



2022

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



OUR MISSION



*Advancing
public education
in Nebraska.*

At Stand For Schools, we envision a Nebraska where public schools are open and equitable for all, have adequate resources, and provide a range of evidence-based educational opportunities to help students thrive.

We believe this is achievable through continued support for Nebraska's excellent public schools and strong advocacy for policies that make our public education even stronger.

In 2022, that means our organization will prioritize two critical policy areas:



#1 PUBLIC DOLLARS MUST REMAIN IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Public education reflects Nebraska's values. Public schools educate around 90 percent of students in our state and are some of the very best in the nation. Public schools are open to all, they are free and fair, and they provide fiscally conservative oversight of taxpayer dollars through elected school boards.

School privatization—often called “school choice” by its proponents—includes any policy that would divert public dollars and public oversight of education services to private entities. Examples include charter schools, school vouchers, education savings accounts, and neo-vouchers (also known as scholarship tax credits).

Research from other states is clear: Privatization does not promote better educational outcomes, and it shifts the burden of funding critical programs and services to local taxpayers and low-income families while benefiting corporations and the highest earners in our state.

We believe public dollars should have public oversight and be used to support educational models that serve all children.

#2 OUR STATE MUST INVEST IN PROVEN SOLUTIONS.

Stand For Schools exists to support our public schools' history of success, and to find innovative ways to make them even stronger. More and more research shows there are proven solutions to the various challenges facing schools, students, and families. They include expanding access to early childhood education and career pathways and better meeting students' physical, behavioral, and mental health needs.

These solutions require investment from our state leaders. And yet, since 1990, Nebraska has consistently ranked 48th or 49th for the amount of state support for K-12 funding.

The quality of Nebraska's education system and the future of our economy depend on a school finance system that is adequately and sustainably funded and a public education system that meets the needs of individual students while also promoting equitable outcomes for all students regardless of race, socioeconomic status, language proficiency, disability, or ZIP code.