



2016 Legislative Priorities



JOHNSTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION 2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Strongly advocates for appropriate funding and support from state leaders to adequately provide education for the State of Iowa's children and make headway towards again becoming a world-class educational system. This entails:

- Setting supplemental state aid by the date specified in the Iowa Code that is reflective of a rate that encourages continuous student growth and actual cost increases experienced by school districts, and does not “repurpose” or miscommunicate any increase with other education funds and/or state initiatives.
- Requiring legislation that any new mandate must have corresponding funding sufficient to implement the new mandate, and opposes unfunded mandates. Districts should not be required to reallocate funds to implement new or existing requirements.
- Supporting predictable and timely state funding to serve students receiving special education services at a level that reflects the actual cost, including educational programming and health care costs.
- Preserving the integrity of the statewide penny sales tax for school infrastructure, including the tax provisions of buying down the highest levy rates to the state average, and supports the extension of the statewide penny by the repeal of the December 31, 2029 sunset.

Supports reform initiatives focused on improving the learning and well-being of students. This includes:

- Implementation of the Iowa K-12 educational reform initiatives including the development of rigorous content, standards and benchmarks consistent with the Iowa Core Standards focused on improving student learning.
- Increased statewide access to and funding for mental health services for students, including clarifying roles in regards to services provided and funding responsibilities.

Encourages the return of support for local school boards, elected by local stakeholders and taxpayers, to make decisions in the best interest of the students they serve.