

Long Term

These overarching issues must be addressed for public schools to excel and provide an opportunity for every child to succeed. Providing high quality public education is the best investment to grow Arizona's economy. The items below reflect those key issues on which we will concentrate over the next 5-10 years.

1. Structurally change the school finance formula to equitably and adequately fund public schools to:
 - a. Assure a more stable and reliable source.
 - b. Maximize local school district flexibility in managing these funds.
 - c. Require the same accountability measures of all schools and individuals that receive public funds.
 - d. Repeal any program that gives public monies to private schools.
2. Uphold preservation of local control to reinforce the connection between the community and its elected governing board members.
3. Meet the unique educational needs of every student so that every student has the opportunity to reach his/her full potential.

5-10
years

Short Term

Building toward our long-term areas of success, the following items represent critical needs to put us on that path, and will engage our energies over the next 3-5 years.

1. Fund voluntary, full-day kindergarten and include kindergarten students in the override calculation.
2. Reinstate and fund capital funding formulas to comply with at least state school building minimum standards.
3. Provide greater equity in funding and access for special education students within the public school system.
4. Allow public school tax credits to be used as determined by local districts.
5. Establish appropriate financial and academic accountability for Empowerment Scholarship Accounts.
6. Maximize trust land income for teachers' salaries and student classroom opportunities.

3-5
years

2015 Session-Specific

Building toward our long-term areas of success, the following items reflect issues that will not only move us forward, but we believe can be accomplished next year given the legislative atmosphere and current public trends.

1. Advocate to lessen unfunded mandates and administrative burdens.
2. Restore Building Renewal funding to ensure school facilities are adequately maintained.
3. Change "override/budget increase" language to "locally controlled funding" to better reflect what voters are being asked to support.
4. Allow school districts greater flexibility in the divestiture of property to address population and course needs.
5. Allow districts the option to operate individual schools for 200-day school years and increase accompanying funding to 8% from 5% to improve student achievement.
6. Restore 9th grade funding for CTE/JTEDs, and fully fund JTEDs at 100%, so that students have the opportunity to be exposed to and pursue career fields and/or certification completion.
7. Reinstate the ability of districts to charter schools for innovation.
8. Fund the implementation costs of Arizona's new standards, assessments, and technology and provide for adequate assessment transition time.
9. Lead efforts to align Arizona's accountability system with the criteria desired for student, school, and district success.
10. Fund inflation fully in the manner prescribed by statute mandated by Arizona voters.
11. Establish appropriate financial and academic accountability for Arizona Online Instruction programs.

2015



Arizona School Boards Association

Guiding the Process

Quality leadership and advocacy for children in public schools

ASBA leadership and members of the association's Governmental Relations and Legal Services staff guide the political agenda process in concert with the ASBA Legislative Committee.



Dr. Timothy L. Ogle
Executive Director



Jesus Rubalcava
2015 President
Gila Bend USD



Janice Palmer
Director of
Governmental
Relations and
Public Affairs



Geoff Esposito
Governmental
Relations Analyst



Chris Thomas
General Counsel /
Director of Legal
and Policy Services

2100 N. Central Ave., Ste, 200 | Phoenix, AZ 85004
602.254.1100 | 800.238.4701 | www.azsba.org