



SIOUX FALLS AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Progress is everyone's business

Executive Committee Resolution

K-12 Funding and Teacher Pay

January 2016

Be it Resolved that the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce strongly supports efforts to find solutions to significantly improve teacher pay in South Dakota and help ensure that every child has the advantage of quality instruction in the K-12 classroom. This resolution is in response to Gov. Dennis Daugaard's proposal to be considered by the State Legislature.

In furtherance of these efforts:

- We acknowledge the immense challenge to recruit and retain teachers in our state adversely impacts the education of children.
- We support efforts to encourage organizational efficiency and expand electronic delivery of instruction.
- We believe that the new funding formula should not provide any additional advantage to school districts that are small by choice.
- We believe the capital outlay proposal, including the ability to use some of the revenue for general fund purposes as a local option, is a good direction for our state.
- We do not object to the change in the administration of the pension levy and strongly encourage the reinstatement of general fund reserve caps.
- We will review and analyze the changes proposed regarding other revenues for school districts, but believe the proposal is generally a good direction for the state.
- We will carefully analyze and consider the sales tax funding proposal that includes property tax relief, however, we also encourage lawmakers to consider other funding options (e.g. current sales tax exemptions, increased spending from trust funds, budget realignments, etc.) and strategies that might mitigate the need for an immediate general tax increase.
- If property tax relief is achieved, it should be distributed across the property classifications in proportion to each property classification's contribution to local effort for the funding formula.
- We intend to remain engaged in this issue as the session unfolds and work with various groups to improve the prospects for a high-quality K-12 system for our state and ensure accountability for any new funding dedicated to increasing teacher pay.