

2016 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

1. MFP – FUNDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

- 1.1.** Advocate for appropriate levels of funding for K-12 Public Education.
- 1.2.** Advocate for adequate resources to reach the goal of technology integration in public school classrooms.
- 1.3.** Establish the MFP Taskforce as an ongoing entity with an annual obligation to advise BESE and the Legislature with regard to the MFP.
- 1.4.** Advocate for improvement to the formula that promotes equity, access and the block grant funding status to local districts for local flexibility.
- 1.5.** Oppose new, mandated, local spending without additional funding (UNFUNDED MANDATES).
- 1.6.** Advocate for appropriate funding for career education/dual enrollment and special education accompanied by local flexibility and local authority.

2. PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREMENT

- 2.1.** The normal costs of operating defined benefit retirement systems ARE sustainable by local school districts, serve a valid public purpose, and should be maintained.
- 2.2.** Advocate that the Unfunded Accrued Liability of TRSL and LSERS are a STATE OBLIGATION and should be funded directly by the legislature.

3. STATE STANDARDS & ASSESSMENTS

- 3.1.** Support setting appropriate Louisiana based standards to increase student achievement.
- 3.2.** Support a reasonable transition period any time the State standards are significantly modified.
- 3.3.** Support a strategic and cohesive state curriculum framework as a guide for local districts (grade level by grade level, unit by unit, with sample activities and properly vetted resources for teachers).
- 3.4.** Support development of baseline data each time there is a significant modification in State standards so valid measurements of student achievement can occur.
- 3.5.** Develop, utilize and periodically review Louisiana developed assessments until an appropriate, cost-effective national assessment can be determined with local stakeholder input.

4. DISTRICT, SCHOOL and TEACHER ACCOUNTABILITY

- 4.1.** Amend the school and district performance program to lessen the reliance on mandated, state and federal testing, and work to develop multiple measures of student achievement for school and district performance that more accurately reflect progress or lack thereof.
- 4.2.** Suspend the use of letter grade labeling; and, the associated, punitive consequences.
- 4.3.** Assess student achievement but allow for more local school system flexibility.
- 4.4.** LDOE should work collaboratively with local school boards to assist and improve persistently low performing schools, and eliminate the mandated closure of or State takeover of schools as a remedy for low school performance.
- 4.5.** Establish via legislation a functioning Accountability Task Force similar to the MFP Task Force so that Louisiana's state accountability system is aligned with the new federal laws that afford greater flexibility (Every Student Succeeds Act – replaced No Child Left Behind).

5. PRIVATIZATION: CHARTER SCHOOLS AND VOUCHERS

- 5.1.** Ensure public tax dollars dedicated to public education are not misdirected due to loopholes in the law, especially locally approved, and dedicated tax dollars.
- 5.2.** Exempt special education dollars from the calculation of the local allocation to charter schools.
- 5.3.** Support local school board decisions regarding the authorization of public charter schools; stop BESE override of local school board decisions in districts that are meeting accountability standards.
- 5.4.** Close the loophole in the law that allows for Kindergarten students zoned for an A, B and C rated schools to receive a voucher.
- 5.5.** Hold voucher schools to the same standards as other publically funded schools (school accountability, special education services, financial accounting/auditing, etc.).
- 5.6.** Repeal the general exemption from the general school law afforded to charter schools, so that all public schools operate under the same laws; OR repeal any statutes that are not necessary and in the best interest of public education.
- 5.7.** Prohibit for-profit charter school operators in schools with unacceptable performance.