



2010 IASB Questions for Legislative Candidates

IASB Key Messages

- Excellence and equity for all students
- Quality teaching is the key to improved instruction and high student achievement
- Leadership for local control
- Public dollars fund community schools for the public good

Key Questions in Support of IASB Key Messages

- Do you believe locally-elected school boards are the best situated to make decisions about what's best for the operation of their district?
- How should the state guarantee sufficient funding for the education Iowa children need to be competitive in the world marketplace?
- Do you support more professional development resources so teachers can deliver the improved instruction that high expectations will require?
- School boards have the responsibility to set high performance standards and expect demonstrated academic and instructional excellence from their teachers. Do you support the school board's authority to link teacher compensation to student learning?
- School transportation costs, funded from the general fund, compete with textbooks, salaries and benefits and educational opportunities for students. There is also great disparity between school districts in their transportation costs. What should the state do to fund school transportation cost increases? How should the state minimize per pupil transportation cost differences?
- Since 2006, the Legislature has imposed numerous mandates on school districts including state graduation standards, librarians, guidance counselors and nurses, mandated an increase in the employer's share of IPERS, and added the Healthy Kids Act's physical activity and nutrition requirements. Should mandates imposed by the state legislature be fully funded by the state rather than shifting the cost to local taxpayers?
- Should the Legislature provide school districts with the authority to reduce all programs, services or staff when the Legislature cuts funding for a specific program or the governor imposes an across-the-board cut?
- The state sales tax includes one cent that is dedicated to school infrastructure expenses. Do you support maintaining the integrity of the state penny for school infrastructure?