



# Legislative Platform

## Academic Excellence and Student Success

- **We support** legislation that provides access and opportunity for all students to quality learning experiences supporting a successful future.
- **We support** legislation and funding for instructional support for academic interventions to meet unique student needs.
- **We support** legislation and funding to increase access to early childhood education and Parents as Teachers programming, recognizing the long-term benefits of a strong foundation in the early years of a child's education.
- **We support** a balanced state assessment system, based on the principles of universal assessment design, including performance-based assessments which inform instruction by providing timely and meaningful feedback to students, parents and educators. Universal assessment design "allows participation of the widest possible range of students, and to result in valid inferences about performance for all students who participate in the assessment." (NCEO)
- **We support** a locally determined assessment and accountability system that enhances the work of the Real World Learning initiative in PCR-3.
- **We support** ensuring students have access to dual enrollment and real world learning opportunities to prepare for postsecondary and workforce readiness.

## School Funding

- **We support** increasing overall state funding, per pupil, in an effort to make Missouri rank in the top one-half (currently ranked 47th) of all states in the country in support of PreK-12 education, including fully funding transportation.
- **We support** legislation that ensures adequate funding and resources for special education programs, allowing students with disabilities to receive the support they need to succeed academically and socially.
- **We support** the full funding of local, state and federal mandates.
- **We oppose** legislation or proposals that would divert public monies or resources, directly or indirectly, from public schools to non-public educational entities or organizations.
- **We support** legislation that requires equal representation and the unanimous support of all taxing jurisdictions for any economic development incentives (TIF, Chapter 100, Chapter 353, etc.) or otherwise provide an opt-out provision.
- **We support** legislation stipulating the enactment of accurate and timely property tax assessment practices and the clarification of assessment terms and timelines to promote uniformity and fairness of property tax assessments.
- **We support** the provision of a simple majority vote for the passage of local school district bond issues.

## Community Engagement and Support

- **We support** legislation that fosters positive collaboration with community and family stakeholders for effective policy decisions.

## Health, Safety, and Social/Emotional Wellbeing

- **We support** legislation and funding that enhances school safety measures, including emergency preparedness plans, security personnel training, and school safety infrastructure improvements.
- **We support** local control when it comes to decisions regarding the health, wellbeing, and safety of students and the educational policies for such students within the school district.
- **We support** increased funding dedicated to both school and community-based student mental and behavioral health.
- **We support** increased funding dedicated to cyber and data security for school and technology infrastructure.
- **We support** a line-item appropriation of state funding for safety measures for school districts to protect students from harm and/or violence.
- **We support** legislation to clarify state law regarding the use of restrooms in public schools.

## Professional and Operational Excellence

- **We urge** the Legislature to partner with local school districts and school stakeholders to “build up” the profession of public education.
- **We oppose** any legislation that mandates open enrollment of students without engaging impacted stakeholders and successfully creating detailed policy that provides thoughtful direction in addressing the various complications such as funding, overcrowding, transportation, assessment accountability, and extracurricular participation.
- **We support** charter schools to be held to the same standards as all public schools to determine effectiveness before passing legislation to expand to other parts of the state.

## Workforce Needs

- **We support** legislation and funding that supports initiatives to attract and retain high-quality educators, including competitive salaries and benefits, professional development opportunities, teacher support programs, and simplifying licensure processes.
- **We urge** the Legislature and Governor to work with school leaders to develop an ongoing statewide, comprehensive approach to increase teacher salaries and wages for support staff. It is vital that Missouri seeks to bring teacher pay and support staff pay to a level that is competitive with other neighboring states.
- **We support** “work after retirement” rules that provide maximum flexibility to allow school districts to fill positions where few quality candidates may exist.
- **We oppose** legislation that reduces the benefits provided by the current state public school retirement systems (PSRS and PEERS).

## Governance and Local Control

- **We support** preserving local autonomy and the authority of local boards of education to determine employee compensation and working conditions, class sizes, school curriculum and instruction materials, professional development, employee evaluations, academic calendars, and student assessments.
- **We support and appreciate** our local school boards for the time and dedication they provide to school districts. We support the continuation of non-partisan school board elections.

