

2017 DCSD LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Approved by the Douglas County School District Board of Education on February 21, 2017

This document serves to guide the interactions between the Douglas County School District and the Colorado General Assembly during the 2017 regular legislative session. It aligns with the vision for our district as approved by the Board of Education on May 10, 2016. Issues not specifically addressed in this document or issues that require further interpretation shall come before the board to determine what position, if any, DCSD will take.

GOVERNANCE

1. DCSD recognizes that, under the Colorado Constitution, the control of public school systems is to be governed by locally elected boards of education, and not legislated at the state or federal level.
2. DCSD opposes legislation that infringes on local control.

SCHOOL FUNDING

1. DCSD supports comprehensive review and update of school finance mechanisms and how taxes are assessed, prioritized, and allocated.
2. DCSD supports restoration of state funding that includes, but is not limited to, addressing the negative factor.
3. DCSD supports legislation that fully funds all state educational mandates and includes feasibility studies that evaluate impacts to the system.
4. DCSD supports full funding to address the needs of students including, but not limited to: English language proficiency education, special education, gifted and talented education, transportation, career and technical education, school safety, at risk intervention, and bullying intervention.
5. DCSD opposes legislation that results in a decrease to DCSD's per pupil funding.

SUPPORT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

1. DCSD supports legislation that addresses current and projected licensed teacher shortages.

2. DCSD opposes legislation that undermines the public's confidence in our public schools.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSESSMENT

1. DCSD supports accountability models that reduce time devoted to statewide testing. Teachers should be empowered to select tools from a menu of assessments that identify diagnostic information that informs instruction and encourages individual student growth.
2. DCSD supports accountability measures that bolster and ensure student privacy.

VISION OF THE DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Douglas County School District strives to maximize the potential of every student to pursue his or her chosen endeavor in society, including but not limited to postsecondary education, career, or military service.