

1 **WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS, INC.**

2 Madison, Wisconsin

3 November 23, 2015

4
5 **REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP ON 2016 RESOLUTIONS**

6 WASB Policy & Resolutions Committee

7 Stu Olson, Shell Lake School Board, Chair

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11 ***Resolution 16-01: Revenue Limit Flexibility and Time to Adjust to State Law Changes***

12 Create: When changes are made in state law that significantly modify school operations or
13 require changes in board policies, the WASB supports allowing school districts to increase their
14 revenue limit by an amount needed to implement such law changes. The WASB also urges state
15 lawmakers to provide for delayed effective dates or delayed implementation dates for those
16 statutory changes.

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18 Rationale: The Policy & Resolutions Committee advanced this resolution to let WASB members
19 decide whether to support allowing school districts to increase their revenue limit by an amount
20 necessary to make changes directed by new provisions in state law and to support urging state
21 lawmakers to provide for delayed effective/implementation dates to give school districts
22 additional time to adjust to and implement changes directed by such new provisions.

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25 ***Resolution 16-02: Referendum Approval to Transfer Public Schools to Private School***
26 ***Operators***

27 Create: The WASB supports legislation to require that a school district's voters must give their
28 approval at a referendum vote before the operation, management and/or control of any district
29 school may be transferred to any entity other than by the locally elected school board of the
30 district.

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32 Rationale: The Policy & Resolutions Committee advanced this resolution, in response to
33 provisions in the 2015-17 state budget act (2015 Wisconsin Act 55) that created an Opportunity
34 School Partnership Program in the Milwaukee Public Schools, in order to provide WASB
35 members a chance to express their position on support for legislation to require voter approval at
36 a referendum before any district public school may be transferred to a private school operator or
37 entity other than by the locally elected school board.

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40 ***Resolution 16-03: Private Schools' Eligibility to Participate in the Statewide Voucher Program***

41 Create **2.70 (j)**: Private schools may only be eligible to participate in the statewide voucher
42 program if they have been in existence for five years.

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44 Rationale: The Policy & Resolutions Committee advanced this resolution to allow WASB
45 members to decide whether to support legislation to require that private schools are only eligible
46 to participate in the statewide voucher program if they have been in existence for five years and
47 have established a track record.

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1 When the statewide voucher program was created the only private schools that were eligible to
2 participate in that program were those that had been in existence prior to May 2013. That legal
3 requirement for eligibility to participate in the statewide voucher program applied for the 2014-
4 15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years, but no longer applies under current law.

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7 ***Resolution 16-04: Maintenance of Effort***

8 Create: The WASB supports a change in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
9 to allow a local school district to reduce spending attributable to maintenance of effort (MOE)
10 without penalty when it reduces its spending on employment-related benefits provided to school
11 personnel, including but not limited to pay, retirement contributions, annual and sick leave, and
12 health and life insurance, so long as the district maintains the same level of services to students
13 with disabilities.

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15 Rationale: The Policy & Resolutions Committee advanced this resolution to allow WASB
16 members to vote on whether to support a change in federal law to allow a local school district to
17 reduce spending attributable to maintenance of effort (MOE) without penalty when it reduces its
18 spending on employment-related benefits provided to school personnel, so long as the district
19 maintains the same level of services to students with disabilities.

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22 ***Resolution 16-05: Creation of a Statutory Mechanism to Allow Districts to Set Aside Funds in***
23 ***Trust for the Purchase of Long-Term Fixed Assets***

24 Create: The WASB supports creating a statutory mechanism to allow school districts to place
25 into a trust for future use a portion of their general funds that would be counted as shared costs
26 for state aid purposes in the year the funds are placed in trust. Such a trust would be used for the
27 purchase of long-term fixed assets, including but not limited to, school busses, vans, snowplows,
28 phone systems, or other technology items with a useful life of more than one year when
29 purchased in bulk, and such trust funds must be spent pursuant to a long-range plan adopted by
30 the school board of the district.

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32 Rationale: The Policy & Resolutions Committee advanced this resolution to allow WASB
33 members to decide whether to support legislation to allow school districts to place into a trust for
34 future use a portion of their general funds. The funds placed into such a trust would be
35 considered shared costs for state aid purposes in the year they are placed in trust and would be
36 used for the future purchase of long-term fixed assets as described in the resolution. It is
37 understood that such a trust would be set up pursuant to a board resolution and purchases made
38 with funds from such a trust would be made according to a long-range plan adopted by the
39 school board.

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1 ***Resolution 16-06: Increase Special Education Categorical Aid Reimbursement to 33 Percent***
2 **Amend existing Resolution 2.31** as follows:

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4 The WASB supports increasing the special education categorical aid reimbursement level
5 to not less than 33 percent of prior year eligible costs and maintaining funding at not less
6 than this percentage each year thereafter. The WASB further supports the following
7 provisions related to funding for children with disabilities:
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9 Rationale: The Policy & Resolutions Committee advanced this resolution to let WASB members
10 decide whether they support increasing the level of prior year eligible costs reimbursed by
11 special education categorical aid to 33 percent and maintaining the reimbursement level at not
12 less than 33 percent each year thereafter.

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14 Currently, special education categorical aid reimburses between 26 and 27 percent of prior year
15 eligible costs.
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18 ***Resolution 16-07: Restore Two-Thirds State Funding and Increase Primary Guarantee Value***
19 ***per Member***

20 Create: The WASB supports increasing the primary guaranteed value per member in the general
21 aid funding formula to \$3 million each year and restoring a statutory commitment to fund two
22 thirds of school costs each year.
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24 Rationale: The Policy & Resolutions Committee advanced this resolution to allow WASB
25 membership an opportunity to vote on whether to support restoring a state commitment to
26 provide two-thirds state funding of statewide school costs each year as well as changes to the
27 general equalization aid formula that would restore state aid to a number of school districts that
28 have fallen out of the general equalization aid formula because their property value per student is
29 too high and thus no longer receive such aid.
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31 From 1996-97 until 2002-03, a statutory commitment was in place to fund two thirds of “partial
32 school revenues” (as defined by law) each year.
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35 ***Resolution 16-08: Sparsity Aid***

36 Create: The WASB supports legislation creating a separate allotment, regardless of membership,
37 within the sparsity aid program for districts with fewer than five members per square mile with
38 per pupil aid amounts to be paid on a sliding scale such that lower enrollment districts would
39 receive greater amounts per pupil than higher enrollment districts.
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41 Rationale: The Policy & Resolutions Committee advanced this resolution to allow WASB
42 membership to decide whether to support making changes to the sparsity aid program to allow
43 all districts with fewer than five students per square mile to receive per pupil sparsity aid
44 payments in such a manner that lower enrollment districts would receive greater amounts per
45 pupil than higher enrollment districts.
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1 ***Resolution 16-09: Sliding Scale Funding Formula Adjustment***

2 Create: The WASB supports legislation to implement a sliding scale formula factor multiplier to
3 increase the membership of districts for revenue limit purposes.

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5 Rationale: The Policy & Resolutions Committee advanced this resolution to let WASB members
6 decide whether to support legislation to implement a sliding scale formula factor multiplier in
7 revenue limit calculations in order to increase the applicable revenue limit authority of districts.
8 A sliding scale formula factor multiplier would give greater weight to students beneath certain
9 enrollment (membership) numbers/levels than it would students above those levels.

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12 ***Resolution 16-10: Student Assessments***

13 Create: The WASB supports statewide implementation of a uniform, reliable statewide
14 assessment that would not be modified for a period of years sufficient to effectively evaluate the
15 performance of all publicly-funded students in the state, regardless of whether those students
16 attend a public school, charter school or private voucher school.

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18 Rationale: The Policy & Resolutions Committee advanced this resolution to allow WASB
19 members to decide whether to support statewide implementation of a uniform (i.e., single,
20 common) statewide assessment for all publicly funded students that would be in place without
21 modification for a period of years sufficient to effectively evaluate student achievement. All
22 students in the state who receive public funding would take this assessment, whether they attend
23 a public school, charter school or private voucher school.

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26 ***Resolution 16-11: State-Mandated Graduation Requirements***

27 Create: The WASB supports local school board control for determining high school graduation
28 standards and the assessments that will be used to issue a high school diploma. If the state
29 requires assessments for graduation, those assessments should be fully funded by the state.

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31 Rationale: The Policy & Resolutions Committee advanced this resolution to allow WASB
32 members to decide whether to support: a) local school board control for determining high school
33 graduation standards and the assessments that will be used to issue a high school diploma; and b)
34 the position that if the state requires assessments for graduation, those state-required assessments
35 should be fully funded by the state.

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38 ***Resolution 16-12: Use of Electronic Communication to Notify Parent of Child's Truancy***

39 Create: The WASB supports legislation to allow school attendance officials to notify a parent or
40 guardian of their child's truancy that does not qualify as habitual truancy using modern
41 electronic communication mediums, including but not limited to email or text messages in lieu of
42 existing notification requirements.

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44 Rationale: The Policy & Resolutions Committee advanced this resolution to allow WASB
45 members to decide whether to support legislation to allow schools to notify a parent or guardian
46 of their child's truancy that does not qualify as habitual truancy using electronic communication
47 mediums, instead of current notification requirements.

1 ***Resolution 16-13: Elimination/Reduction of Newspaper Notice/Publishing Requirements***

2 Create: The WASB supports legislation allowing school districts to publish statutorily-required
3 notices electronically on the school district website and other social media maintained by the
4 school district in lieu of publishing these notices in newspapers.

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6 Rationale: The Policy & Resolutions Committee advanced this resolution to allow WASB
7 members to decide whether to support allowing school districts to publish statutorily-required
8 notices electronically on the school's website and its other social media instead of in newspapers.

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11 ***Resolution 16-14: Mental Health Supports***

12 Create: The WASB supports the provision of state funding adequate to: address the shortage of
13 mental health professionals in our state qualified to address the needs of school age children and
14 young adults; provide adequate professional mental health supports in our schools and our
15 communities; and permit schools to enter into effective partnerships with agencies that are
16 involved with mental health to provide for school-based mental health programs, that could
17 provide services, including but not limited to, the following:

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- 20 • Comprehensive student screening in every school;
 - 21 • Professional development for classroom teachers on recognition and appropriate
22 classroom response to support affected students;
 - 23 • Professional mental health counselors and or services;
 - 24 • Professional education and training to expand availability of mental health professionals;
25 and
 - 26 • Public information programs related to mental health.

27 Rationale: The Policy & Resolutions Committee advanced this resolution to allow WASB
28 membership to decide whether to support the provision of state funding adequate to address the
29 shortage of mental health professionals in our state qualified to address the needs of school age
30 children and young adults as well as provide adequate professional mental health supports in our
31 schools and our communities. This would include permitting schools to enter into partnerships
32 with county and community agencies that are involved with mental health to provide for school-
33 based mental health programs, to provide the services, as outlined in the resolution.

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1 ***Resolution 16-15: Transfer of Territory from One District to Another***

2 Create: The WASB supports the following changes to statutes relating to and governing
3 transfers of territory from one school district to another:

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- 5 • Reduce the current threshold for a transfer of parcels to be considered a transfer of a large
6 territory from seven percent to one percent so that any petitions that exceed a property
7 value or student count of one percent of the donor district would require approval by
8 public binding referendum held in both affected districts, assuming that one or both of the
9 affected school boards deny the petition;
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 - 11 • Require that all the property values and student counts presented via petition(s) to
12 transfer a small territory in a given annual petition period be aggregated, and that if the
13 aggregated property values or student counts in those petitions exceed the threshold for a
14 transfer of parcels to be considered a transfer of a large territory, treat them as a transfer
15 of a large territory;
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 - 17 • Clarify the standards to be used to determine the asset transfer calculation in both the
18 large and small parcel detachment-reattachment process.

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20 Rationale: The Policy & Resolutions Committee advanced this resolution to allow WASB
21 members decide whether to support various changes to the statutes governing transfers of
22 territory from one school district to another to broaden the ability of voters in the affected
23 districts to approve or disapprove of such transfer(s) via referendum and to clarify the standards
24 to be used to determine the asset transfer calculation when territory is transferred. These changes
25 are intended to deter owners from presenting multiple small parcel detachments in an attempt to
26 circumvent a public referendum vote on the transfers.

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29 ***Resolution 16-16: Prevailing Wage***

30 Create: The WASB supports legislation to allow a school board to reinstate the state prevailing
31 wage law through local board policy.

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33 Rationale: The Policy & Resolutions Committee advanced this resolution to give the WASB
34 membership an opportunity to vote on whether to support allowing a local school board the
35 option to reinstate, through the adoption of a local board policy, the prevailing wage law
36 applicable to local school district public works projects.

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38 The 2015-17 State Budget Act (2015 Wisconsin Act 55) repealed the state prevailing wage law
39 that applies to local projects of public works, effective for any contracts entered into on or after
40 January 1, 2017. Local governmental units affected by this repeal include counties, villages,
41 towns, cities, school districts, municipal utilities and technical colleges.

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