



Advocacy Positions-2024

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The Mehlville R-9 Board of Education adopts these advocacy priorities for 2024, in the following areas:

Pre-K

The Board supports legislation and policies that provide for:

- Collaboration and partnership between existing community pre-school programs.
- High quality early childhood training and leadership development.
- Increased funding and testing standards for pre-K students to find learning disabilities earlier.
- State licensing requirements and standards for all early childhood programs.
- State funding for early childhood programs and leadership development.
- Supporting the Parents as Teachers function including staffing and training.
- Voluntary, free, and equitable pre-school opportunities for all families.

School Safety and Security

The Board supports legislation and policies that provide for:

- A safe education environment that concerns itself with prevention of bullying/cyberbullying, misconduct, discrimination, and sexual harassment.
- Safety of students and adults on buses, at bus stops, and on school grounds.
- Schools having access to school district safety coordinators, professional development, and training, as well as sufficient resources to prevent and address school violence.
- Development and revision of high-quality emergency plans, sharing best practices at the local and state level.
- Coordinating mental health and behavioral risk programs at the local and state level.
- State funding for immediate access to trained first responders as well as a single, statewide safety reporting system.

Open Enrollment

The Board opposes legislation and policies that would allow students to attend schools outside the district they live in unless the legislation meets all the following requirements:

- All local, state, and federal funding stays with the resident district.
- No school district must accept nonresident students. If they do accept non-resident students, they may limit the number or grade-level of the students admitted. However, the school district cannot refuse to admit students based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, ancestry, disability, migrant status, English language learner status, unhoused status, or prior student performance.
- Measures are taken to prohibit transfers that would foster racial segregation, economic segregation, or limit resources for special education students.
- Parents or the receiving school district handle student transportation, as well as any related transportation funding.
- Measures are taken to prohibit recruiting or transferring for participation in athletics or other competitive activities.
- Students who wish to enroll in a non-resident district for the following school year must apply and notify both districts no later than March 15th of the current school year, regardless of extenuating circumstances, as well as make at least a one-year commitment to the receiving district.

Legislative Mandates

The Board opposes legislation and policies that support:

- Any legislation that reduces public schools' ability to safeguard students.
- Establishing programs or requirements for public schools that are not based on sound education and instruction principles, nor any public oversight for teachers, curriculum, or materials.
- Establishing programs and requirements that are not properly funded, or programs that have no public financial review or oversight.
- Any legislation that restricts existing parental rights.
- Any public measures that reduce education funding.

Health Care

The Board supports legislation and policies that provide for:

- **Mental Health**
 - Increasing state and federal funding for better access to mental health services at all grade levels.
 - More funding and more personnel for state-based services.
- **Expansion of Medicaid support for public schools**
 - Full federal funding of Medicaid, with maximized funding of Medicaid to schools.
 - Simplified enrollment processes for Medicaid enrollees.
 - More rigorous review of all aspects of the unwinding process for current enrollees.

English Language Learners

The Board supports legislation and policies that provide for:

- Funding increases for the purpose of adding EL staff to support learning standards.
- Earlier EL aid in both pre-K and K-12 education levels.