LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Legislative Priorities for 2021

1. PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING
   • Ensure that taxpayer dollars fund only public schools, with no new unfunded mandates.
   • Prioritize state funding to eliminate or reduce the “budget stabilization factor.”

2. SCHOOL/DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY
   • Suspend statewide mandated testing and ratings of schools and districts through the 2020-2021 school year, and work on creating a new system of accountability for when there is a recovery, focusing on providing resources for improvement.
   • Provide guidelines and resources for how to best deal with instruction during the pandemic, using evidence-based information.
   • Ensure adherence to statutorily required measures for accountability committees and genuine family engagement.

3. EDUCATOR ACCOUNTABILITY
   • Change the educator evaluation law (SB 10-191) to focus on support and improvement rather than rating performance based on statewide mandated testing.
   • Put more stress on the extent to which principals and other administrative leaders provide support for teachers and do problem-solving.

4. EQUITY
   • Provide more equity in school funding, by restoring the “factors” in school finance that were created for equity.
   • Hold schools and districts, as well as district and school administrators, accountable for the extent to which they allocate resources and staff to promote equity among schools, provide equitable access to classes and resources for students, and ensure that different learning needs of students are met.
   • Promote greater diversity of educators and less student segregation among schools.
   • Ensure that during the pandemic there is equity among schools and districts related to instruction, connectivity, translation, home instruction challenges, and mental/behavioral health.

5. SAFETY
   • Ensure that schools keep students safe from bullying and violence.
   • Designate resources to prevent suicide, self-harm, and substance misuse.
   • Provide funding to help deal with the pandemic in regard to the physical and mental/behavioral health of students and staff and the provision of supplies for the safety of school environments, including cleaners, masks (such as N95 masks), COVID tests, etc.