



PASD's 2021 Legislative Priorities

Retain Regionalization

Regionalization Factor provides additional percentages to fund staff units to some districts, including PASD. PASD currently receives 6% (approx. \$900,000) temporary funding, and this amount regresses over time. In 2020-21, PASD's percentage decreases to 5%; in 2021-22, it further reduces to 4%; in 2022-23, it again reduces to 3% and is reevaluated for permanency. PASD supports legislation that keeps the status quo of 6% and sustains Regionalization.

Fully Fund Special Education

SpEd is a State requirement and yet not fully funded. The District expends approx. \$635,000 of local levy dollars for SpEd. This is basic education for students and should be funded accordingly. PASD supports legislation that increases funding for SpEd programs.

Revisit Methodology of Prototypical Funding Model

Currently the State funds for PASD: 7.16 counselors for 8 school sites, 0.59 school nurse for approx. 3,800 students, and 5.6 paraeducators for basic education district-wide. In actuality and based on PASD's need, the District funds at the local level: 11 counselors, 4 school nurses, and 120 paraeducators. PASD supports legislation that addresses the actual needs of students in a district.

Fully Fund Employee Benefits

Employee medical benefits are not fully funded. PASD contributes approx. \$1 million toward benefits. With the introduction of SEBB, both the District and its employees have increased out-of-pocket expenses. For example, even when an employee opts out of coverage, the District still pays a full amount based on the position and not the actual receipt of benefits. PASD supports legislation that eliminates the mandated SEBB participation, or in the alternative, provides for reduced out-of-pocket expenses for Districts and its employees.

Support Simple Majority for School Capital Bonds

Currently, passing a school capital bond requires 60% supermajority. In February 2015, a 25-year, \$98.2 million bond to replace the high school received 4,782 votes or 49.68% of votes. In February 2018, a 6-year, \$46.7 million capital facilities levy to expand and renovate Stevens Middle School received 4,008 votes or 48.78% of votes. PASD has not passed a bond since 2001. PASD supports legislation that requires a simple majority of votes to pass a capital bond.

Permanent Return of Timber Tax at State and Federal Level

Timber revenues should be delivered to school districts as a supplement to basic education allocations in addition to the State's basic education apportionment. PASD supports legislation that returns timber tax funds to Districts, which is the historical norm.

Addressing Digital Equity

Equity calls for access to meaningful learning for every student and on-line learning must be part of that commitment, especially in response to required distant learning models. There is an immense chasm between those who have affordable, reliable high speed broadband internet access and those who don't. PASD supports legislation that prioritizes funding students' digital needs.

No Mid-School year Budget Cuts

The state shall not change the education-related funding after the state's budget has been adopted for the upcoming school year. School districts enter into labor contracts and other financial commitments for the upcoming school year once the state adopts its budget. PASD supports legislation that maintains consistent P-12 funding once the academic year has started for which the committed funds were intended to be spent.