



**GOVERNANCE PROCESS
4.9 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

Adopted: December 21, 2004.

Revised: December 18, 2019.

Adams 12 Five Star Schools will actively seek to influence legislation to preserve local governance, to create more flexibility from state mandates, to promote policies that adequately fund schools, to support accountability for student success and to support parental involvement.

Legislative Principles

Local Control – Preserve the responsibility, fiduciary role and authority of locally elected school boards for the operations and decisions of their local schools and districts. The state’s role should be to encourage and recommend but not to mandate changes within local schools. Decisions are best made by locally-elected school board members whose sole responsibility is the education of the community’s children.

Fewer Regulations and Streamlined Reporting – Due to the cuts in funding for education and to allow maximum effectiveness with the funds available, the removal and/or flexibility of regulations on funding and program mandates would allow local school boards to better act in the best interest of their students, parents and community. Streamlined and cost effective monitoring and reporting for accountability of regulations must be a primary consideration in legislation.

Increase Funding – As local school boards work to improve and transform the educational systems in schools, it is vital to increase funding for operations, capital construction, infrastructure, and maintenance so students can benefit from quality environments, tools, and highly effective personnel needed to facilitate learning.

Accountability for Student Success – Adams 12 Five Star Schools affirms the need for every district and school to demonstrate continuous improvement and be accountable in meaningful and useful ways to its students, their parents, and the broader community.

Parental Responsibility and Involvement – Parents are vital to the successful education of children. Their responsibility and involvement for their child’s education must be encouraged and supported at all levels of the educational system. Among these are decisions regarding: curriculum, sexual health, character development, budget priorities, sports, extracurricular activities, and school safety and security.

Legislative Positions

- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that restores ongoing K-12 funding that was lost during years with state budget shortfalls. Adams 12 Five Star Schools advocates for allocating K-12 funding such that the budget stabilization factor is reduced whenever possible but at a minimum does not increase.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools opposes any state or federal legislation that imposes unfunded mandates or mandates that require districts to incur compliance costs that negatively impact district operations.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that reduces the amount of time dedicated to state testing while maintaining reliable, high quality data that measures the academic growth of students over time. Testing must provide valuable and timely feedback for use in student instructional planning.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools recognizes the value of high quality early childhood education in preparing children for long term academic and social/emotional success in school. However, given recent expansion of full day kindergarten and early childhood education programming in Adams 12 and throughout the state, as well as the many unmet needs throughout our state's K-12 system of education resulting from the budget stabilization factor, the Five Star district believes that state fiscal resources are best invested during the 2020-21 school year in reducing the budget stabilization factor to the maximum extent possible rather than in expansion of preschool opportunities.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools requests that any legislation contemplating changes to tax increment financing (TIF) law consider the impact on school bond and mill levy override rates.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools urges the adoption of a new school finance act with additional funding that addresses the lack of adequacy and equity in our current system.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools believes it is imperative for the legislature to 1) fully fund SB19-199 related to changes in the READ Act, and 2) require higher education to provide training in literacy instruction practices, methods and strategies to prospective teachers that are aligned with those required or authorized by SB19-199.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that results in initiatives to increase the numbers of vaccinated children.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation to address the epidemic of youth vaping and to employ proven means to reduce youth usage including: increasing the price of vaping products through a tax similar to the one on traditional tobacco products, raising the age of use, possession and purchase to age 21, and elimination of flavored products. Increased resources should be invested in public health programs that educate youth about the dangers of vaping, fund further research on the health impacts of vaping and provide alternative to suspension opportunities for students caught using vaping products.

Charter School Related Equity Priorities

- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that improves the relationship, in academic accountability and fiscal responsibility, between charter schools and their authorizing public school districts. Adams 12 Five Star Schools does not support the State providing supplemental revenue to charter schools that are authorized through the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI) because the CSI Board of Directors is not elected and accountable to local taxpayers and funds allocated from the state for this purpose result in funding cuts for all other schools and districts.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that would honor local control in charter school approval and renewal decisions by changing the State Board of Education's standard of review for charter appeals.
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that requires: charter school applicants to submit accurate data on intentions to enroll from new families, the number of letters of intent should meet the standard for a minimally viable number of students established by each local school board with at least 55% of the interested students residing within the district at the time of application. The local school district may only use data from letters of intent for the purposes of verifying numbers of interested students. A letter of intent must be submitted for each family and include the following requirements:
 - Student name(s) and date(s) of birth
 - Parent or legal guardian name
 - Proof of address/residency
 - Grade(s), school(s), and district(s) where student(s) currently enrolled
 - Intended grade level(s) at enrollment with charter
 - Acknowledgement of plans to withdraw student(s) from current school(s)
 - Any additional information required by policy
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports legislation that gives the local school board sufficient authority to set appropriate policies and direct charter schools to take corrective or remedial action when the school district may have legal liability for actions of the charter school. The standard of review by the State Board of Education shall be whether the local board's recommended corrective actions were arbitrary and capricious. In cases where the local board's authority to direct the charter school does not exist, the charter school shall be required to indemnify the school district, including but not limited to financial losses caused by the charter school, its policies or acts of its agents.