

PASD's 2020 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

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

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 Simply 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.