Policy BI: SCHOOL BOARD LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 12/18/2001

26A UPDATE EXPLANATION

MSBA has updated this policy to provide more specific direction on how the school board will engage in advocacy efforts. MSBA encourages every school board member to engage not only at the local level, but also at the state and national levels because state and federal laws dramatically impact individual school districts.

The district is a public entity subject to local, state, and federal law and dependent upon local, state, and federal tax dollars to accomplish its educational mission. It is the board's responsibility to stay informed about legal issues impacting the district and potential legislation that could impact the district in the future.

It is the board's duty to educate the community, legislators, and other persons in authority about the district's needs and advocate for legislation that would further the district's mission.

To this end, the board will:

1. Continually develop meaningful relationships with local, state, and federal legislators as advocates for the district and its students.

2. Remain apprised of issues that affect public education and the district.

3. Seek both direct and indirect representation of the board's position on pending legislation with appropriate local, state, and federal legislators and legislative committees.

4. Maintain membership in the Missouri School Boards' Association (MSBA) and participate in the development of MSBA's advocacy positions by reviewing them on an annual basis; submitting proposals for additions, changes, and deletions to the advocacy positions when appropriate; and actively participating in the MSBA Delegate Assemblies to determine the association's collective stance on key issues.

5. Be knowledgeable of the annual legislative program and work for the achievement of legislative objectives through MSBA, the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA), and other state and national organizations advocating for public education.

~~The board, as an agent of the state, must operate within the bounds of state and federal law affecting public education. If the board is to meet its inherent responsibility to the residents and students of the community, it must work vigorously for the passage of new laws designed to advance the cause of good schools and for the repeal or modification of existing laws that impede this cause. To this end, the board will act accordingly as follows:~~

- ~~Seek both direct and indirect representation of its position on pending legislation with appropriate state and federal legislators and legislative committees.~~

- ~~Be knowledgeable of the annual legislative program of the Missouri and National School Boards' Associations.~~

- ~~Work for the achievement of legislative objectives through the Missouri and National School Boards' Associations and with other concerned groups.~~

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