The Board of Directors of the Wyoming School Boards Association makes the following recommendations of Resolutions submitted by member districts:

**Affirm:**
- 2021.1 Early Childhood Education
- 2021.2 Access to High Quality Prekindergarten Programs
- 2021.3 Funding for School Safety and Security
- 2021.4 Reduction in Statewide Assessment Monitoring
- 2021.5 Mandatory Attendance Age
- 2021.6 Confidentiality of School Safety Discussions

The following Resolution received no recommendation and will be forwarded for discussion by the Delegate Assembly:

- 2021.7 Revisions to Teacher Suspension Process

According to the Delegate Assembly Meeting Rules, the Chairman of the Assembly will work through each resolution by calling for opposition to the recommendations made. In the event there are five (5) fans raised in opposition, the resolution will be pulled from the consent agenda for individual consideration. The consent agenda will be voted on in accordance with those items listed and remaining resolutions will be considered individually.

When recommending affirming a resolution, a majority of the Board of Directors agreed with the resolution and/or the rationale presented. When recommending denial of a resolution or making no recommendation, a rationale for such action is presented.

Items that pass the Delegate Assembly will become the WSBA Advocacy Agenda. It should be noted that the Advocacy Agenda is broader than a legislative agenda. Some issues may require action other than a legislative solution. The Advocacy Agenda will guide WSBA in seeking the best remedy, legislative or otherwise, for the issue presented. The Advocacy Agenda will represent the official WSBA position on the issue.

**2021.1 Early Childhood Education**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Wyoming School Board Association supports early education for children three through five years of age to improve their long-term success as students and productive citizens in Wyoming. Therefore, the Wyoming School Boards Association supports pursuit of expanding early education opportunities through Wyoming Department of Education grants providing for funding for early childhood programs throughout the state that provide quality inclusion classrooms.

**Rationale:** A strong consensus has developed among experts who have studies high quality early childhood development programs that these programs have substantial and enduring payoffs. Long-term studies of early childhood development participants, especially prekindergarten participants, consistently find that investing in children has a large number of lasting, important benefits for the participants, their families, and society at large (including taxpayers). These benefits include: higher levels of verbal, mathematical, and general intellectual achievement; greater success at school, including less grade retention, less need for special education, and higher graduation rates; less welfare dependency; better health outcomes; higher employment and earnings; greater government revenues and lower government expenditures; and lower crime rates.
2019 WSBA Delegate Assembly Resolutions

Submitted by Laramie County School District #1
Board Chair: Marguerite Herman
Contact Person: Nate Breen, Board Clerk – nate.breen@laramie1.org
Potential Legislative Sponsor: Not Identified

Recommendation of the WSBA Board of Directors: Affirm

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2021.2 Access to High Quality Prekindergarten Programs

BE IT RESOLVED that the Wyoming School Board Association supports expanded, high quality early childhood education opportunities throughout Wyoming, especially in rural communities. Additionally, WSBA encourages state policymakers to increase access to high quality prekindergarten programs for all 3- and 4-year old children whose parents wish to enroll them. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as a long-term goal, WSBA supports the development of an array of service providers leading to universal, voluntary preschool throughout the state and funded under the state educational model.

Rationale: Providing a high-quality education for children before they turn five yields significant long-term benefits. Children’s learning begins well before they enter school, and the transition to school must be founded on strong school readiness. Quality early childhood education is a key predictor of a child’s future educational achievement and emotional development. Children need proper stimulation and education from birth through age six in order to ensure full development and adequate preparation for the rigors of school.

Submitted by Natrona County School District #1
Board Chair: Rita Walsh
Contact Person: Debbie McCullar, Board Trustee – debbieandmac@gmail.com
Potential Legislative Sponsor: Not Identified

Recommendation of the WSBA Board of Directors: Affirm

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2021.3 Funding for School Safety and Security

BE IT RESOLVED that the Wyoming School Board Association urges the Wyoming Legislature to prioritize the protection of students and school employees by enacting legislation with funding for the following:

- Increased access to school safety measures, including, but not limited to, School Resource Officers (SROs), school safety infrastructure, and other security measures designed to protect students and staff from an active shooter on school grounds; and
- Training for school employees and enhanced coordination with law enforcement agencies and first responders to ensure appropriate responses to incidents of violence in schools.

Rationale: School violence has become an epidemic in the United States of America. The children and school employees of our nation deserve to attend school without fear of death or injury, and their families deserve to send them to school without the same fear. There is a mutual responsibility of all citizens to address this problem and the responsibility for preventing violent
incidents cannot be relegated to school districts alone. Multiple studies have shown that the majority of Americans support action to eliminate violence in our schools. School board members, administrators, employees and community members should work together with lawmakers, legal counsel, law enforcement and security experts to determine how best to ensure student safety in their district. Funding for school safety and security is essential to the proper provision of best practices for safe schools.

Submitted by Natrona County School District #1
Board Chair: Rita Walsh
Contact Person: Debbie McCullar, Board Trustee – debbieandmac@gmail.com
Potential Legislative Sponsor: Not Identified

Recommendation of the WSBA Board of Directors: Affirm

**2021.4 Reduction in Statewide Assessment Monitoring**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Wyoming School Board Association urges the Wyoming Legislature to prioritize the protection of local control under the parameters of the District Assessment System by enacting legislation for the following:

- Less mandated federal and state requirements for assessing; and
- Autonomy in the depth and complexity of the localized District Assessment System.

Rationale: Testing takes time from learning. By supporting less federally and/or statewide-mandated testing, districts and their schools free up time and resources, diminish “teaching to the test,” and allow educators to focus on what is most important: instilling a love of learning in their students. The children of our state deserve to attend school without high-stakes testing and related “accountability”. While we support an annual measure of student learning, we also believe in increased flexibility by allowing school districts to determine the quantity and quality of their locally-developed assessments. Federally and/or statewide defining locally-developed assessment parameters are not specific enough to be used in targeting instruction for individual students. The role for local assessments are to define what students do well, where they are having difficulty, and how the instructional program might be adjusted to address their specific needs. Locally-developed assessments provide better and faster feedback that helps drive real improvements in teaching and learning.

Submitted by Natrona County School District #1
Board Chair: Rita Walsh
Contact Person: Debbie McCullar, Board Trustee – debbieandmac@gmail.com
Potential Legislative Sponsor: Not Identified

Recommendation of the WSBA Board of Directors: Affirm

**2021.5 Mandatory Attendance Ages**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Wyoming School Boards Association supports the learning and growth of Wyoming’s young children, as well as lowering the dropout rate and improving the
graduation rate for students in Wyoming. Therefore, the Wyoming School Boards Association supports expanding the public school mandatory attendance ages from 6 to 18 or graduation, whichever comes first. It is recommended that homeschooled students be excluded.

Rationale: All Wyoming children should be enrolled in school by the age of 6 to ensure a healthy and accelerated start to their education. Reducing the dropout rate is the rationale behind the proposal to increase the compulsory attendance age to 18.

Submitted by Sheridan County School District #2
Board Chair: Ann Perkins
Contact Person: Craig Dougherty, Superintendent of Schools – craig.dougherty@scsd2.com
Potential Legislative Sponsor: None Identified

Recommendation of the WSBA Board of Directors: Affirm

2021.6 Confidentiality of School Safety Discussions
BE IT RESOLVED that the Wyoming School Boards Association supports a change to state statute 16-4-405(a) that identifies permissible reasons for an executive session to include discussions of confidential matters of district and school safety and security.

Rationale:
School safety and security are of paramount importance to Wyoming school districts. The current reasons identified in W.S. 16-4-405(a) for going into executive session do not clearly identify discussions about school safety and security as permissible reasons for an executive session. There may be ways for a board to have such discussions in executive session, but it is desirable to provide a clear authority for the school board to have discussions about matters school safety and security in an executive session. Any action taken by the board as a result of the confidential discussion would still be conducted in the public session unless otherwise provided by law.

Submitted by Teton County School District #1
Board Chair: Betsy Carlin
Contact Person: Janine Bay-Teske, Board Trustee – jbayteske@tcsd.org
Potential Legislative Sponsor: None Identified

Recommendation of the WSBA Board of Directors: Affirm

2021.7 Revisions to Teacher Suspension Process
BE IT RESOLVED that the Wyoming School Boards Association supports changes to state statute 21-7-110 “Suspension or dismissal of teacher” which sets a statutory requirement for when a hearing must commence (on a date no later than 45 days). This requirement is most often not met, and compensation for staff goes well beyond the intended time as hearing dates are pushed back, often into the next school year, at the expense of the school district, with the teacher being suspended with pay and full benefits.
Rationale:
School districts are more and more frequently becoming saddled with situations where the Office of Administrative Hearings is allowing school termination hearings to go well beyond the 45-day requirement as spelled out in statute. This results in school districts continuing to pay salaries, benefits and legal fees well beyond the mandatory 45-day hearing deadline. We would ask that the following issues be addressed:

- Remove the 45-day requirement as it is not being adhered to and change the language so that it would allow the investigation to be conducted in a timely manner.
- Reconsider who can be assigned as a hearing officer. Currently the Office of Administrative Hearing does not have the staff to hold the hearings in a timely manner.
- Consider language that would allow salary and benefit payments to stop at the time the recommendation to terminate is made by the Superintendent after the completion of an investigation. If the recommendation for termination/dismissal is not upheld by the board, then the salary and benefits owed to the teacher would be promptly paid.
- These changes would help to reduce costly legal fees and salaries paid to staff members who may eventually be terminated or dismissed.

These changes are not intended to deny any rights or the due process that teachers currently have.

Submitted by Laramie County School District #2
Board Chair: Jeff Kirkbride
Contact Person: Jon Abrams, Superintendent – jon.abrams@laramie2.org
Potential Legislative Sponsor: None Identified

Recommendation of the WSBA Board of Directors: No Recommendation

Note: The proposed resolution should be considered by the entire delegate assembly and debated. It is noted that this resolution may be further amended by the submitting district as they seek to refine and clarify their resolution.