***News Release***

Iowa Association of School Boards

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[www.ia-sb.org](http://www.ia-sb.org)

**For Immediate Release**

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**Iowa school board members set 2022 legislative platform, prioritize equitable school funding, student wellbeing and early education.**

Des Moines, Iowa – Nearly 200 delegates from the Iowa Association of School Board's (IASB) member school boards and area education agency (AEA) boards gathered at Delegate Assembly on Nov. 17 to conduct the annual meeting, convene nominating caucuses for open seats on the IASB Board of Directors, and set the platform for the 2022 legislative session.

Delegates approved five legislative priorities, including one priority aimed at keeping students in school, progressing in school, and completing school.

“We need to fix an inequity in funding for initiatives aimed at identifying and keeping students in school,” said IASB Board President Jim Green, “Districts are limited with these funds due to a legislative cap set 10 years ago. That inequity means 199 school districts are limited in their ability to provide these crucial services to at-risk students.” The $188 per pupil disparity between districts can be fixed—by raising the cap for those districts over a five-year phase in plan, this limits the impact on property taxes.

In addition to dropout prevention, the approved platform includes these priorities:

* Focusing on efforts to increase funding and statewide access for **mental health services** to all Iowa students;
* Supporting continuation of the **school funding policy** that ensures equity, especially in transportation costs and district cost per pupil rates;
* Setting **supplemental state aid rates** in a timely way, with sufficient resources to sustain world-class schools; and
* Supporting increased access to **early education**.

“The theme that I’m seeing throughout our priorities is how passionate we are about ensuring a well-rounded education for our students. It begins in preschool with the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program. We support more resources so we can provide **all** 4-year-olds access to this program. Research shows how important early education is to educational success. Student wellbeing is another piece, which is why school boards support expanding in-school services, a mental health workforce focused on working with children and continued funding for training for educators and administrators. Together, working hand-in-hand with legislators and school districts, we can ensure students receive the care they need.”

“We can achieve these efforts and ensure our students have a world-class education through equitable school funding and sufficient and timely growth in school funding. We look forward to working with the Legislature again this year,” said Corbin.

IASB’s Delegate Assembly is a vital link connecting board members and legislative issues. The resolutions’ process gives each school board the opportunity to suggest priorities for the platform, then vote on the final platform and priorities. Each board appoints one board member as delegate to represent their board’s views.

To see the full list of beliefs, resolutions and legislative priorities for the 2020 legislative session, please visit the [IASB website](https://www.ia-sb.org/Main/Advocacy_Center3/Advocacy_Agenda/Main/Advocacy_Center/IASB_s_Advocacy_Agenda/Iowa_School_Boards_Advocacy_Agenda.aspx?hkey=d38b7487-9d0a-49fa-b393-b905f18d1cb7).

**IASB is a nonprofit organization representing Iowa’s 327 school districts, nine area education agencies and 15 community colleges.**

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