

RESOLUTION

Submitted to: Governor Mike Johanns
The Nebraska State Legislature
Nebraska Public Schools
SUBJECT: Student Learning in Nebraska's Public Schools
PROPOSED BY: The Nebraska State Board of Education

Whereas the State Board of Education:

Recognizes the downturn in the revenue and the state's economy.

Acknowledges the severity of the budget reductions before the State of Nebraska and the challenges facing Governor Mike Johanns and the Legislature.

Appreciates that the Governor and the Legislature have given priority to state support for the public schools in the past.

Acknowledges that the level of reductions required to balance the state budget this legislative session could be harmful to the state, and that the state aid to schools may be negatively affected.

Declares its commitment to continue to work with the Nebraska Department of Education, Educational Service Units and Nebraska's 517 public school districts on statewide School Improvement leading to increased levels of student achievement.

Applauds Nebraska's 517 public school districts for making our School Improvement Initiative successful by aligning their local curriculum to state standards and by being publicly accountable for achievement.

Expresses deep appreciation to our 517 public school districts and Educational Service Units for their leadership and participation in the state's School Improvement initiative: School-based Teacher-led Assessment and Reporting System.

Notes that many Nebraska public schools—including the state's two largest school Districts—have testified in support of the school improvement system, providing evidence that school improvement is leading to increased student achievement for all students, including minority students and students from low-income families.

Acknowledges that deep reductions in state aid would strain our public schools and harm student learning.

Be it resolved: The State Board of Education calls upon Governor Mike Johanns, the State Legislature and Nebraska public schools to protect our students and their schools by reducing spending, if necessary, in areas that would least affect the quality of classroom education.

Adopted March 7, 2003