



Positions Adopted at the 2020 Annual Business Meeting

POSITION STATEMENTS

Resolution – Adopted

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association shall advocate for an overhaul of the current, inadequate testing system to more accurately measure achievement in skills, knowledge and abilities, and it shall do this by:

- a. Working collaboratively with the New York State Education Department, superintendents, administrators and teachers to create tests that are developmentally appropriate of reasonable length and frequency, and which avoid the unintended consequences of narrowing the curriculum, teaching to the test, reducing love of learning and undermining school climate;
- b. Insisting that educators throughout the State be included in all aspects of the creation of standardized tests; and
- c. Demanding that district personnel be permitted to examine test results, answer keys, and their students' responses so that educators can better assess what each child is learning in relation to what is being taught and so that such tests can truly inform instruction.

Resolution – Adopted

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association shall support legislation that makes it easier for districts to recover attorney's fees in legal cases related to special education where the district is the prevailing party.

Resolution – Adopted

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association shall support legislation that would shift the burden of proof in special education due process complaints away from the district and back to the party seeking relief.

Resolution – Adopted, as Amended

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association seek legislative and/or policy changes that would mandate local Industrial Development Agencies to include affected school districts in the development and/or extension of any Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement(s). This inclusion must be initiated at the earliest possible stages of any PILOT consideration.

Resolution – Adopted

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association support legislation at the state and/or federal level that would allow and enhance the sharing of services amongst school districts and other municipalities.

Resolution – Adopted, as Amended

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association support proposals to provide resources to local school districts to expand opportunities and capacity for online learning, provided that they increase student opportunities and do not decrease current levels of instruction.

Resolution – Adopted

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Board Association should support proposals to incorporate prekindergarten funding into the school aid formulas used for K-12 education.

Resolution – Adopted

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association oppose proposals to raise the number of charter schools authorized in the state.

Resolution – Adopted

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association should oppose proposals to expand mayoral control to school districts beyond New York City.

Resolution – Adopted

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association support proposals to regulate and restrict the use of tobacco products among youth.

Resolution – Adopted

RESOLVED, that NYSSBA seek legislative support to allow for more than one Board Member to simultaneously attend a New York State Office of State Comptroller (OSC) audit exit conference.

Resolution – Adopted

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association supports legislation that makes it clear that public school districts are not responsible for assessing the substantial equivalency of education delivered in nonpublic schools.

Resolution – Adopted

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association supports legislation to authorize bidirectional communication between New York school districts and the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS), to allow for the efficient query and transfer of student immunization data.

Resolution – Adopted

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association supports legislation that would enable the Commissioner of Education to declare alternate election arrangements in cases where a disaster substantially interrupts a scheduled school board/budget vote.

Resolution – Adopted, as Amended

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association seek to support legislation that would provide funding for suggested (not mandated) state training and certification to provide parent advocates with knowledge and resources to support their advocacy work for parents and students in their attendance at Committee on Special Education meetings and hearings.

Resolution – Adopted

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association support legislation that promotes the reduction in costs associated with an impartial hearing, independent evaluations requests, and attorney fees associated with due process claims.

Resolution – Adopted

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association support increased state and federal funding to provide educational equity by addressing the digital divide created by limited access to technology and broadband.

Resolution – Adopted, as Amended

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association oppose mid-year state aid cuts and to advocate for additional funding from both state and federal governments to compensate school districts for Covid-19 related expenses for the 2020-21 school year to allow for educational continuity and fiscal stability for school districts.

Resolution – Adopted

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association produce, and widely recommend the adoption of a board policy, or language to be added to the existing policy related to child abuse, stating that the adopting district will encourage and facilitate all school personnel, including those who are mandated reporters and those who are not, to participate, once every three years, in a course or workshop that presents information related to signs of child abuse and the responsibilities of reporting it.