

What We Believe: ASBO International's Legislative Belief Statements

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Educational Issues

- We support the goal of developing a standards-based system of educating students that is clearly defined and allows all stakeholders (administrators, teachers, students, parents, and the community) to understand what students should know and be able to do. We support the use of valid assessment instruments and increased utilization of the data such assessment instruments provide.
- We support the use of proven research-based methods to improve student achievement.
- We believe allowances for special research-based programming in school districts should be encouraged. Funding incentives should be offered for the replication of best practices.
- We believe public tax money should be used to fund public education.
- A non-public school receiving public money should be held accountable to the same federal and state requirements that public schools are required to adhere to, including standards of student achievement.
- We support providing increased levels of professional development for faculty and staff. We support efforts to find additional sources of funding to pay for professional development.

School Finance

- We support the concept that every child is entitled to a quality education supported by comprehensive school funding systems that are stable, adequate, and equitable.
- We believe all legislation enacted which mandates, requires, or expects certain actions or activities should include provisions to fully fund the cost of such actions.
- We believe that all public school districts should be granted greater authority and flexibility with a variety of options to generate local revenue.
- We support stable, adequate, and equitable funding for child food and nutrition programs to help assure students are healthy and ready to learn.
- We support efforts to improve and increase the flow and use of accurate information about public education that is disseminated to parents, students, legislators, school administrators, and the general public.
- We support legislation and regulations that will enhance the recruitment and retention of quality professional staff.
- We believe the identification process for special education and gifted education students should be streamlined and clear. Funding should be distributed in an adequate and equitable manner with the input of local school districts.

School Facilities

- We believe all students are entitled to learn in adequate, safe, and secure school facilities.
- We believe legislation should be enacted that would provide financial assistance to local districts for capital improvements to improve aging facilities and to address health, safety, and security issues.

School Management

- We believe that local school district administrators and governing boards are best suited to make budgeting and expenditure decisions for their district.
- We believe that school business officials play a key role in determining how public funds will be spent on educating children. In order to preserve the high standards of the profession, we support the use of ASBO International's Professional Standards as a basis for the credentialing of school business officials.

For more information, please contact:
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Who We Are

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational association established in 1910. The mission of ASBO, in serving its 6,300 members, is to provide programs and services to promote the highest standards of school business management practices, professional growth, and the effective use of educational resources. ASBO's goals are to:

- Enhance the professionalism of school business management executives,
- Improve the performance of the school districts in which they work,
- Assist members and their districts deal effectively with the changing environment.
- Provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas among professionals.
- Keep legislative bodies, governmental agencies and members of the educational community informed of ASBO International's position on key issues.

These goals are accomplished through networking, mentorship, seminars, workshops, publications, legislative advocacy, and cooperation with other professional organizations and accredited colleges and universities.

The role of a school business official is more important than ever before. School accountability is higher than ever -- both in the classroom and in the business office. The challenge of allocating resources grows. While states work to balance their budgets, they are also struggling with providing an adequate education for all children. School business officials play a very critical role in the solution to growing accountability and shrinking resources. The vision of "No Child Left Behind" will only be a dream without the *effective* allocation of resources, and the leadership of school business officials is key to that. And ASBO International is their voice.

The school business official brings continuity and stability to the district leadership -- on average, 8.4 yrs. in current role (compared to superintendents who average less than three years). Today more than ever before, the demands made on the time and skills of a school business official are increasing significantly. As school business operations reach an unparalleled level of complexity, the attainment and maintenance of efficiency have become a major focus of attention. School business personnel need dependable support and resources to perform their duties with precision and effectiveness.

Membership in ASBO International is available to all individuals employed in the fiscal management of schools, including the following professionals:

- Administrators of Business Services
- Business Managers
- Facilities Managers
- Food Service Directors
- Purchasing Directors
- School Board Members
- Superintendents
- Technology Directors
- Transportation Directors
- Treasurers/CFOs

It is important for these individuals to be represented legislatively, both as advocates for sound public policy and as a source of information from a practitioner's point of view. As their professional association, ASBO International is eager to inform legislators about school finance and other issues related to the allocation of resources and the effective operation and management of school districts.

We believe that the future of America's schools is dependent upon a spirit of cooperation between members of the education community, the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Department of Education, and other stakeholders in government and throughout the country. ASBO International members are eager to foster a cooperative effort to advance the achievement of all of America's schoolchildren.

The Association of School Business Officials International



Who We Are and What We Believe