

Advocacy Research Update

Overview of WASBO's developing research agenda

WASBO WINTER AT A GLANCE

DECEMBER 13, 2022

Advocacy is a core function of WASBO



Vision

To be the most influential Wisconsin organization for state and national school business management and leadership.

Mission

To provide professional development, to foster a network of support and advocate for funding that ensures outstanding educational opportunities for all children in Wisconsin.

What do we mean by advocacy?

Among WASBO's goals:

[Be]...the leading voice for credible, fact-based K-12 financial advocacy in the state.

While many other professional associations and interest groups occasionally participate in the K-12 financial arena, none have K-12 financial advocacy as their primary focus.



“We want to be the good ideas people!” – Mike Barry

Becoming the “leading voice”

Roles and Research Agenda



Identify “evergreen” topics and issues that call for **in-depth research**, analysis, explanation, etc.

Generate **shorter-form resources** in response to **time-sensitive needs** for members’ advocacy efforts (e.g., state budget season)

Engage, inform, provide messaging for policymakers and K-12 community

Developing a research agenda

State-budget related topics

Financial comparison of publicly-funded school options (**district, voucher, charter**)

Special education – Explain the history and impacts of how it is funded in Wisconsin

Impact of **state policy on general spending authority**: History, impact, interaction of revenue limits, per pupil aid, inflation, etc.

Mental health: Document need, explain funding proposals

Developing a research agenda

Wisconsin school finance “Origin Story” project

Generate chronology of watershed moments in WI school finance policy

Identify commonly misunderstood policy areas

Identify problems with current policy – unintended impacts, negative outcomes

Use to inform topics for future research

Developing a research agenda

Potential research approaches

Explainers: Foster greater understanding on selected policy areas that call for more in-depth explanation, trend analysis, etc.

National scans: Conduct national/international scans and/or comparative analyses to put selected aspects of Wisconsin's school funding landscape into national or international perspective.

Policy analyses: Conduct research and analysis on various alternatives to current Wisconsin school finance policies. Present likely outcomes of a limited set of policy options. Where applicable, make recommendations for policy change/shift based on objective criteria.

Developing a research agenda

Potential Formats/channels

In-depth reports

One-three-page fact sheets

Regular online series (blog? Email newsletter)

Webinars, presentations at regional gatherings, conferences, legislative hearings

Op-eds

Legislator education series

As state budget proceeds, and beyond...

Role and opportunity for WASBO members

Stay connected to WASBO: Attend regionals, watch for WASBO and SAA advocacy updates and communications

Bring this info back to your boards and communities to inform, engage, and activate their advocacy efforts

Be a resource: Provide materials insights, info, data to inform and bolster the value and relevance of WASBO advocacy research. Help WASBO compile, communicate our stories

Serve on advisory committee (future): Provide input and perspective to ongoing and future WASBO research



Questions? Suggestions?

We are always **happy to hear from you**

Please reach out!

Anne Chapman | Research Director

Anne.Chapman@wasbo.com

Mike Barry | Executive Director

Mike.Barry@wasbo.com

