



2019 PASBO Policy Priorities

PASBO advocates for policy changes to improve the practice of all areas of school business and to ensure that school districts have the resources they need to provide students with the programs and services necessary for success. PASBO evaluates all proposed policy changes that have the potential to impact the practice of school business. The items below are the major issues highlighted as policy priorities for PASBO in 2019, however, PASBO will engage legislatively in all other issues that affect the practice of school business either positively or negatively.

- **Special Education Funding:** PASBO will advocate for increased special education funding directed through the special education funding formula. To ensure additional funds are directed to the school districts with the greatest special education needs, PASBO will work with the Special Education Funding Commission to revise the district factors in the formula to ensure they accurately represent the local wealth and local effort in all 500 school districts.
- **Charter School Funding Reform:** PASBO will advocate for review of the current charter school tuition calculation and implementation of a new and fair funding formula for both regular and special education charter school tuition, as well as for revised payment processes, timelines and verifications to ensure accuracy and transparency in payments between school districts and charter schools and effective interaction with PDE.
- **Basic Education Funding:** PASBO will support increased state investment in basic education funding, ensuring that there is sufficient, sustainable and growing funding to prevent continued cost shifts to school districts.
- **School Safety:** PASBO will advocate for sustained state funding to assist LEAs in making needed school safety and security improvements that respond specifically to the individual needs of each LEA.
- **PlanCon:** PASBO will advocate for implementation of a new school construction reimbursement program, pursuant to the recommendations of the PlanCon Advisory Committee, along with sustainable funding to accompany the program.
- **Sustainable State Funding:** PASBO will support efforts to incrementally improve the Commonwealth's tax mix towards mitigating the state's over reliance on local property tax for education funding. Such efforts must ensure that the state can provide sustainable and dedicated revenue streams that allow for growth in overall education funding generally.
- **Property Tax Reform:** PASBO will support appropriate efforts to provide needed property tax relief while maintaining property tax as a revenue base for school districts, opposing efforts that would lead to nothing more than a dollar for dollar reduction in property taxes. PASBO supports efforts to give school districts the flexibility to diversify and expand the tax base to provide additional property tax relief.
- **Cooperative Purchasing:** PASBO will oppose efforts to limit the ability of LEAs to utilize cooperative purchasing agreements in school construction, recognizing the importance of local control and the needs of each LEA in school construction procurement decisions.
- **Right to Know Law:** PASBO will support changes to the Right to Know Law that uphold the transparency of the policy yet mitigate the time and burden incurred by LEAs in response to unreasonable requests, as well as those requests from businesses seeking financial gain.
- **Mandate Relief:** PASBO will support proposals that provide relief from new or existing mandates that increase the cost of education without providing any corresponding benefits to educational programs or services, including, but not limited to, the payment of prevailing wage and the use of locally elected tax collectors.
- **Certification Flexibility:** PASBO will advocate for innovative, flexible and responsible changes and exceptions to teacher certification requirements. The ever growing difficulty in finding certified staff in many areas and the general lack of STEM, vocational and applied technical expertise in certification programs require greater flexibility for district leadership to meet a whole new generation of educational challenges.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact Hannah Barrick, Director of Advocacy, at hbarrick@pasbo.org.