



PSBA Now Accepting Proposals for the 2016 Legislative Platform

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March 17, 2015

PSBA is now inviting member school boards to submit proposals to be considered for the association's 2016 Legislative Platform (*Core Legislative Principles and Supporting Concepts*).

This is your board's opportunity to have a say in the positions that PSBA takes to the Capitol on behalf of its members. The platform is PSBA's official record of positions on legislative issues and is the guide for the association's advocacy efforts. It is adopted annually by school directors, and the process to draft the 2016 platform is beginning now.

The deadline for school boards to submit items for consideration is Tuesday, June 30. It is not too early to bring this issue up for discussion at your next board meeting so that your items can be drafted, approved and submitted to PSBA by the deadline.

[What Should My Board Know About Submitting an Item?](#)

Review the [current 2015 platform](#) to see if the topic of your proposal already is included. Boards should focus on the section of the PSBA Platform containing the Core Legislative Principles and Supporting Concepts. The four Core Legislative Principles provide the broad policy framework for the platform, and the Supporting Concepts describe in more detail PSBA's position on legislative issues that are related to each of the Core Legislative Principles. (*The section containing the Legislative Priorities, which were adopted last October and effective for the 2015-16 legislative session, WILL NOT be drafted again until 2016 in preparation for the 2017-18 legislative session.*)

Boards may voice support for the continuation of current platform statements, create new proposals, amend existing platform language, or suggest the deletion of a current statement. In drafting a new item or an amendment, your proposal should follow the general format of the 2015 platform and be written in the same style as the current platform. PSBA's Government Affairs staff is available to help you with any questions you may have.

Please include a brief statement of rationale (about 50 words) that explains why your board believes the item should be included in the platform. What specific problems has your district encountered, and how would your proposal resolve this issue? The rationale will be presented to the Platform Committee as it considers your board's proposal.

How Does My Board Submit An Item?

All proposals must be approved by the board and verified by the board secretary. (In other words, a board member may not submit an item on his or her own behalf. The item should be discussed and agreed upon by the board.) If your proposal is a revision to an existing platform item, please indicate the category and number of the statement that is being amended. Boards may submit as many items as they wish.

Proposals and accompanying rationale can be submitted to PSBA three ways:

- Use the [online submission form](#) and the proposal will automatically be submitted.
- Download the [Platform Proposal Form](#) and send or email to PSBA.
- Submit the proposals on **school district stationery.**

Proposals must be received by June 30. Items can be emailed to Cindy Eckerd at cindy.eckerd@psba.org. Hard copies can be mailed to Cindy Eckerd, PSBA Office of Government Affairs, 400 Bent Creek Blvd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17050.

What Happens After Our Item Is Submitted?

All proposals will be reviewed by the PSBA Platform Committee on Saturday, August 8. Following the meeting, PSBA will inform you of the Platform Committee's action and whether your proposal was accepted, amended by the panel or not recommended for inclusion in the platform. **All items moved forward by the Platform Committee will receive final consideration by the PSBA Delegate Assembly on Tuesday, October 13** in conjunction with the School Leadership Conference in Hershey. Any board whose item is not recommended for inclusion may bring the proposal up for reconsideration by the Delegate Assembly.