



COLORADO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Operating Procedures for State Board Activity Regarding Legislation

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- 1) The State Board will hear a legislative update from the legislative liaison at least twice per month during the legislative session. One of these updates will take place at the monthly board meeting and a second will be scheduled on the last Friday of the month. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.
- 2) A conference call line will be arranged for those board members unable to attend the special legislative update meetings in person.
- 3) The members of the board will designate two legislative contacts (one from each party) to serve as the points of contact for the legislative liaison when time-sensitive issues arise. These contacts agree to communicate messages to and ask for feedback from the other board members of their respective parties.
- 4) If fewer than six members are in attendance for a legislative update session, the designated legislative contacts will contact absent board members and report their feedback to the legislative liaison within twenty-four hours.
- 5) The legislative updates will include discussion of new bills and staff analysis of those bills, an update on the status of existing bills, and an explanation of any other relevant legislative activities.
- 6) Copies of all materials appearing on the legislative update agenda will be provided to board members at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.
- 7) The legislative liaison will draw correlations between newly-introduced legislation and the current legislative priorities set by the board, and whenever possible will use the board's legislative priorities as a guide in recommending what, if any, action the board should take on legislation.
- 8) Following discussion of newly-introduced legislation, the Chair will entertain motions regarding positions the board may wish to take.
- 9) The board may choose to "Support," "Oppose," "Amend," or "Monitor" any bill.
- 10) The first consideration is to strive for a unanimous position on legislation.
- 11) In the absence of unanimity, the board will strive for a super-majority.

Paul Lundeen
Chairman
5th Congressional District

Marcia Neal
Vice-Chairman
3rd Congressional District

Elaine Gantz Berman
1st Congressional District

Jane Goff
7th Congressional District

Pam Mazanec
4th Congressional District

Debora Scheffel
6th Congressional District

Angelika Schroeder
2nd Congressional District



- 12) If a super-majority cannot agree to support or oppose a bill, the second consideration is how the bill might be amended to enable the board to reach a super-majority of support.
- 13) If the board is in disagreement regarding the ability to amend a bill, the third consideration is to support the bill with a simple majority.
- 14) The board will make every effort not to oppose legislation without offering an alternative policy position or a suggested amendment. However, if Board members are unable to agree on an amendment, it may take the position of "Oppose" with either a super-majority or a simple majority. The Commissioner will offer guidance as to how much, if any, legislative action will be taken to defeat an opposed bill.
- 15) The board will revisit their position on any legislation that is altered in the course of the legislative process.
- 16) To the greatest extent possible, the board will strive for consensus in taking positions on legislation. However, in the unusual event that an individual board member wishes to speak to the legislature in opposition to a position taken by the State Board of Education, that board member will inform the legislative liaison and other board members of their intention to testify as an individual prior to providing that testimony. Board members will also be very clear in their individual testimony that they are not speaking on behalf of the board and will share the board's official position on the legislation, if such position exists.

