option(s):

1. Create 4.37 (b) to read:

(b) Rehiring Retired or Resigned Staff

The WASB supports legislation to modify the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to exempt school districts from having to pay insurance premiums for the district's group health coverage for rehired staff who have not had a 6-month separation from the district without jeopardizing the district's compliance with the ACA.

2. Replace **existing 4.37** with: *The WASB supports legislation to remove any impediments to rehiring retired teachers and staff. Policies and standards for rehiring retired staff should be set by the school board.*

8. District Administrator Evaluations

Proposal as Submitted by Durand-Arkansaw:

The WASB supports confidential District Administrator evaluations to allow school districts to continue to improve by providing a confidential framework for the leader of the district to improve, therefore allowing the district to improve.

Alternative Option(s):

1. The WASB supports confidential ~~District Administrator~~ evaluations for all administrative positions to allow school districts to continue to improve by providing a confidential framework for the leader administration of the district to improve, therefore allowing the district to improve.
2. The WASB supports legislation to allow districts to maintain as confidential ~~District Administrator~~ the evaluations of all individuals holding administrator licenses to allow school districts to continue to improve by providing a confidential framework for the leader administration of the district to improve, therefore allowing the district to improve.
3. The WASB supports confidential ~~District Administrator~~ Superintendent evaluations to allow school districts to continue to improve by providing a confidential framework for the leader of the district to improve, therefore allowing the district to improve.
4. Add to chosen option: Disciplinary records are separate and distinct from evaluations and would not be considered confidential under this resolution.

9. Comprehensive School Safety Legislation

Proposal as Submitted by Neenah:

Repeal and Recreate existing WASB Resolution 6.115 to read:

The WASB requests that the Governor and legislature enact comprehensive school safety legislation, including:

1. New, permanent, and consistent funding that allows districts to enhance safety and security of their property and to support ongoing costs associated with implementing and managing district safety and security, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Enabling districts to make needed security improvements to infrastructure;
 - b. Hiring school resource officers (SROs) who are fully trained law enforcement officers;
 - c. Coordinating with community agencies;
 - d. Training staff and students in recognizing and responding to potential threats;
 - e. Enabling districts to provide increased and ongoing mental health services to students and staff; and
 - f. Equipping school crisis teams to react to threats before they become emergencies; and
2. Legislation allowing prosecutors to bring appropriate charges against any individual who conveys a threat or false information concerning an attempt to injure or kill a person on school property, school transportation, or at a school event.

Alternative Option(s):

1. The WASB supports comprehensive school safety legislation, including:
 1. New, permanent, and consistent funding that allows districts to enhance safety and security by supporting *one-time and* ongoing costs, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Security improvements to infrastructure;
 - b. Hiring SROs;
 - c. Coordinating with community agencies;
 - d. Training for staff and students about threats to safety;
 - e. Mental health services;
 - f. Equipping school crisis teams to react to threats; and
 2. Allowing prosecutors to bring appropriate charges against any individual who conveys a threat or false information concerning an attempt to injure or kill a person on school property, school transportation, or at a school event.

Notes: To help you track the changes that would be made, this proposed resolution, as submitted, differs from the existing resolution in the following ways:

- It reverses the order of paragraphs 1. and 2.
- It deletes language at the beginning of the resolution that reads, "The WASB supports stronger relationships between school districts and law enforcement agencies to improve school safety. To further enhance school safety..."
- It requests the Governor and legislature provide "new, permanent and consistent " funding rather than "allocating sufficient" funding.
- It modifies security improvements by adding the words "to infrastructure" to item a.
- It adds the word "Hiring" to item b. at the beginning of the sentence.
- It adds a new item c. "Coordinating with community agencies."
- It adds a new item d. "Training staff and students in recognizing and responding to potential threats."
- It amends item e. to replace "To enable school districts to offer enhanced mental health services to students and staff who need help" with "Enabling districts to provide increased and ongoing mental health services to students and staff."
- It deletes the word "actual" from item f.

10. Native American Mascots

Proposal as Submitted by Wausau, Green Bay, Ladysmith:

The WASB supports legislation requiring school districts to retire Native American mascots, symbols, images, logos and nicknames.

Alternative Option(s):

1. The WASB encourages local school boards to retire Native American mascots, symbols, images, logos and nicknames.
2. (Last year's Delegate Assembly version) The WASB supports legislation requiring school districts to retire Native American mascots, provided such legislation: a) establishes adequate timelines to allow for the consideration and implementation of other alternatives; b) provides state funding to compensate districts for the costs (e.g., changes to facilities, uniforms, etc.) necessary to retire Native American mascots, logos or imagery depicting Native Americans; and c) does not require the retiring of images, statues or other likenesses of historic individual figures after whom a school or community is named.
3. The WASB encourages school boards and districts to identify imagery, practices or processes that may create a school environment that is not safe and welcoming to all students, regardless of race or ethnicity and to initiate discussions at the district level that would lead to the retirement of mascots, logos, imagery, practices or processes that may create a hostile, divisive or unwelcoming school environment.
4. The WASB supports legislation to provide funding for the DPI to work with districts to identify imagery, practices or processes that may create a school environment that is not safe and welcoming to all students, regardless of race or ethnicity and to help districts initiate discussions at the district level that would lead to the retirement of mascots, logos, imagery, practices or processes that may create or foster a hostile, divisive or unwelcoming school environment. The WASB further supports state funding to compensate districts for the costs (e.g., changes to facilities, uniforms, etc.) necessary to retire mascots, logos or imagery depicting Native Americans or that may create or foster a hostile, divisive or unwelcoming school environment.
5. Add to chosen option: This resolution does not apply where local tribe-school district agreements allow the use of certain mascots, symbols, images, logos and nicknames.