

**Poudre School District's Board of Education**  
**2018 State Advocacy Agenda**

The Poudre School District's Board of Education supports the following Colorado state legislative actions for 2018:

1. The Poudre School District Board of Education recognizes that a structural change is needed in how the State funds K-12 education and other critical state and local programs. This structural change includes addressing the negative impacts of constitutional provisions like TABOR and Gallagher which have put significant strain on the State budget. This has caused the Colorado General Assembly to subject K-12 education to significant budget cuts through the mechanism formerly known as the "negative factor". Such budget cuts are contrary to the voters' intent in passing Amendment 23, which called for the State to sustain K-12 education funding at a level equal to the growth in inflation plus enrollment. These budget cuts also significantly threaten the ability for K-12 educators to provide every Colorado child with a thorough and uniform education.

We therefore support actively advocating for the adoption of policies and legislation to provide the General Assembly with greater flexibility in setting the State budget.

**Specifically, we support policies that address the structural imbalance within the state budget created by the current constraints of our state constitution.**

*Rationale: Despite an improvement in Colorado's economy, the state budget is still facing shortfalls due to the constraints of TABOR and Gallagher. Any policies that ease the strain on the state budget and allow Colorado to invest more money into K-12 education would benefit Poudre School District and all school districts across the state.*

2. We support allowing Boards of Education to meet in executive session with school district staff for the purpose of determining our positions with respect to employee negotiations.

*Rationale: The intent of Proposition 104 was to require employee negotiations to be held in public. (PSD has conducted negotiations in public for many years.) Not permitting school boards to meet privately to develop their negotiating positions and strategies (as employee groups may do) was not the intent, but merely an unintended consequence of the way the proposition was written. Modifying the law to allow school boards to meet in executive session with school district staff for the purpose of determining bargaining positions brings fairness back into the negotiations equation for school boards and school districts.*

3. We support repeal of the Claire Davis bill.

*Rationale: Removing governmental immunity from school districts and holding them responsible for any school shooting or similar disaster not only increases school districts' insurance and other costs, but could have a devastating financial impact upon a school district and consequently negatively impact all of its students. There are no standards for determining what "reasonably foreseeable harm" might be.*

4. We support the use of end of course assessments for the state required high school science and social studies exams.

*Rationale: Like mathematics, high school students take courses relevant to Science and Social Study exams in different years. This proposal would allow students to take the exams in close proximity to the related course and not years later, or even worse, earlier.*

5. We support the modification of the requirements of SB 191 to allow individual school districts to establish the impact of student test scores anywhere from twenty to fifty percent in the annual evaluation of teachers.

*Rationale: The current requirement that student scores count as 50% of annual teacher evaluations reduces local control over educator evaluations.*

6. We support sustainable methods of funding the construction and maintenance of school building and school district facilities. Allowing impact fees to be charged for the purposes of constructing and maintaining schools is one possible solution.

*Rationale: No current mechanism currently exists providing an ongoing source of funding for building new schools and school district facilities or to pay for maintenance needs to keep existing school buildings and district facilities in good repair. A long-term, sustainable solution to funding the construction and ongoing maintenance needs of school buildings and district facilities is greatly needed.*

### **Poudre School District's Board of Education 2018 **Federal** Advocacy Agenda**

The Poudre School District's Board of Education supports full funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

*Rationale: Currently, the Poudre School District is reimbursed approximately 17 cents for every dollar the federal government requires we spend on education under IDEA. It is time to increase the funding to a minimum of the 40 cents of every dollar initially promised by this legislation more than 40 years ago..*

Given the proposals now circulating in Washington, D. C. around education policy and associated budgets, the PSD Board of Education will weigh in on other Federal matters as circumstances dictate.