

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

2 Madison, Wisconsin

3 November 23, 2021

4
5 **REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP ON PROPOSED 2022 RESOLUTIONS**

6 WASB Policy & Resolutions Committee

7 Barbara Herzog, Oshkosh Area School Board, Chair

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10 ***Resolution 22-01: Safe Harbor Legislation***

11
12 **Create:** The WASB supports passage of state legislation to protect youth who have been subject
13 to child sex trafficking from criminal prosecution for prostitution.

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15 **Rationale:** Child sex trafficking has become a prevalent problem in Wisconsin, with all 72
16 counties reporting occurrences. In recent years, overall reported occurrences have averaged
17 roughly 100 per year. On average, child victims are only 13 years old when they are trafficked
18 for the first time. Traffickers target runaway and homeless youth, particularly those with a
19 history of sexual abuse and lure them into a cycle of abuse that is hard to escape for many
20 reasons, including that child victims face potential prosecution under child prostitution laws.

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22 The board that proposed this resolution and other proponents of Safe Harbor legislation suggest
23 that eliminating the threat of prosecution would have several benefits. It could: a) help enable
24 victims to receive rehabilitative services and counseling; b) prevent traffickers from using the
25 threat of criminalization as a way to keep control over the children being trafficked; and c)
26 increase the likelihood that children who have been trafficked can and will testify against their
27 abusers. Proponents note that after a similar law was enacted in Minnesota, convictions of
28 traffickers quadrupled, in large part because child sex trafficking victims were more likely to
29 testify against their abusers/traffickers. Adoption of a Safe Harbor law would bring Wisconsin
30 law into conformity with the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act, something 30 other
31 states have already done by enacting similar provisions.

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34 ***Resolution 22-02: Annual Inflationary or Greater Increases in Per Pupil Spendable***
35 ***Resources***

36
37 **Create:** The WASB supports annual increases in per pupil spendable resources for public school
38 districts that meet or exceed inflation.

39
40 **Rationale:** Under current law, lawmakers may provide additional spending authority to school
41 districts in one of three ways: 1) by increasing per pupil revenue limits; 2) by providing an
42 increase in per pupil categorical aid (which is outside revenue limits); or 3) by providing a
43 combination of increased per pupil revenue limits and increased per pupil categorical aid. This
44 resolution supports annual increases provided through any of these three mechanisms that meet
45 or exceed the rate of inflation.

1 **Resolution 22-03: *Funding for Children with Disabilities***

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3 **Amend** the first paragraph of existing Resolution 2.31 to read as follows:

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5 **2.31 Funding for Children with Disabilities** The WASB supports increasing the special
6 education categorical aid reimbursement level to not less than 60 percent of prior year
7 eligible costs and maintaining funding at not less than this percentage each year
8 thereafter via a sum sufficient appropriation. The WASB further supports the following
9 provisions related to funding for children with disabilities:

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11 **Rationale:** This resolution calls for converting special education categorical aid from a sum
12 certain appropriation to a ***sum sufficient*** appropriation, which would guarantee that the specified
13 or promised percentage level of support is met. Providing special education categorical aid
14 through a sum sufficient appropriation would mean that the Legislature must provide whatever
15 amount of funding it takes to meet the promised percentage reimbursement level of support (in
16 this case 60 percent).

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19 **Resolution 22-04: *Advanced Learning***

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21 **Amend** existing Resolution 2.37 to add the following language:

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23 The WASB encourages that schools focus less on identifying “gifted” students and more
24 on identifying and addressing unmet learning needs of students capable of high levels of
25 achievement.

26
27 The WASB further encourages districts to provide a variety of advanced programming
28 opportunities for K-12 students, including acceleration options, and to offer opportunities
29 to individuals such that students from every background are able to achieve at their
30 highest possible levels.

31
32 **Rationale:** State statutes mandate that each school board must “ensure that all gifted and talented
33 pupils enrolled in the school district have access to a program for gifted and talented pupils” and
34 that each school board must “provide access to an appropriate program for pupils identified as
35 gifted or talented.” However, the state currently provides only \$474,400 per year in direct aid to
36 school districts for gifted and talented programming. Prior to the enactment of 2021-23 state
37 budget that amount was only \$237,200 per year.

38
39 Advocates for gifted and talented students, such as the Wisconsin Association for the Talented
40 and Gifted (WATG), have long decried that having a state mandate for identification and
41 services for gifted and talented students does not necessarily guarantee their availability. The
42 WATG argues that there is lack of clarity in the definition of “gifted and talented” and that due
43 to that lack of clarity, schools should identify “needs” not “children.” This resolution
44 encourages schools to provide relatively low-cost pathways to meet unmet learning needs of
45 high achieving students such as by offering acceleration options. Acceleration options may
46 include, but are not limited to, providing such things as: early admission to Kindergarten, first

1 grade or high school; curricular modifications; access to dual enrollment courses in high school;
2 AP courses in high school; or international baccalaureate (IB) curricula, etc.

3
4 **Resolution 22-05: *Broadening Staff Expenditures Eligible for State Categorical Aid for***
5 ***School Mental Health Services***

6
7 **Create:** The WASB supports legislation to broaden the scope of DPI-issued pupil services
8 licenses eligible to qualify for state categorical aid for school mental health programs to include
9 school social workers, school counselors, and school psychologists.

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11 **Rationale:** Broadening the scope of DPI-issued pupil services license categories eligible to
12 qualify for state categorical aid for school mental health programs would enable schools to
13 better meet student mental health needs and could enable a broader range of school district
14 expenditures to qualify for state categorical aid for school mental health programs.

15
16 Under current law, state categorical aid for school mental health programs is funded at \$12
17 million per year and reimburses eligible districts and schools for school social worker service
18 expenditures as follows: (a) 50% reimbursement of the increase in expenditures for school social
19 worker services from one year to the next; and (b) a proportion of unreimbursed expenditures for
20 school social workers, based on the amount remaining in the appropriation after payments are
21 made under (a).

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24 **Resolution 22-06: *Broadening the Scope of Mental Health Services Eligible for***
25 ***Reimbursement***

26
27 **Create:** The WASB supports legislation to broaden the scope of mental health service
28 professionals eligible for reimbursement from the state to include licensed mental health social
29 workers, licensed mental health counselors, licensed mental health psychologists, and
30 community mental health coordinators.

31
32 **Rationale:** Broadening the scope of mental health providers eligible to have their services
33 reimbursed by the state to include licensed mental health social workers, licensed mental health
34 counselors, licensed mental health psychologists, and community mental health coordinators
35 would enable schools to better meet student mental health needs and would help to address
36 unfunded mental health needs in Wisconsin schools.

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39 **Resolution 22-07: *Curriculum and Professional Training on Asian Americans & Pacific***
40 ***Islanders***

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42 **Create:** The WASB encourages Wisconsin public schools to develop an educational curriculum
43 and professional training to teach the history, culture, and contributions of Asian Americans &
44 Pacific Islanders to the economic, cultural, and social development of Wisconsin and the USA.
45 The WASB also requests the state Legislature provide sufficient funding to develop an
46 appropriate model curriculum and training package.

1 **Rationale:** “Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (AAPI)” refers to those persons who trace
2 their origins and ancestries back to the countries of East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia or the
3 Pacific Islands. Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders have lived and worked in Wisconsin for
4 over 100 years, and have contributed greatly to our state’s rich history, culture, economy, and
5 public service.

6
7 Between the 2010 to the 2020 Census periods, the population of Asian Americans & Pacific
8 Islanders in Wisconsin grew 36% from 131,061 to 177,901 (consistent with the nationwide trend
9 of 35.5% growth) – increasing significantly faster than the state’s overall growth rate of 3.6%.

10
11 At the same time, the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Delta variant have engendered the targeting
12 of Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders in WI and the USA with Anti-Asian hate and
13 harassment. (According to the group *Stop AAPI Hate*, the number of anti-Asian hate incidents
14 from March 2020 to June 2021 totaled 9,081 across the USA, with 4,533 in January-June 2021
15 alone).

16
17 This resolution aims to build greater understanding of Asian American & Pacific Islanders’
18 economic, cultural, and other contributions to our state and nation. This in turn may reduce
19 violence or threats of violence against Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders.

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21 Proponents of this resolution note that in 2021, Wisconsin lawmakers officially recognized the
22 contributions of AAPI people in Wisconsin, including by recognizing May 2021 as Asian
23 Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month and by designating May 14 annually
24 as Hmong-Lao Veterans Day. Both these legislative resolutions received bipartisan support.

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28 **Resolution 22-08: WASB National Presence and/or National Association Membership**

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30 **Repeal and recreate** existing resolution 5.16 as follows:

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32 The WASB will maintain a national presence and/or membership in a national
33 association(s) and will participate in and support that national presence and/or
34 membership(s), when compatible with WASB programs and policies. The WASB urges
35 members to actively participate in and support national presence activities and/or national
36 association(s).

37
38 **Rationale:** The WASB Board of Directors, under its authority as spelled out in the WASB
39 Bylaws, may place resolutions before the Delegate Assembly.

40
41 Under existing Resolution 5.16, the WASB is required to maintain membership in the National
42 School Board Association (NSBA). The changes proposed by this resolution would require the
43 WASB to maintain “a national presence and/or membership in a national association(s)” but that
44 national association would not necessarily have to be the NSBA. These proposed changes would
45 also not require the WASB to leave the NSBA. That decision would be up to the Board of
46 Directors. The nature of the national presence and/or membership in a national association or
47 associations would fall under the purview of the WASB Board of Directors.

1 **Resolution 22-09: *Impact Aid***

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3 **Amend** existing Resolution 2.63 **Impact Aid** as follows:

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5 The WASB petitions the Wisconsin Legislature to adopt a joint resolution asking
6 Congress to fully fund Impact Aid as it did from the creation of the program in 1950 until
7 1969, and will also work with our national presence and/or a national association(s) ~~the~~
8 ~~NSBA~~ to try to secure greater funding of Impact Aid, including by offering a proposed
9 resolution to ~~the NSBA~~ a national association or associations urging ~~NSBA~~ it or them to
10 lobby Congress for a similar increase in federal Impact Aid.
11

12 **Rationale:** The WASB Board of Directors, under its authority as spelled out in the WASB
13 Bylaws, may place resolutions before the Delegate Assembly.
14

15 Under existing resolution 5.16, the WASB is required to maintain membership in the National
16 School Board Association (NSBA). The proposed changes to resolution 5.16 in Resolution 22-08
17 would require the WASB to maintain “a national presence and/or membership in a national
18 association(s)” but the association(s) would not have to be the NSBA. The proposed changes to
19 resolution 5.16 would also not require the WASB to leave the NSBA. The national presence
20 and/or membership in a national association(s) decisions would be in the hands of the WASB
21 Board of Directors.
22

23 In light of the proposed changes to existing Resolution 5.16, existing Resolution 2.63 is likewise
24 proposed to be amended because it directly refers to the NSBA. References to the NSBA in the
25 existing resolution are replaced by references to a national association or associations and/or to a
26 national presence.
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29 **Resolution 22-10: *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)***

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31 **Amend** the first paragraph of existing Resolution 3.17 as follows:
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33 The WASB opposes a mandated national test. The WASB will work with our legislators,
34 ~~the National School Boards Association,~~ our national presence and/or a national
35 association(s), the Department of Public Instruction and other education groups to adapt
36 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to:
37

38 **Rationale:** The WASB Board of Directors, under its authority as spelled out in the WASB
39 Bylaws, may place resolutions before the Delegate Assembly.
40

41 Under existing resolution 5.16, the WASB is required to maintain membership in the National
42 School Board Association (NSBA). The proposed changes to resolution 5.16 in Resolution 22-08
43 would require the WASB to maintain “a national presence and/or membership in a national
44 association(s)” but the association would not have to be the NSBA. The proposed changes to
45 resolution 5.16 would also not require the WASB to leave the NSBA. The national presence
46 and/or membership decision would fall under the purview of the WASB Board of Directors.

1 In light of the proposed changes to existing Resolution 5.16, existing Resolution 3.17 is likewise
2 proposed to be amended because it directly refers to the NSBA. References to the NSBA in the
3 existing resolution are replaced by references to a national association or associations and/or to a
4 national presence.