



Position Statements

Illinois Association of School Administrators

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to bring focus to and operationalize the IASA mission to facilitate the work of the staff and membership in the legislative and political arena.

Further, this document is intended to be modified in a regular and systematic way through the continued work of the Resolutions/Position Statements Committee in cooperation with the membership of the Illinois Statewide School Management Alliance.

These position statements have been developed through the work of the IASA Resolutions/Position Statements Committee and the IASA Governmental Strategies Delegation and approved by the Board of Directors.

IASA Vision: Maximum Educational Success for All Students

IASA Mission Statement: To support school leaders in the pursuit of educational excellence through continued school improvement.

Guidelines

1. The Resolutions/Position Statements Committee shall develop position statements to be used in assessment of legislative and other educational policy proposals.
2. All position statements shall be consistent with the IASA Platform and Mission.
3. All proposed position statements are to be approved by the Board of Directors before becoming official positions of the IASA.
4. Once approved, all position statements remain in effect until modified or discontinued by the Board of Directors.
5. A simple majority of the members present at meetings of the Resolutions/Position Statements Committee and Board of Directors is required to add, modify or discontinue position statements.
6. Recognizing the common interests of the IASA and the Illinois Association of School Boards, and recognizing the active role superintendents play in the developing of IASB position statements, IASB position statements should be systematically reviewed for IASA incorporation.
7. Recognizing the common interests of the IASA and the Illinois Principals Association, Illinois Association of School Business Officials and the Illinois Association of School Boards, the IASA will work in cooperation with these Illinois Statewide School Management Alliance member associations.

IASA Position Statements - Legislation

1.1 LEGISLATIVE INVOLVEMENT - The IASA shall continue its legislative involvement, encourage increased legislative activity by local school administrators and initiate legislation that will ensure school districts of the powers necessary to carry out their designated responsibilities of educating, in an equitable manner, all public school students in Illinois. (1/00)

1.2 LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES - The IASA shall actively encourage and assist school administrators to effectively evaluate positions of legislative candidates relative to public education and actively support, both financially and through service, those candidates who have demonstrated an understanding and support for the principles of school management to ensure the best education for public school students in Illinois. (1/06)

1.3 GENERAL ASSEMBLY/OPERATING PROCEDURES - The IASA supports those operating procedures of the General Assembly that promote maximum exchange of information between legislators and interested citizens. (1/00)

1.4 EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY EDUCATION - The IASA shall provide leadership in guiding local school administrators to seek public support of legislative positions that are essential to effective management and quality education in the State of Illinois. (1/00)

1.5 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION - The IASA shall take aggressive leadership in encouraging intergovernmental cooperation for the best interests of quality education in Illinois. (1/00)

1.6 LIMITED BILL INTRODUCTIONS - The IASA shall encourage the Illinois General Assembly to limit the quantity of legislation introduced in each two-year period to allow time for each bill to be researched, debated and thoroughly investigated before action by the General Assembly. (1/00)

1.7 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPERATION - The IASA shall support changes in the operating procedures of the Illinois General Assembly that would promote maximum exchange of information between legislators and interested citizens and ensure enlightened debate on the merits of all proposed bills and take the action necessary to prevent legislation from being changed by amendments not germane to the original purpose of the bill, or establish a time limit for such amendments sufficient to avoid last minute changes in the final weeks of a legislative session. (1/00)

1.8 EFFECTIVE DATE - The IASA shall encourage the Illinois General Assembly to allow a minimum of one year lead time for implementation of any regulation or legislation increasing costs in public schools. (1/00)

Updated - November 2006

IASA Position Statements - School Finance: State Issues

2.1 STATE SUPPORT/CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE - The IASA encourages and supports legislative action to increase reimbursements to such levels necessary to implement the constitutional requirement that the State of Illinois have primary responsibility for financing the system of public education. (1/00)

2.2 STATE AID PAYMENTS - The IASA shall encourage the Illinois General Assembly to pass legislation whereby State aid payments would be forwarded to all school districts directly from the State Comptroller. (1/00)

2.3 STATE AID PAYMENTS - The IASA shall support legislation that requires the State of Illinois to make general state aid payments to school districts, on a monthly basis, during the entitlement year in which they are appropriated. (1/00)

2.4 MANDATED PROGRAMS - The IASA supports the local control of public schools and believes any programs or services mandated by the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor or the Illinois State Board of Education should provide sufficient new revenues to fully reimburse the additional costs by those programs. Statutory enactment of new mandated programs must be in compliance with and not exempted from the State Mandates Act. (1/00)

2.5 FORWARD FUNDING - The IASA shall encourage and support legislative and/or a constitutional amendment that will enable and require the State and federal governments to implement forward funding of school programs, thus providing for the efficient and effective management of school districts. (1/09)

2.6 FUNDING OF GROUP PLACEMENT STUDENTS - The IASA urges the General Assembly and Governor's Office to provide funding for children who are wards of the State who create a significant impact on local school district budgets when they are placed in temporary shelters and foster homes operating within school districts. (1/00)

2.7 TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM - The IASA urges the Illinois General Assembly to fully fund the Teachers' Retirement System. (1/00)

2.8 STATE INSTITUTIONS - The IASA urges the State to provide funds to local school districts for purchasing or constructing additional classrooms required to provide instruction for students who reside in State facilities located within the district. (1/00)

2.9 INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES - The IASA shall encourage the Illinois General Assembly to study the current laws pertaining to investment opportunities now available to public agencies and school districts with the goal of expanding the list of appropriate investment vehicles and clarifying existing language to include such options as public access money market funds. (1/00)

2.10 CONTRACTING DRIVER'S EDUCATION - The IASA shall support legislation authorizing school districts to provide a comprehensive driver's education program through contract. Such contracts should be made with properly authorized persons or agencies and may include provisions allowing for the use of school property. (1/00)

2.11 CORPORATE PERSONAL PROPERTY REPLACEMENT TAX - The IASA supports the Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax as a source of revenue for schools. Any proposed legislation should not diminish the funds provided by this revenue source. (1/00)

2.12 IMPACT AID (STUDENT HOUSING) - The IASA shall support legislation reinstating Impact Aid to school districts where there are students residing in housing provided on state property from which no property taxes are received. The Impact Aid shall be based on the number of students generated from the state property. (1/00)

2.13 GENERAL STATE AID FORMULA - The Illinois Association of School Administrators:

- Encourages the Governor and legislators to fund the general State aid formula at a level that reflects the cost of providing quality education for Illinois students;
- Encourages the Governor and legislators to meet the costs of funding quality public education by making education the State's primary budgetary program, which may require the increase of existing taxes or establishment of new taxes to generate the necessary State revenues;
- Opposes any provision in a general State aid formula that would reduce a district's ability to generate local property tax revenues;
- Recognizes the inequity of the current general State aid formula and supports research by the Illinois State Board of Education to uncover methods of eliminating those inequities; and
- Urges the Governor and legislators to review the method of calculating the disadvantaged student count which currently uses Title 1 eligible students in the school aid formula and replace it with a more accurate method of determining the number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds. (1/00)

2.14 FUNDING SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS - The IASA shall urge Congress to adequately fund Public Law 94-142 (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) commensurate with the mandates required by the Act; shall strongly encourage the State of Illinois to totally fund with new monies, in a timely manner, the extra costs of educating children with special needs including transportation and accessibility costs; shall seek changes in current practice to fund local districts for special education professional personnel at 51% of the prior year's average salary for such professionals, and shall continue to oppose any requirement that local public school districts pay room and board costs for any child with a disability placed in private facilities. (1/02)

2.15 TITLE 1 COUNT - The IASA shall encourage the Illinois General Assembly to adopt a fair, appropriate, accurate and timely means of determining the count of low income students as used for the general aid distribution formula. (1/00)

2.16 ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS - The IASA shall support adequate State funding for regional alternative schooling programs. (1/00)

2.17 PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS - The IASA shall support full funding of early childhood programs operated by public schools as a priority. All programs receiving any public monies shall be required to meet all standards and oversight applicable to programs operated by public schools. The IASA shall support legislation to fully fund with new monies for both staffing and infrastructure costs associated with early childhood programs for such children as originally defined in PA 84-126, and further addressed in Public Act 94-0506 and Public Act 94-1054. (1/08)

2.18 FUNDING FOR DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION – The IASA shall seek administrative and legislative actions calling for the provision of separate and sufficient new monies to support programs of differentiated instruction for those students identified as having exceptional talents and abilities, permitting these students to reach their potential. Such student talents and abilities may be in areas that expand beyond the core curricula. To ensure efficiency and productivity in the implementation of these programs, school districts should be provided sufficient flexibility in the acquisition and expenditure of such State funds. (1/08)

2.19 SCHOOL FUNDING - The IASA shall actively support the general concepts regarding school funding reform, property tax relief and tax reform identified in the legislative outline prepared by the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability in June of 2004. Legislation resulting from that legislative outline shall be supported by the Illinois Association of School Administrators provided that: the State guarantees the payment of property tax relief grants will be made in a timely fashion with no loss of funds to the school district: school districts have continued access to local property tax revenues through levies and referenda: and the legislation meets the criteria outlined in the IASA Position Statement 3.20 – School Finance Reform. (9/06)

2.20 BILINGUAL EDUCATION OPTIONS - The IASA shall request the Illinois State Legislature to pass legislation to amend the current Illinois School Code to make Transitional Bilingual Education optional and not mandatory.(1/09)

Updated – January 2009

IASA Position Statements - School Finance: Local Issues

3.1 ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTIONS - The IASA supports recommendations for improving assessment, collection and distribution of tax revenues. (1/00)

3.2 ADMINISTRATIVE COST CAP - The IASA shall support legislation that eliminates administrative cost caps provisions of P.A. 90-548. (1/00)

3.3 ASSESSMENT OF POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITIES - The IASA shall support legislation that would return to the tax rolls pollution control facilities including landfills which are included within the rate base of a public utility and as result earn a rate of return for such utility. (1/00)

3.4 INVESTMENT EARNINGS - The IASA supports legislation or local practices that allow school district participation in taxing decisions which have the impact of potentially eroding a school district's ability to access the property tax base such as the current 6B and 7B application process in Cook County. (1/00)

3.5 NOTIFICATION OF TAX APPEALS - The IASA supports the concept that the Board of Appeals or Board of Review will hold no hearings on a complaint until the school district and municipality involved have been notified and been given adequate time to prepare and an opportunity to present its case in full. (1/00)

3.6 STANDING ON TAX APPEALS - The IASA supports legislation giving local school districts and municipalities legal standing to appear before any assessing authority or court of jurisdiction to object to and present evidence of inequities in the assessment of real property for tax purposes. (1/00)

3.7 TRANSPORTATION LEVY-EXCESS COSTS - The IASA supports legislation that would allow certain school districts to increase their levy in the Transportation Fund, subject to backdoor referendum, to an amount sufficient to pay for costs of transportation of students not met by tax revenues from the fund levy and the state reimbursement for transportation programs. Eligible districts would be those that are levying no less than the permissive rate in the Transportation Fund and transport students in accordance with Illinois law. (1/00)

3.8 EDUCATION FUND TAX INCREASE - The IASA shall support legislation to increase the maximum permissive tax rate that may be levied for educational purposes. (1/00)

3.9 UTILITY TAXES - The IASA shall support legislation to exempt public school districts from all taxes imposed by state, federal, and units of local government. They shall neither seek to deprive or deplete public schools of their funds. Each public school district shall be issued its own district's State and Federal Tax Exemption Identification Number for such exemption. It shall be the responsibility of the taxing body to notify the agency collecting the tax of its exemption and assure its implementation. (1/09)

3.10 PERMISSIVE TAX RATE EQUALIZATION - The IASA urges the Illinois General Assembly to equalize taxing authority without referendum of dual and unit districts in all funds. (1/00)

3.11 REQUIRED SITE DEDICATION - The IASA supports legislation requiring builders and subdividers to dedicate land for school purposes or to make cash payments in lieu of such dedication and to allow cash payments to be used for operational expenses. (1/04)

3.12 SUBDIVISION ASSESSMENT - The IASA urges the Illinois General Assembly to adopt a resolution enforcing the annual assessment of unsold lots platted within a subdivision based upon one-third of the market price of comparable property. (1/00)

3.13 LIFE SAFETY FUND-GENERAL - The IASA shall support legislation that allows the State Board of Education to approve the use of monies generated from the health/life safety tax levy or the sale of health/life safety bonds for building projects that, while not specifically listed as a State Board approved project, will directly result in the improved safety of the students and/or community. Specifically, such funds shall be eligible to cover the costs for the following purposes: 1) repair or replacement of property such as school sidewalks, driveways, parking lots and playground equipment, in instances when a specific safety hazard is demonstrated by a licensed architect or engineer; 2) mandated alterations to facilities and school property pursuant to requirements of the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act; and 3) to provide air conditioning and climate control in the classrooms, and to provide for the lease and/or purchase of air-conditioning equipment under the tax for leasing (including lease purchase and installment purchase) of educational facilities). (11/06)

3.14 COOK COUNTY GAS TAX EXEMPTION - The IASA shall encourage and support leadership to exempt school districts from paying Cook County taxes on gasoline. (1/00)

3.15 MOBILE HOME TAXATION - The IASA supports further study of taxation of mobile homes to determine how the value of the dwelling and the value of services afforded the owners and the occupants of the dwelling can be more adequately measured. Until the current system of taxation is changed, the IASA encourages the improved collection of the service tax on mobile homes. (1/00)

3.16 CAPS ON LEVY GROWTH - The IASA supports the authority of school boards to extend taxes to limits authorized by voters without being required to seek further voter approval. (1/00)

3.17 DISCRIMINATORY EFFECT OF TAX CAPS - The IASA shall initiate and support legislative action directed toward correcting the discriminatory effect of the tax cap bill that includes life safety extension within the aggregate levy of collar county school districts unless a referendum is held to authorize the sale of life safety bonds. (1/00)

3.18 PROPERTY TAX CLASSIFICATION - The IASA supports maintaining the real estate assessment for residential property unless it is offset on a one-to-one ratio. (1/00)

3.19 TAX CAP EXEMPTIONS - The IASA shall support legislation designed to exempt the districts in counties under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) from the restrictions of the tax cap in their Fire and Life Safety, IMRF, Social Security and Tort Immunity funds; base the property tax cap on the Employment Cost Index (ECI) rather than the Consumer Price Index; and establish a "floor" to the PTELL to ensure that the allowable percentage increase in the extension cannot be less than the allowable percentage increase in the 1998 levy year. (11/06)

3.20 PROPERTY TAX CAP – GSA CALCULATIONS - The IASA shall support legislation to modify the General State Aid Formula calculation for school districts subject to PTELL (Property Tax Extension Limitation Law) such as that they are not penalized when successfully passing an operating fund rate increase referendum (1/09)

3.21 SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM - The IASA shall adopt as a position statement the recommendations contained in the Report of the Finance Initiative Committee of the IASB which reads:

"The State of Illinois, having the responsibility of defining requirements for elementary and secondary education establishes that the primary purpose of schooling is the transmission of knowledge and culture through which children learn in areas necessary to their continuing

development. Such areas include: language arts; mathematics; biological physical and social sciences; fine arts; physical development; and health.

Each school district shall give priority in the allocation of resources, including funds, time allocation, personnel, and facilities to fulfilling the primary purpose of schooling." (The School Code, 105 ILCS 5/27-1)

The IASB believes that adequate funding must be provided for each student in order to guarantee the opportunity for an appropriate public education.

An appropriate education is defined as an education that provides for all students educational opportunities that meet the goals for learning established by the state in the Education Reform Act of 1985 and local community expectations as expressed through local board policy.

The following are criteria by which proposals for school finance reform shall be evaluated:

1. The state's funding of public education should provide for a stable, reliable and predictable commitment of revenue.
2. State funding levels for public education must be a function of the actual cost of providing an appropriate education.
3. Adequate funding should be sought through the addition of new state revenues for public education.
4. Any funding formula developed by the General Assembly shall place high priority upon achieving the goal of equity in providing financial resources to local school districts.
5. Increased state funding for public education should not reduce the ability of school districts to increase their local property tax rate.
6. In the distribution of state funds to local school districts:
 - a) funding differentials for various levels of schooling are appropriate only if based on verified costs;
 - b) consideration should be given to regional differences in the cost of providing an appropriate education;
 - c) the method of calculating the number of students coming from disadvantaged backgrounds should be based on current, verifiable data; and
 - d) size of school district is important only to the extent that a district provides an appropriate education.
7. A specified local tax effort should be required to qualify for state aid.
8. Authority for changing a district's aggregate tax levy should be retained by the local board of education.
9. Taxing authority without referendum for unit districts in all funds should be equal to the sum of the taxing authority in dual districts.
10. Funding should not be tied to mandated training of local Boards of Education.

In order to obtain substantial new state revenues for funding an appropriate education, the following considerations should have an impact on any proposal for school finance reform:

- Accountability will be needed.
- The physical plant needs of Illinois' school districts should continue to be addressed.
- Taxpayer equity and relief, including uniform tax assessment and procedures as well as tax relief for limited fixed income and disabled citizens, should be provided. (1/04)

3.22 LOCAL DISTRICT INCOME TAX - The IASA shall support legislation that would allow a school district, subject to a referendum, to impose an income tax. (1/00)

3.23 PROPERTY TAX BASE - The IASA shall oppose any reduction in a district's access to local property tax revenue and shall oppose legislation that would erode the property tax base to educate children in the state of Illinois. (11/06)

3.24 PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION - The IASA supports the assessment and collection of property taxes at the local level. (1/00)

3.25 PROPERTY TAX RATE INCREASES - The IASA shall support legislation that would require that new property tax rates levied immediately following successful passage of tax rate increases be used as the calculating rate and extended as required under the School Code (105 ILCS 5/17-3.2). (1/03)

3.26 STANDING ON TAX APPEALS - The IASA shall support legislative action to enable public school districts, in Cook County specifically, to (1) receive notices of assessment appeals in excess of \$100,000; (2) become participants in assessment reduction proceedings at the administrative and judicial levels; and (3) allow the refund to be credited toward future property tax payments. Further, the IASA urges that the necessary resources be made available in order to facilitate the timely processing of property tax proceedings. (11/06)

3.27 TAX INCREMENT FINANCING - The IASA shall support changes in the current Tax Increment Financing statute that will model adopting procedures after those established for Enterprise Zones, continue to provide definitions for terms such as blighted used in the statute, develop procedures for disbanding TIF areas that do not produce anticipated growth, remove the requirement that all taxing bodies participate equally, to be monitored by the TIF Joint Review Board at each of its scheduled meetings, reduce the financial impact of the TIF area so that the percentage loss of Equalized Assessed Evaluation (EAV) involved in the TIF will not exceed twice the average loss of EAV to each taxing body, and limit its use in new residential development, and make the recommendation of the Joint Review Board binding. (11/06)

3.28 BOND AND INTEREST LEVY - The IASA shall attempt to have legislation passed that would permit a school district to increase the bond and interest levy to recover taxes lost from an adverse Property Tax Appeal Board Decision that caused the district to expend operating funds to amortize debt. (1/00)

3.29 TRUTH IN TAXATION - The IASA shall seek a modification in the Truth in Taxation Notice that would allow a school district to provide further information to the voting public in the form of explanatory comments which may be included in the statutorily mandated Truth in Taxation Notice. (11/06)

3.30 SALES TAX FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS - The IASA shall advocate that the General Assembly study and consider legislation allowing school districts access to additional forms of financial revenue, both state and local sources, including but not limited to, sales tax revenue. Further, any form of additional revenue for schools must provide that school districts determine the fund(s) in which to place the additional revenue. (11/06)

3.31 BIDDING CONTRACTS-LOCAL BIDDERS - The IASA shall support legislation that allows the local Board of Education to award a contract, under certain circumstances, to a qualified bidder that may not be the lowest responsible bidder. The bid must not be more than 2% over the lowest responsible bid and the bidder must be considered a local contractor by the local Board of Education. (11/06)

3.32 NON RESIDENT STUDENT TUITION – The IASA shall support legislation to allow legally enrolled students who have become non-residents of the district to attend the school as a non-resident

student, tuition-free, until the end of the grading period or school term, as determined by school board policy. The student shall not be charged tuition for the remainder of the grading period or school term in which he or she became a non-resident pupil. The legislation should allow students who are seniors in high school, and legally enrolled on the first day of school to continue in the district, tuition free, only until the end of that school year.

Updated - January 2009

IASA Position Statements - School Finance: Federal Issues

4.1 SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING - The IASA shall urge the Congress of the United States to adequately fund the IDEA Act of 1997 commensurate with the mandates required by the Act and focus specifically on students whose placement requires new expenditures required by the reauthorization. (1/00)

4.2 SCHOOL LUNCH AND MILK PROGRAMS - The IASA endorses the concept of school lunch and milk programs in each local school district for all children and urges federal and State governments to not reduce financial support for existing programs. (1/00)

4.3 E-RATE DISCOUNT PROGRAM - The IASA shall urge Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to continue to support discount programs, including but not limited to the "E-Rate" program created in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, to provide affordable Internet access, distance-learning, and other educational programs for school districts and libraries. (1/00)

Updated - November 2006

IASA Position Statements - School Finance: General Issues

5.1 PRIVATE SCHOOL FUNDING - The IASA opposes payments of State funds directly or indirectly to nonpublic elementary-secondary schools. (1/00)

5.2 NONPUBLIC STUDENTS-REPORTING REQUIREMENT - The IASA supports legislation requiring that nonpublic schools receiving the benefit of public funds or services shall submit to the Illinois State Board of Education on an annual basis the names, ages and addresses of all students enrolled in their schools. (1/00)

5.3 PRIVATELY PROVIDED EDUCATION - The IASA opposes legislative initiatives including, but not limited to, vouchers and school choice that have the effect of diverting public education funds to support privately provided education. (1/00)

5.4 LEGAL FEES TAX - The IASA shall support legislation that will permit school districts to levy taxes for legal fees related to special education requirements procedures, due process hearings, collective bargaining and proceedings under the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act, and other matters of preventive care, litigation, settlement or resolution for which attorneys fees and costs are not otherwise authorized by statute. (1/00)

5.5 TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS - The IASA supports legislation that would require the State Legislature to include a line item on the State budget providing revenue for technology in the schools. (1/00)

5.6 ENERGY COSTS - The IASA supports legislation to allow school districts to levy a permissive tax to fund energy costs. (1/00)

5.7 HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS - The IASA supports legislation to allow school districts to levy a permissive tax to fund health insurance costs. (1/00)

5.8 FINANCING PUBLIC EDUCATION

5.81 CAPITAL FUNDING FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION - The IASA shall continue to support the current School Construction Grant Program and its provisions for grant applications, grant entitlements, grant awards, and local school district authority to select architects, engineers, contracts, and laborers. All school districts with an approved school construction grant entitlement shall be paid the amount of the entitlement in its entirety before a new school construction program can be implemented. Awarded entitlements shall be adjusted to accommodate increased costs such as material, labor, or property incurred from the date a district receives its entitlement letter until funding is actually distributed to the school district recipient. The IASA shall advocate that the General Assembly study and consider additional forms of financial revenue for school construction needs, including but not limited to, sales tax revenue. Any new revenue shall supplement current school construction funds, not supplant them.

IASA shall also support legislation that would amend Section 5-5 of 105 ILCS 230 to calculate the grant index in the school construction program for each of those school districts that consolidate or join for a cooperative high school after July 1, 2006 and utilize whichever grant index is highest for the newly consolidated district or cooperative high school rather than a composite index of all districts involved. (11/06)

5.82 FUNDING MANDATED PROGRAMS - The IASA believes that legislation encroaching upon local and lay control of the public schools should be curtailed, and, therefore:

1. Programs or services mandated by the Illinois General Assembly, the State Board of Education or any other State agency must demonstrate clear evidence of need for the mandate and the Illinois General Assembly must provide non-local revenues to fully fund the additional costs of those programs.
2. Regulations accompanying legislative mandates should specify required outcomes and criteria for determining compliance, but should allow local districts to determine the specific methods and procedures by which required outcomes will be accomplished.
3. Required time lines for accomplishment should reflect consideration of the human and material resources and amount of deliberation and development necessary to accomplish the mandate.
4. Urge the Illinois General Assembly to strictly comply with the State Mandates Act, including specifying and labeling in the descriptions of legislation containing unfunded mandates that such mandates occur, and to refrain from passing any legislation which contains an exemption from the Act, and urge the Governor to veto legislation that may reach the Governor's desk.
5. Urge the General Assembly to adopt legislation which would allow school districts greater flexibility in regard to state mandates and the use of grants. (10/05)

5.83 GRADUATED INCOME TAX - The IASA shall support the placement and passage of a constitutional amendment calling for a graduated state income tax. (1/00)

5.84 IMPACT FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT - The IASA shall participate in the development and passage of statewide enabling legislation allowing school boards of education to impose residential development impact fees with the option of local municipal control through intergovernmental cooperation. (1/00)

5.85 LOCAL TAXES ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS - The IASA shall support legislation which would exempt public schools from all taxes imposed by state, federal, and units of local government. They shall neither seek to deprive or delete public schools of their funds. Each public school district shall be issued its own district's State and Federal Tax Exemption Identification Number for such exemption. It shall be the responsibility of the taxing body to notify the agency collecting the tax of its exemption and assure its implementation. (1/04)

5.86 LOCAL TAXES DELINQUENT COLLECTION - The IASA shall seek legislation to amend that the tax code, or other prescriptive procedures, to minimize the punitive effects of delinquent collection and disbursement to districts of tax moneys raised by local levy. (1/00)

5.87 SUMMER SCHOOL FUNDING - The IASA shall support legislation to provide adequate funding to school districts to provide summer school at risk academic programs. (1/00)

5.88 UNFUNDED MANDATES - Support legislation opposing unfunded mandates from State government, and that any future mandates must provide a non-local source of funding. (1/00)

5.89 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON SCHOOL FUNDING - The IASA shall support passage of an amendment to the Illinois Constitution that would make education a fundamental right, would make it a paramount duty for the State to provide a thorough and efficient system of public education, and that would provide that the State has the preponderant financial responsibility for financing the system of public education. (11/07)

Updated - November 2006

IASA Position Statements - Local-State-Federal Relations

6.1 LOCAL CONTROL - The IASA shall take all appropriate action to encourage members of the U.S. Congress, the Illinois General Assembly, related administrative agencies, and State and federal courts to refrain from introducing, supporting or promulgating rules, regulations and legislation which deprive local school boards of decision-making powers on matters in which there is not a clear and compelling State or national interest. (11/06)

6.2 PARTICIPATING IN ZONING HEARINGS - The IASA supports requiring planning commissions, zoning boards and the governing bodies of the jurisdiction in which real estate developments or zoning changes are proposed to notify the school district affected about such proposals and related hearings. This notice should occur prior to action approving any zoning changes or real estate developments. (11/06)

6.3 ELIMINATION OF STATE AND FEDERAL MANDATES - The IASA shall support state rules and regulations, as determined by ISBE and other state agencies, that shall not exceed federal rules and regulations to the detriment of the educational process in Illinois. (1/00)

6.4 MANDATES ACT COMPLIANCE - The IASA shall urge the members of the General Assembly to comply with the State Mandates Act and refrain from passing any legislation that contains any exemptions from the Act, and urge the Governor to veto any such legislation that may reach the Governor's desk. (1/00)

6.5 STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT CARRYOVER - The IASA shall encourage the state and federal governments to remove carryover restrictions on grant programs that currently require local school districts to return grant fund balances back to the state. (1/00)

6.6 RAILROAD CROSSING - The IASA urges the Illinois General Assembly, the Congress of the United States, State and federal commerce commissions and railroad industries to continue working toward the installation of adequate warning devices at all railroad crossings maintained for public use in Illinois. (11/06)

6.7 DISTRICT REORGANIZATION - The IASA shall seek, encourage, and support efforts for school district reorganization - in all forms - to include a requirement that before such reorganization is deemed passed, a majority vote of voters in each of the affected districts is necessary. (11/06)

6.8 PROTECTION OF LOCAL CONTROL - The IASA opposes any programs mandated by the Illinois General Assembly or the Illinois State Board of Education and implemented and enforced by regional offices resulting in reduction or destruction of local and lay control of common schools by community elected school boards. (1/00)

6.9 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS - The IASA shall support legislation to reduce the current number of legal school holidays in Section 24-2 of The School Code and supports a moratorium on the creation of any additional legal school holidays. (1/00)

6.10 LIABILITY INSURANCE REFORM - The IASA shall support legislative changes that will limit damage awards arising out of tort actions and streamline the legal process to avoid lengthy litigations and frivolous lawsuits. (1/00)

6.11 DISCIPLINE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS - The IASA shall develop and implement a legislative agenda at the Federal and State levels which urges the adoption of legislation

easing the legal restrictions imposed on local school boards for disciplining students enrolled in special education programs, including the suspension and expulsion of such students. (1/00)

6.12 TORT IMMUNITY FUND - The IASA shall oppose legislation that seeks to limit a school district's legitimate use of the tort immunity fund. This includes amendments to the Local Government and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act that would prohibit the issuance of bonds or the levying of taxes by a school board to fund the costs of complying with equitable remedies or relief, or with an injunction agreed to by the school board or ordered by any court. (1/00)

6.13 STATUTORY JOB DESCRIPTION - The IASA shall oppose legislation which allows job descriptions for employees of school districts to be placed into state law. (1/00)

6.14 FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT - The IASA shall support legislation at both the Federal and State levels to exempt school district employees from overtime and salary regulations as described in the Fair Labor Standards Act. (10/05)

6.15 POLLING PLACES IN SCHOOLS - The IASA shall support legislation that amends the Election Code to allow a school district to refuse to be used as a polling place during elections for student safety reasons. (1/08)

Updated – January 2008

IASA Position Statements - Board of Education/District Organization

7.1 EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES - The IASA strongly supports local boards of education rights of self-determination and control, as duly elected representatives of the community, regarding hiring, dismissal and staff reduction of certificated and educational support personnel. (1/00)

7.2 DETERMINATION OF TEACHER SALARIES - The IASA supports the authority of local boards of education to determine teacher salaries. (1/00)

7.3 FREE TEXTBOOKS - The IASA supports the concept of school boards having the right of self-determination in the selection of school textbooks and would oppose any attempt by the Illinois State Board of Education to require the use of certain texts in order to administer the free textbook program. (1/00)

7.4 DETERMINATION OF CURRICULAR MATERIALS - The IASA supports the right and responsibility of each local school board to determine its curricular content. (1/02)

7.5 ESP PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES - The IASA shall support legislation that allows local school boards to negotiate local contractual arrangements for education support personnel including but not limited to, progressive disciplinary procedures. (1/00)

7.6 ELECTION PROCESS - The IASA shall support legislation which would allow voters, by a referendum placed on the ballot by the school board, to change the election of their school board from any form of sub-district to one at-large district. A majority vote from each sub-district would be required for passage. (1/00)

7.7 SCHOOL BALLOT FORMAT - The IASA shall urge the Illinois General Assembly to review and revise the school ballot formats as established in Section 9-12 of the School Code to more clearly identify for whom the voter is casting the ballot. (1/02)

7.8 ANNEXING DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS - The IASA shall seek an amendment to Article 7 of The School Code providing that neither a petition initiated by the citizens of one school district nor a petition initiated by a local school board of education seeking to annex their entire school district or a portion of the school district above and beyond one (1) home to another should be permitted without the affirmative vote of the citizens of each of the school districts affected. Specifically, 105 ILCS 5/7-1 and 7-2 shall be amended to include the following language: "When a petition is initiated by two-thirds (2/3rds) of the registered voters in one school district seeking to annex said district in its entirety to another school district or school districts and the board of education of such receiving school district or school districts has not adopted a resolution agreeing to such annexation, such annexation, if approved by the regional board of school trustees, shall not become effective until it is approved in an election called for the purpose of voting on the question of the voters in each school district affected." (11/06)

7.9 DETACHMENT FROM UNIT DISTRICT - The IASA shall oppose any efforts to amend the Illinois School Code to allow for less restrictive procedures for school districts to detach and form a new district. (11/06)

7.10 BOARD MEMBER – TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT - The IASA shall support legislation which will allow members of Boards of Education to be reimbursed for mileage for school board meetings held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Mileage reimbursement would be paid at the district approved allowable travel reimbursement rate not to exceed the federally allowable travel reimbursement rate. (1/09)

7.11 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER TRAINING - The IASA shall oppose any legislation that includes a provision for mandatory training of school board members. The IASB encourages local boards of education to model continuous improvements by pursuing all professional development and training opportunities. The IASB, with its unique combination of expertise and resources, is uniquely in the position to be the primary agency responsible for school board member training and professional development as recognized by Article 23 of the Illinois School Code. (1/09)

Updated – January 2009

IASA Position Statements - Special Education

8.1 FINANCING SPECIAL EDUCATION - The IASA believes that legislation pertaining to the special education of handicapped children by the State and federal governments without full funding is discriminatory to the majority of the children by forcing local districts to fund these special education programs at the expense of regular programs. (1/00)

8.2 SPECIAL EDUCATION/RELATED COSTS - The IASA shall inform the Illinois General Assembly and Governor's Office that children who are wards of the State create a significant impact on local school district budgets when they are placed in temporary shelters and foster homes. Further, the State shall provide 100% of the cost of these placements. The Association shall:

1. Work to increase the financial incentives to those local school districts which provide alternatives to residential placement for those students.
2. Initiate and support legislation that will require the Department of Children and Family Services to involve local school districts in any plans for group placements of children in those districts and that funds for educating the placed youngsters must be earmarked (appropriated, planned for) in the agency's budget prior to finalizing any plan.
3. Seek and support legislation for the State of Illinois to provide funds to local school districts for purchasing or constructing additional classrooms that are required to provide instruction for students who reside in state facilities located within the district. (1/02)

8.3 SPECIAL EDUCATION-TENURE RIGHTS - The IASA supports legislation that shall restrict the probation, tenure, transfer, dismissal and reduction-in-force rights of teachers in educational cooperatives so that these teachers shall have such rights in a single district and not in multiple districts. (1/00)

8.4 SPECIAL EDUCATION COSTS - The IASA strongly encourages the State of Illinois to totally fund, in a timely manner and with new monies above and beyond the annual appropriation, the extra costs of educating children with special needs including transportation and accessibility costs, including room and board costs for handicapped children placed in private facilities. (1/00)

Updated - November 2006

IASA Position Statements - Personnel/Collective Bargaining

9.1 LOCAL DISTRICT PERSONNEL STANDARDS - The IASA urges the Illinois State Board of Education to continue to provide the necessary financial assistance and consultation to enable local school districts to develop means of assessing and upgrading the competency of their certificated personnel. (1/00)

9.2 TEACHER COMPENSATION - The IASA supports teacher salaries that include performance based plans supplemental to the basic schedule and that are developed in a cooperative manner between the local board of education and the employee. (1/00)

9.3 PERSONNEL SHORTAGES - The IASA urges the Illinois State Board of Education to continue to explore innovative ways that would allow school districts to address critical teacher and/or minority personnel shortages, further supports incentives such as grants, scholarships and loans, to attract outstanding individuals to the teaching profession and school administration particularly in those areas of critical shortage. (1/00)

9.4 PROBATIONARY TEACHER DISMISSAL - The IASA supports local school board's decision-making authority in the area of rehiring probationary teachers with or without cause and believes that any legislation seeking to further restrict this authority is detrimental. (1/00)

9.5 DISMISSAL PROCEDURES - The IASA supports the establishment of dismissal procedures that protect the due process rights of employees and the rights of students to quality education. (1/00)

9.6 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING - The IASA believes the rights of the public, of the students and of school management should be preserved in any legislation regarding collective bargaining. The Association shall oppose legislation that diminishes the local school board's ability to collectively bargain with employees and shall encourage the General Assembly, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the State Superintendent to refrain from passing legislation that tips the balance of the bargaining process in favor of employee bargaining units. (1/02)

9.7 DISMISSAL BY SENIORITY - The IASA supports the elimination of legislation requiring that school boards dismiss tenured teachers by order of seniority within the district. (1/00)

9.8 PREVAILING WAGE ACT - The IASA supports legislation to relieve public schools from compliance with both the State and Federal Prevailing Wage Acts. (1/00)

9.10 NONCERTIFIED PERSONNEL - The IASA shall take action necessary to permit the expanded use of non-certified personnel by boards of education in the supervision of students in all areas of the school program when the instructional judgment of certificated teachers is not required and the board determines that the time of the professional educator can be utilized more efficiently and effectively in the development and maintenance of curriculum, the tutoring of students or in the role of the mentor teacher. (1/00)

9.11 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS - The IASA supports legislation that would exempt substitute teachers from being eligible for unemployment compensation. (1/00)

9.12 EDUCATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD PROCEDURES - The IASA shall work with the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board to increase its sensitivity to the need for timely decisions and establish criteria to identify matters in need of expedited attention. Further, the IASA shall utilize the legislative process to remove statutory barriers to timely and expedited decisions and support legislation to enhance the decision making process. (1/00)

9.13 IMRF QUALIFICATION - The IASA shall support legislation that would amend the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) laws for non-certified school staff to change, at each local district's option, the number of minimum hours an employee would work to qualify for IMRF from the current 600 hour standard to a 1,000 hour standard. This change would only be for new employees after the effective date of the legislation. (1/00)

9.14 IMRF/TRS PARITY - The IASA shall support legislation that would permit IMRF retirees to work commensurate with TRS retirees. (1/00)

9.15 STAFF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES - The IASA shall urge the ISBE to offer alternative times for staff development workshops other than during regular school hours when classes are in session. (1/01)

9.16 EARLY RETIREMENT-DISTRICT OPTION - The IASA shall support legislation which will allow Boards of Education to determine if a teacher may retire exercising the Early Retirement Option (ERO) with the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). (11/06)

Updated - November 2006

IASA Position Statements – Curriculum and Instruction

10.1 SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCREDITATION - The IASA supports the Illinois State Board of Education and its pursuit of Illinois State Board of Education approved accreditation for all public, private and home schools in Illinois. (1/00)

10.2 TECHNOLOGY IN THE SCHOOLS - The IASA supports legislation that directs the Illinois State Board of Education to assume a leadership role in the implementation of technology in the schools. The program will develop an ongoing program and provide school districts adequate technical assistance, in the use of technology for students learning and for administration of the schools, and the funding thereof. (1/00)

10.3 EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS - The IASA encourages the use of state and federal entitlement sources for: 1) early elementary grade intervention programs aimed at reducing subsequent student drop-out rates; and 2) educational programs, both half and full-day, for 3-5 year old children determined to be at risk of academic failure. Resources for said programs should be provided through the general State aid formula only in excess of existing fund levels. (1/00)

10.4 GROUP PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS - The IASA shall initiate and support legislation that will require the D.C.F.S. to involve local school districts in any plans for group placements of children in those districts. Further, funds for educating the placed youngsters must be earmarked (appropriated, planned for) in the agency's budget prior to finalizing any plan. (1/00)

10.5 HOME SCHOOLING - The IASA shall support legislation to enact appropriate laws and policies to demonstrate that the education received by home-taught students is of sufficient quality to ensure appropriate transfer to schools that have current certification and recognition status from the State Board of Education. (1/00)

Updated - November 2006

IASA Position Statements - Students

11.1 STUDENT ASSESSMENT - The IASA shall support legislation that will modify required State student assessments so testing does not go beyond what is required by federal law, and that prohibits the Illinois State Board of Education from pursuing activities designed to expand student assessment without legislative approval. Further, IASA shall support efforts to modify the Illinois and federal student assessment processes so that they will:

- reduce costs to schools, the state and therefore taxpayers;
- enhance student achievement;
- increase student instructional time and facilitate test score comparability within and across state lines;
- fairly test students who are English language learners so that their academic progress can be accurately assessed regardless of their fluency;
- return test results in a manner that will allow school districts to maximize student learning;
- comply with the federal accountability mandate tied to testing;
- maintain a needed emphasis on the Illinois Learning Standards; and
- develop a reporting process that reflects a school's progress beyond simply student assessment scores (1/09)

11.2 STANDARDIZED TEST PROCEDURES - The IASA shall urge the Illinois State Board of Education to contract with a national testing company to develop a state assessment test that will test the Illinois Standards on a yearly basis in compliance with, and only testing those areas required by, the "No Child Left Behind" Act. Further, the IASA shall support legislation to:

- require that the PSAE and ACT tests be given no earlier than April of each year with results received by local school districts no later than August 1 of that same year;
- acknowledge that assessments include both an annual overall performance measure as well as a system of local formative classroom-level assessments that are linked to desired standards;
- require that the ISAT test be given no earlier than March of each year with results received by local districts no later than August 1 of that same year;
- require that the test will remain the same for ten years with only changes in the test items to maintain security; and
- require that the cut scores be set before the test results are tabulated; leaving the score ranges the same from year to year and from grade to grade; and
- expedite and fully fund test development and implementation of an appropriate assessment instrument for English language learners. (1/09)

11.3 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND - The IASA:

- strongly disagrees with the premise that the quality and complexity of teaching and learning can be adequately and solely assessed by one achievement test given once during the school year;
- disagrees with the practice of assessing all schools with inconsistent standards allowed to be used by individual states to determine school accountability and adequate early progress;
- believes that the federal government has no authority to sanction local school districts; and
- believes that the current Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) accountability model for students with disabilities is not consistent with the goals of the new IDEA, as amended.

Therefore, the IASA shall work with the American Association of School Administrators and other coalitions to urge Congress and the Illinois General Assembly to:

- amend the provisions allowing for one high-stakes test to determine student achievement;

- remove the provisions for local school district sanctions;
- focus on professional development for teachers and administrators;
- fully fund any requirements placed on local school districts;
- amend the Act to permit alternate assessments and other appropriate measures of achievement for students with disabilities as specifically addressed by the student's Individual Education Program (IEP);
- amend the Act to permit alternate assessments and other appropriate measures for English language learners, including but not limited to providing directions and question content in their most fluent language, or to allow removal of individual English language learners from the subgroup when no appropriate test at their language level exists;
- allow academic progress to be charted by comparing performance measures made at periodic intervals within cohorts of students rather than by comparing the grade level group test scores from year to year; and
- reject the adoption of an NCLB requirement that high school students be tested annually as the sole measure of academic achievement. (10/05)

11.4 MILITARY RECRUITMENT IN SCHOOLS - The IASA shall work with the American Association of School Administrators and other coalitions to urge Congress and the General Assembly of Illinois to, regarding the No Child Left Behind Act, replace the opt-out burden on parents with an opt-in provision with regard to the requirement of secondary schools to disclose student information to military recruiters. (10/05)

11.5 STUDENT EXPULSIONS - The IASA shall support legislation and/or encourage the American Association of School Administrators to support legislation that gives local school districts more latitude than the law currently mandated by *Honeig v. Doe*. Particularly, school districts should have more latitude than the 10 day suspension limitation to accommodate the needs of the accused to acquire legal counsel, bring forth evidence, or testimony pertinent to the hearing. (1/03)

Updated – January 2009

IASA Position Statements - Miscellaneous

12.1 REGIONAL OFFICE OVERSIGHT BOARDS - The IASA shall support a change in the legal status of the Regional Office of Education Board from oversight to "advisory," as referenced in 105 ILCS 5/3A-16 and 17. (1/00)

12.2 ILLINOIS PUBLIC EDUCATION GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE - The IASA believes it is in the best interest of the continued improvement of the Illinois Public School system and the students it serves that:

1. There should be nine members on the Illinois State Board of Education with no more than five members of the Board from any one political party.
2. The members of the State Board of Education should be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate.
3. The Chairperson of the State Board of Education should be elected by the members of the State Board of Education from within the membership of the Board.
4. The election of the Chairperson of the State Board of Education should not require State Senate confirmation.
5. The employment of the State Superintendent of Education shall primarily be a function of the State Board of Education. (1/03)

Updated - November 2006