

WASBO Accounting Conference

Legislative Update

March 17, 2022

Remainder of Legislative Session

- The Legislature is done for the session.
- Very few education bills still in play will become law.
- GOP passed some messaging bills that the Governor will veto.
- Our objective has been – Sustain as little damage as possible. Regroup for next session.
- We’re communicating with the Governor’s office regarding vetoes.

Selected Legislation – Passed Both Houses

- [AB 893/SB 833](#) – Grants to support the teaching of dual enrollments courses in high school. **SAA supports.**
- [AB 975/SB 1004](#) – Substitute teacher permits issued by DPI. **SAA supports.**
- [AB 611/SB 589](#) – The Foundations of Reading Test licensure requirement. **SAA supports.**
- [AB 495/SB 484](#) – Possession of firearm in vehicle on school grounds by permit holder. **SAA opposes.**
- [AB 602/SB 585](#) – Crime reporting bill, pro-voucher. **SAA opposes.**
- [AB 903/SB 860](#) – Additional program reporting requirements for gifted and talented pupils. **SAA opposes.**
- [AB 995/SB 1011](#) – Parental opt-out from face covering requirements in school buildings and on school grounds; requiring schools to offer an in-person option. **SAA opposes.**

Bills Stopped

- [AB 435/SB 431](#) – Cursive writing mandate. **SAA opposes.**
- [AB 475/SB 448](#) – Requires total interest/rate on referendum question. **SAA opposes.**
- [AB 899/SB 841](#) – One credit of personal finance literacy for graduation. **SAA opposes.**

Empowering Parents Education Reform Package – Passed Both Houses

- **SAA opposes all of these bills.**
- [AB 963/SB 962](#) – **Parent Rights.** Rights reserved to a parent or guardian of a child.
- [AB 965/SB 966](#) – **DPI Reports.** Changes to the components, methods, and formulas used to publish school and school district accountability reports.
- [AB 966/SB 963](#) – **Reorganizing Milwaukee Schools.** Reorganizing the Milwaukee Public School System into four to eight school districts and creating a Milwaukee Public Schools Redistricting and Implementation Commission.
- [AB 967/SB 965](#) – **Charter Schools.** High-performing charter schools authorized by school boards.
- [AB 968/SB 964](#) – **Charter School Board.** Creating a Charter School Authorizing Board and allowing the board to authorize independent charter schools.
- [AB 970/SB 974](#) – **Choice Income Limits.** Eliminating income limits for parental choice programs; eliminating pupil participation limits for the statewide parental choice program; essentially a “voucher in every backpack”.

2022 Election Preview

- We anticipate quite a few retirements in the Legislature.

- Retirements will drive significant change on Education Committees
- What will be the impact of redistricting?
- Education will be key issue in 2022 Wisconsin election.
- GOP agenda: Expand vouchers, empower parents, direct money to the classroom.
- Evers' veto is currently standing in the way of the GOP agenda.
- We anticipate GOP control of both houses following 2022 election.
- Stakes are enormous in the gubernatorial election.
- Does Court decision on maps take GOP veto-proof majorities out of play?

Outlook for the Next State Budget?

- Who is governor will have a huge impact on 2023-25 State Budget.
- Big Factors: Economic growth, rising inflation, impending fiscal cliff.
- GOP lawmakers have no appetite for additional spending.
- How will lawmakers address fiscal cliff + CPI?
- Even though we have a big state surplus, the next state budget will be very challenging.

Deteriorating Political Environment for Public Education

- Diminishing numbers/influence of pro-public education legislators.
- Privatization advocates are the 800lb. gorilla of education politics.
- For years, we have depended on a handful of moderate GOP senators.
- With Olsen's retirement, our moderate firewall is essentially gone.
- In 2002, Wis. per-pupil spending ranked 12th highest; 11% above national average.
- In 2019, Wis. per-pupil spending ranked 25th; 4.5% below national average.
- This may be the most difficult environment for public education ever in Wisconsin.
- It is unlikely to improve following the 2022 elections.
- In fact, depending on the election outcome, it may get worse.

The Things That Need to Be Done

- SAA Strategic Planning – Expanded Capacity, New Cost-Sharing Model
- Development of 2022 SAA Evidence-Based Policy Agenda
- Development of 2023-25 SAA Legislative Agenda
- Advocacy Professional Development for Members
- Building and Rebuilding Relationships with Legislators
- Educate Members on The “Why” Behind SAA PAC

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