

2018 LSBA LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The Louisiana School Boards Association (LSBA) is dedicated to the improvement of K-12 public education in Louisiana provided through locally elected school boards, thus, maintaining the critical role of locally elected representatives of the people whose sole focus is the education of the children of each Louisiana community.

- **FUNDING**: Advocate for a renewed priority of State funding for the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) for public K-12 education, which has been virtually static for a decade, while the operational costs and unfunded mandates related to public K-12 education have increased. Reverse the trend that has resulted in the majority of public K-12 education funding coming from local taxes, which is increasing the pressure and potential for a widening of the achievement gap between wealthy and poor school districts.

- **LOCAL EDUCATION DECISION MAKING**: Advocate for flexibility in implementing State and Federal education laws, recognizing that children, and the communities in which they live, are unique and the imposition of a one-sized, fits all standardization of numerous aspects of public education does not best provide for the holistic educational growth of each local communities' children in regards to:
 - curricula and teaching methodologies from the State or the Federal government,
 - school accountability metrics that narrowly focus on state tests, and,
 - the ability to guide and control fiscal resources entrusted to the local school board.

- **SAFE, HIGH QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS**: Advocate for the flexibility and resources to achieve the optimal level of student learning in regards to balancing the needs of each child, in each classroom, and for every teacher relative to student discipline. Advocate for continuous improvement of internet accessibility and cyber-learning rich, modern classrooms for every student in Louisiana, while recognizing the fiscal constraints many school districts face.

- **FAIRNESS & EQUITY**: Advocate for meaningful collaboration and engagement of local school boards, superintendents, principals and teachers in the development of education policy to avoid top-down edicts that impair - rather than facilitate - providing the best holistic educational opportunity to students from the school experience in Louisiana.
 - Advocate for the review of state charter school laws that allow for-profit entities to divert scarce fiscal resources outside of the scope of educating children.
 - Advocate for the State to meet its obligations to the unfunded accrued liability (UAL) of TRSL and LSERS; and, reverse the practice of imposing the financial obligation onto local school districts.
 - Advocate for state funding to truly align to an accurate cost of educating students in modern times, ensuring equity for all of Louisiana's citizens.