



## 2022-2023 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

### MISSION:

The mission of Piper USD 203 is to provide each student with quality instruction, learning opportunities, and a safe educational environment which inspires academic success, personal excellence, and responsible citizenship.

### VISION:

Building the Future One Child at a Time

### ISSUES FOR 22-23 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:



#### EDUCATIONAL GOVERNANCE

- **PRIORITY:** We support general supervision of public schools under the State Board of Education, including setting standards for accreditation, learning standards, graduation and licensure.
- We support management of public schools under locally-elected boards of education, including setting curriculum, staffing, financial management, and policies, so that such schools can progress and meet State Board standards.
- A system that abides by the Kansas Constitutional requirement that public schools must be operated by locally elected boards of education.

#### SCHOOL FUNDING



- **PRIORITY:** We support suitable finance provided by the Kansas Legislature, including continued implementation of constitutionally suitable school funding and inflationary adjustments approved by the legislature, the governor, and the Kansas Supreme Court.
- **PRIORITY:** We support the state legislature meeting its statutory obligation to reimburse special education service costs at the mandatory rate of 92 percent of excess costs to ensure student success.
- Funding for early childhood education programs such as Parents as Teachers and pre-kindergarten.
- Funding continuing to support and expand career pathway programs.
- State Aid to support bond and interest projects calculated using district assessed valuation per-pupil.
- Study state transportation aid to include students living less than 2.5 miles from their assigned school, including but not limited to funding to transport students who live in hazardous areas.
- To ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed, all schools supported by public funds must serve all children on the same basis as public schools. We oppose programs including but not limited to vouchers, education savings accounts, and tuition tax credits because such programs divert public funding from public education to schools which are not required to serve all students, including those who are disadvantaged, disabled, or those with the greatest need.



#### HIGH-QUALITY STAFFING & KPERS

- **PRIORITY:** A long-term, sustained commitment towards funding of KPERS.
- **PRIORITY:** Flexibility in the path to teacher licensure while retaining appropriate standards set by the State Board of Education.
- We support improving teacher recruitment and retention through local control of classroom content, respect for the teaching profession, and increased funding for salaries, including the inflationary adjustments approved by the legislature and state Supreme Court.
- Local boards of education right to hire the most qualified candidate and, if necessary, to pay any additional actuarial cost established by KPERS.
- Equitable working after retirement provisions for all public employees.

#### SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS



- **PRIORITY:** Fully funding legislative mandates.
- Allowing for accountability measures to match school funding schedules.
- Increased support for student health and security.
- Expand early childhood education programs to improve student outcomes and support families.