



MASA Legislative Priorities 2017 - 2018

The Missouri Association of School Administrators (MASA) represents the majority of school administrators serving school districts in Missouri. The MASA Legislative Platform covers a multitude of issues that our members have identified which they support and oppose. While the following pages detail these positions, the following three points represent the priorities for the 2018 Legislative Session.

Continued Funding of the State Foundation Formula: Last year, the Missouri General Assembly made a historic move to fully fund the state's formula for the first time since the current formula was created. We recognize this commitment was made possible through tough budget decisions in other portions of the state budget and offer our appreciation to the General Assembly. In fiscal year 2019, statutorily required recalculations within the formula and increased weighted average daily attendance (WADA) due to existing pre-school programs receiving state funding will call for additional appropriation to fully fund the formula. Failure to appropriate the necessary funding will result in state funding shifting between school districts. We support the appropriation of the necessary amount of state funding in order to continue the full funding of the formula.

Responsible Fiscal Discipline: We understand that Missouri's budget is in a challenging position and additional spending increases or revenue reductions will only exacerbate these challenges. For these reasons, we offer our assistance to help solve the state's long-term budget problems and urge the General Assembly to avoid new, unnecessary spending or additional revenue reductions in all areas of the budget. Specifically, in regard to the education sector, the creation of new voucher schemes or the development of virtual school open enrollment will hurt the state's ability to fund schools and the rest of state government.

Local Control: For the last decade, schools have been forced to focus on state and federally mandated standardized testing rather than offering students an educational experience that allows them to be successful. This regimented system has been a detriment to student engagement, teacher recruitment and retention, and the development of our state's workforce. Rather than opening additional, unaccountable charter schools, we urge the General Assembly to work in cooperation with educators, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and local communities and businesses to create a system of public education that moves control of our schools back to their local communities, reduces the harmful role of standardized testing, and meets the needs of our students, workforce, and communities.

Lead – Develop -- Support