



California Association of School Business Officials 2016 Legislative Platform

Advocating for Our Students' Future

As the state's recognized leader and preeminent legislative policy advocate on school business and finance issues, CASBO's advocacy efforts are based on the fundamental principle that public education is the foundation of a healthy democracy and thriving economy. California students are the basis of the association's essential priorities, and bill positions are adopted with the goal of ensuring that all students have an opportunity to be educated in safe and healthy environments with appropriate educational resources, so that they may become productive members of society.

The principles contained in the 2016 legislative platform provide basic parameters to guide the CASBO's Legislative Committee and the Board of Directors on matters that are pending before the California Legislature and federal government. The platform is consistent with CASBO's mission, strategic planning process, and initiatives.

Mission Statement

As the recognized authority on California school business, CASBO is a member-driven association that promotes ethical values; develops exceptional leaders; advocates for, and supports the needs of, members; and sets the standard for excellence through top-quality professional development and mentorship, meaningful collaboration and communication and unparalleled innovation.

Fundamental Priorities

Robust, World-Class Education. CASBO supports a robust school finance system in California that empowers local education agencies to invest in high quality instructional education that meets the needs of students.

Quality and Safe Learning Environment. CASBO supports policies that foster local innovation to improve student achievement, and create safe and optimal learning environments for students, educators, and local communities.

Fiscal Accountability. CASBO believes that public trust requires personal and professional accountability and responsibility, and in that spirit, supports policies that enable local education agencies to adopt balanced budgets, with adequate reserves for economic uncertainties, that benefit public education and student success, consistent with the requirements of the Local Control Funding Formula.

Our Commitment. CASBO shall strive to be a voice for public education and work in a collaborative manner with all stakeholders, including members of the Education Coalition, education management associations, community based organizations, and local education agencies to support policies that invest in public schools and support the state's goals to improve student achievement and success.



California Association of School Business Officials 2016 Funding Priorities

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The following essential funding priorities shall guide CASBO's Legislative Committee and Board of Directors in determining positions on fiscal and policy matters under consideration by the State Legislature.

Local Control Funding Formula implementation. CASBO supports the concept of subsidiarity and believes that local discretion at the school district level will ensure that decisions associated with implementing needs-driven, innovative programs to improve student achievement are consistent with the statutory goals and requirements of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF).

Stable, Robust Funding for Public Education. CASBO supports a school finance system in California that fully funds the costs of the state's high academic standards for all students. CASBO supports stabilizing the state's budget structure and local revenue authority to ensure public education has a predictable funding system.

Facilities. CASBO supports placing an education bond for school facilities construction and modernization on a statewide General Election ballot in 2016, and believes that the creation of any new statewide school facilities program must maintain the historic partnership between the state and local school districts for financing school facilities.

Prudent Rainy Day Fund. CASBO supports statutory changes to maintain fiscally prudent rainy day funds for each local education agency to avoid disruptive and .

Mandates. CASBO supports full and timely funding of all approved school district and county office of education mandated costs, and supports comprehensive review process on the imposition of new state mandates that is tied to a new funding source. Further, funding for outstanding mandate reimbursements should not be combined with other expenditure purposes.

Funding Core Programs. CASBO supports funding existing core programs before funding new or expanded programs.

Eliminating Deferrals. CASBO supports the Brown Administration's proposal, as reflected in the proposed 2015-16 State Budget, to pay down the remaining \$897 million in outstanding K-12 budget deferrals.

Transportation. CASBO urges the Legislature to increase base funding for Home-to-School Transportation to bring state support in line with current costs, and adopt an equitable allocation formula that more accurately reflects geographic and demographic cost differences among local education agencies.

Special Education. CASBO supports state funding increases for special education that are sufficient to keep pace with growth in costs, and will work at the federal level to ensure the federal government honors its commitment to fund 40 percent of special education costs.



Local Revenue Authority. CASBO supports increased authority for school districts to raise local revenue for the support of their schools, and a reduced approval requirement for all school tax and school bond elections.

Collective Bargaining. CASBO opposes any proposal that undermines the integrity of the collective bargaining process, or increases the costs of collective bargaining.

Retirement Systems. CASBO supports efforts to ensure that the CalSTRS and CalPERS retirement systems are adequately funded, and to protect retirement funds from being diverted by the state for non-retirement purposes. The funding of retirement systems should treat school districts equitably and not negatively impact educational programs.

School Safety. CASBO supports proposals to provide schools with program options (and the fiscal resources required to implement them) to ensure a safe environment for students and staff.

Charter Schools. CASBO supports proposals to ensure that charter schools are both educationally and fiscally viable, provide added value to the community, and do not impose undue fiscal hardships on sponsoring districts.

Child Nutrition. CASBO supports student wellness through nutritional improvements that can be met within the funding provided and within achievable timeframes, and supports adequately funded, high-quality nutrition programs for low-income children and families.

Statewide Data System. CASBO supports the completion of a comprehensive statewide educational data system that is fully accessible to both local education agencies and state policymakers, and fully integrates student demographic and academic data, school expenditure and revenue data, and personnel data that affect student achievement.

On matters of state and federal policy that are not addressed in these essential priorities, CASBO shall work with members of the Education Coalition, education management and stakeholder organizations, and local education agencies to support proposals that improve the quality of education in California, and to oppose proposals that increase the fiscal burden on local education agencies or are detrimental to the future of public education and school children in California.

*Approved by CASBO Legislative Committee and Board of Directors, January 2015
Adopted by CASBO Executive Committee, February 2015*