

News Release

Iowa Association of School Boards
6000 Grand Ave., Ste A,
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
www.ia-sb.org



For Immediate Release

Date: Nov. 15, 2023

Contact: Tammy Votava, communications director, tvotava@ia-sb.org,
(515) 250-0571

Iowa school board members set 2024 legislative platform with a focus on preschool funding and teacher workforce

Des Moines, Iowa – Nearly 160 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. 15 to conduct the annual meeting, convene nominating caucuses for open seats on the IASB Board of Directors, and set the legislative platform.

Delegates approved beliefs, resolutions, and a public policy agenda statement for the upcoming legislative session. The policy agenda statement leads with student achievement and success as the primary goal of Iowa public schools.

“Our resolutions are the official public policy positions of school boards and have clear ties to student needs and student success. The entire platform outlines the public policy we think will best serve all students in our public schools,” said IASB Board President Elizabeth Brennan.

Below are belief statements from the newly adopted Success for All Students—Public Policy Agenda of Iowa School Boards. [Read the full policy agenda](#) with policy improvements attached to each belief statement.

- We believe that literacy is the building block for student achievement and student success.
- We believe that a high-quality teacher workforce is necessary for student achievement.
- We believe that expanded opportunities through public schools will provide students with diverse and engaging educational experiences.

- We believe that student, educator, and staff mental health needs must be addressed and supported to improve student achievement, reduce dropout rates, and maintain a high-quality workforce.
- We believe that locally elected school board members are in the best position to understand the needs of their communities, students and families.
- We believe schools must be open and welcoming to all students, and fully accountable and transparent in order to receive taxpayer dollars.
- We believe supplemental state aid is a critical component to student success by providing districts with adequate general fund resources.
- We believe that every student deserves to learn, and every staff member deserves to work, in a safe and secure environment.

“This year, we’re prioritizing efforts to fully fund preschool for students in poverty. The data clearly shows that early learning efforts are especially important to ensure the success of low-income students,” said IASB Board President Elizabeth Brennan, “In addition, a high-quality teacher workforce has a direct impact on student achievement, which is why we support improvements and initiatives to recruit and retain teachers for every school district in Iowa.”

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.

“Over 300 school boards submitted legislative priorities during the annual call for priorities process. This is a true grassroots process that reflects nearly all member boards’ priorities from across the state,” said IASB Board President Elizabeth Brennan.

[Read the full list of beliefs, resolutions and legislative priorities](#) for the 2024 legislative session.

IASB is a nonprofit organization representing Iowa's 325 school districts, nine area education agencies and 15 community colleges.

####