



AASB Like-Size District Forums March 20, 2021

During AASB's March Legislative Academy (Saturday March 20, 2021), school board members met in three like-size district forums to discuss what issues their board is focusing on this legislative session (based on AASB's Legislative Priorities and Legislative Talking Points).

Below are the top priorities that each district identified in conversations:

Urban/Large Districts

1. Funding – need predictable & stable forward funding.
2. Focus on SEL & Student Wellness, including mental health...
3. How to recover from COVID-19? What did we learn from last year?

Rural/REAA

1. Infrastructural challenges and threats due to environmental emergencies (eg changing river courses) and climate change (eg building failures due to melting permafrost)
2. Desperate need for improved and stable internet connectivity. (broadband)
3. Significant deferred maintenance needs, beyond those directly related to environmental/climate threats.
4. Transportation funding insufficient to meet realities esp rural/small districts.
5. Adequate & stable forward funding.
6. Student well-being; mental & physical health

Mid-Size/Municipalities & Single Sites

1. Education of WHOLE child:
 - Mental health SEL
 - Culturally responsive
2. School funding
3. PreK--pre literacy, reading comprehension skills coming from pre K skills
 - teachers, recruiting and retaining
 - AMHS
 - curriculum, (civics, literacy)

To explore: How can urban districts express support for broadband internet and in rural areas?