



2020



ALABAMA  
ASSOCIATION OF  
SCHOOL BOARDS

# LEGISLATIVE & POLICY AGENDA

AlabamaSchoolBoards.org



## STRENGTHEN LOCAL EDUCATION GOVERNANCE

### **Enact Building Exceptional School Board Teams (B.E.S.T.) Act**

- Ensure informed candidates for school board service
- Reinforce high quality local school board leadership
- Grant authority for a structure and fair process to enforce reasonable compliance with requirements of the Act.

### **Appoint County School Superintendents**

- Adopt the local education governance model in place in more than 99 percent of the nation's school districts



## REVISE ALABAMA'S SIMPLIFIED SELLER USE TAX (SSUT)

### *Revisit Distribution to General Fund and Education Trust Fund*

- Revise the current 75/25 split of the state portion of the SSUT revenue between General Fund and ETF

### *Direct Local Revenue for Public School Purposes*

- Specify that the SSUT revenue be treated as currently authorized local sales taxes or, in the alternative, specify a fixed percentage of local SSUT revenue for school purposes



## OPPOSE A MANDATED SCHOOL CALENDAR

### *Reject Effort to Set School Start/End Dates*

- Advocate for individual community authority to set calendar
- Encourage parent, staff and community input to set calendar



## FUND K-12 FUNDAMENTALS

### ***Address Teacher Workforce Infrastructure/Shortage***

- Offer competitive salaries and benefits, invest in sustainable salary increases and revise Tier II benefits
- Extend teacher shortage scholarships/loan forgiveness programs
- Expand certification pathways/onboarding to education
- Invest in professional development
- Enact National Board Certification incentives
- Expand alternative routes to certification

### ***Increase Mental Health Supports for Schools***

- Expand on-site access to counselors to identify and provide wraparound services to address mental health
- Prioritize a funding mechanism for local mental health needs

### ***Fund School Nurses***

- Enable sufficient nursing staff to provide timely care on site
- Provide supports to screen, intervene and coordinate student physical, mental and emotional health concerns

### ***Address Actual Costs of Special Education***

- Revise the state funding mechanism for special education
- Revisit catastrophic fund for local school system relief

### ***Improve School Infrastructure***

- Provide funding for facility upgrades and maintenance
- Support a Public School and College Authority K-12 bond issue
- Fund cyber security measures

### ***Revamp Other Current Expense to Reflect Actual Expenses***

- Designate funding flow to support personnel salaries/benefits as a separate line item to reflect actual costs
- Designate funding for operations and maintenance to reflect true operating costs



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