

Beliefs and Policies

NDSBA Beliefs and Policies are permanent philosophical, legislative, and operational statements established by the Delegate Assembly. They are amended only by the action of that Assembly. NDSBA Standing Resolutions are adopted by the Delegate Assembly and are uniquely legislative. They are dropped after four years unless brought to the Delegate Assembly for reconsideration. In order to view NDSBA's total legislative platform, please access both Beliefs and Policies and Standing Resolutions.

1. FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1.1 STATE FUNDING: NDSBA believes the state must provide at least 70% of the educational cost per student from state funds. In determining the percentage of state contribution, the same criteria shall be used in defining educational cost per student as the state uses in NDCC 15.1-27-03. Costing figures are always at least a year behind; therefore, the 70% funding must include a statutory index for inflation.

1.2 TEACHER COMPENSATION REIMBURSEMENTS: NDSBA believes the state appropriated funds mandated for teacher compensation must be sustained by the state. For purposes of reimbursement, "increased compensation" must always include increase in salary, benefits, FICA, and retirement costs.

1.3 STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING: NDSBA believes the state should provide all excess costs required to provide services to special education students, including gifted and talented.

1.4 FEDERAL SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING: NDSBA believes the federal government is obligated to fund 40% of the excess costs incurred due to IDEA mandates.

1.5 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION: NDSBA believes there is a growing need for career/technical education and career awareness and therefore supports efforts of the State Board of Career and Technical Education to secure funding levels necessary to meet the needs of all state learners.

1.6 TAX ABATEMENTS: NDSBA believes local school boards should have authority over the abatement of property tax mills levied by the school district.

1.7 MILL LEVIES: NDSBA believes all mill levies requiring a vote of the electorate should require an ordinary majority for passage.

1.8 MANDATES WITHOUT ADEQUATE FUNDING: NDSBA believes that federal and state mandates should be fully funded including, but not limited to, special education, ADA, standards, assessments, and other accountability requirements.

2. SCHOOL BOARD OPERATIONS AND AUTHORITY

2.1 COLLABORATION: NDSBA believes it benefits school districts to collaborate with other agencies; therefore, state and federal regulations that inhibit multi-agency collaboration or coordinated delivery of services should be removed.

2.2 INPUT FROM OTHERS: NDSBA believes input from others is beneficial to the decision making process but the authority to make final decisions must remain with the duly elected school board.

2.3 SCHOOL CALENDAR. NDSBA believes local school boards should set school start dates.

3. PERSONNEL

3.1 COMPENSATION: NDSBA believes determination of salary bases, increments, and benefits for school district employees should remain with the local school board and not be mandated by state legislation.

3.2 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: NDSBA believes professional development for licensed staff is crucial to quality teaching resulting in enhanced student achievement.

3.3 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS: NDSBA believes the state must fund additional calendar days or allow for shortened student contact days to facilitate local districts' professional development efforts.

3.4 TEACHER CENTERS: NDSBA believes the Teacher Center Network can be a professional development leader and supports adequate state funding for the Network.

4. SCHOOL CHOICE

4.1 HOME SCHOOLS: NDSBA believes there should be no further relaxing of regulations and accountability for home school programs.

4.2 VOUCHERS/TAX CREDITS: NDSBA believes it is the constitutional obligation of the state to fund its public school system. NDSBA opposes the use of local, state, or federal money to support schools which are not public, regardless of the funding vehicle—parental vouchers, tax deductions, tax credits, or a system of semi-private schools.

5. STUDENTS

5.1 NDHSAA: NDSBA believes every school board should take an active interest in the workings of the North Dakota High School Activities Association. Boards should carefully appoint their delegates to the NDHSAA Delegate Assembly and instruct the appointed delegates as to the school board's position on each proposal. Boards are encouraged to submit proposals through their delegates whenever they so desire.

6. NDSBA OPERATIONAL POLICIES

6.1 LEGISLATIVE POLICY: NDSBA believes in the preservation and enhancement of public schools through elected school board governance. Absent an NDSBA resolution specific to proposed legislation, NDSBA staff will, as a general policy, support permissive legislation enhancing school board authority and options and oppose legislation which bypasses local board authority or erodes local control of public schools.

6.2 MEMBER MAILING LIST: NDSBA will release its membership mailing list or do mailings at the request of outside entities only in select cases and at the discretion of the Executive Director.

6.3 EFFECTIVE DATE OF RESOLUTIONS: NDSBA resolutions and beliefs and policies which affect NDSBA's annual budget shall not take effect until the fiscal year following adoption.

6.4 SCHOOL DISTRICT REORGANIZATION: NDSBA shall assist in developing concepts and plans for restructuring school organizations in the state, as requested by member units. This shall include, but not be limited to:

- Physical reorganization of district boundaries;
- Instructional and service delivery systems among school districts;
- Cooperatives; and
- Regional Education Associations.

6.5 DURATION OF RESOLUTIONS: NDSBA Governmental Affairs Committee, acting as the Resolutions Committee, will review the standing resolutions and automatically drop all resolutions which have been standing for more than four years. The GAC may reintroduce any of the resolutions scheduled for elimination by bringing them to the Delegate Assembly for consideration.

6.6 LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS: NDSBA will take a neutral position on legislation relating to any resolutions that fail to pass the Delegate Assembly.