



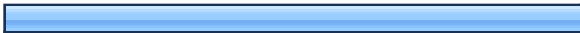









**1. Item # 01-School Funding-Formula Legislative proposal to adopt a state budget that adheres to current state law and would increase funding to local school districts at the current CPI of 2.3% which is a per student increase of \$100.95 for the next fiscal year. Proponents might argue it is imperative that the SD Legislature follow the existing state law that would provide schools a minimum of 2.3 % (increase the per student allocation \$100.95 for FY 13) which we understand is the CPI for the current year. Not following the school funding formula the last two years has been devastating for schools. If schools do not receive the CPI increase, they will continue to fall backwards economically making it impossible to provide high quality educational systems in South Dakota. Opponents might argue that even though the last two years the Governor and Legislature deviated from the formula as prescribed by state law and gave SD schools a 0% increase and then a long-term 8.6% decrease, the state will need to address other priorities such as state employees and Medicaid during this session with any increases in state revenue.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Support		89.7%	130
Do not support, but would not oppose		3.4%	5
Oppose		2.1%	3
Other (please specify)		4.8%	7
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>145</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>0</b>





**2. Item # 02-School Funding-FY 12 One-Time Student Funding A legislative proposal that at a minimum would retain the one-time increase of \$97 per student for FY12 as a permanent increase to the per student allocation and then add the additional 2.3% CPI increase as required under state law. Proponents might argue that the 2.3% CPI increase or a \$100.95 per student increase will only amount to a \$3.95 per student increase over FY 12 allocation once the \$97 of one-time dollars is subtracted. Schools in South Dakota are in grave need for more resources to help cover increasing costs and it needs to be more than \$3.95 per student for FY13. Opponents might argue that even though the last two years the Governor and Legislature deviated from the formula as prescribed by state law and gave SD schools a 0% increase and then a long-term 8.6% decrease, the state will need to address other priorities such as state employees and Medicaid during this session. They will also argue that the legislative intent was clear and the additional \$97 was for only one year.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Support		86.7%	124
Do not support, but would not oppose		5.6%	8
Oppose		7.0%	10
Other (please specify)		0.7%	1
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>143</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>2</b>





**3. Item # 03-School Funding-Restoring the Funding lost from the 2011 Session A legislative proposal to reinstate the general fund state aid reduction of 8.6% to the per-student allocation that was enacted during the 2011 legislative session. Proponents might argue that the state reduced the per-student allocation by 8.6% during the 2011 session (from \$4,804.60 to \$4,389.95). A one-time allocation reduced the overall cut for the 2011-2012 school year to 6.6%. Schools in South Dakota are in grave need for more resources to help cover increasing costs. Opponents might argue that even though the last two years the Governor and Legislature deviated from the formula as prescribed by state law and gave SD schools a 0% increase and then a long-term 8.6% decrease, the state will need to address other priorities such as state employees and Medicaid during this session with any increases in revenue.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Support		79.2%	114
Do not support, but would not oppose		10.4%	15
Oppose		5.6%	8
Other (please specify)		4.9%	7
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>144</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>1</b>




**4. Item # 04-School Funding-Moving SD Forward-Sales Tax Initiated Measure SDSSA is interested in any position that your school district has taken to support the efforts of South Dakota Moving Forward. On November 1, 2011 the group delivered approximately 33,000 signatures to the Secretary of State, which is nearly twice the amount needed, to put an initiated measure on the November 2012 ballot. The initiative increases the state sales tax by one penny, raising approximately \$175 to \$180 million annually. The increased revenue is split between K-12 Education and Medicaid. The K-12 share is distributed on a per-student basis. The language does contain protections that are intended to ensure that the money goes to K-12 Education in addition to the state formula.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, we have passed a resolution of support.		50.7%	73
No, we have not passed a resolution of support but plan to do so in the future.		16.0%	23
No, we have not passed a resolution of support and have no plans to do so in the future.		23.6%	34
Other (please specify)		9.7%	14
<b>answered question</b>			<b>144</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>1</b>


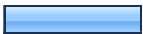


**5. Item # 05-School Funding-Other Revenue Legislative proposal for the state to collect and redistribute to all school districts “other revenue” (i.e. – weigh station fines, mineral rights, Bank franchise tax etc.) on a per-student basis. Proponents might argue that to treat all students equally, no district should have distinct or unique funding sources. Opponents might argue that these funds are raised within district and should be used to support the students of the local district. This could also convince some legislators to think that all funds and the attached tax levies (Capital Outlay, SPED, Pension, etc.) should be centrally assessed and distributed.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Support		25.7%	37
Do not support, but would not oppose		15.3%	22
<b>Oppose</b>		<b>54.9%</b>	<b>79</b>
Other (please specify)		4.2%	6
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>144</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>1</b>



**6. Item # 06-School Funding-Increasing/Decreasing Enrollment Funding Legislative Proposal to keep “increasing/decreasing enrollment funds” in place. Proponents would argue that this is a much needed funding source when faced with either increasing or decreasing enrollment. Opponents would argue that they would rather see dollars utilized to increase the per-student allocation per the funding formula for all local school districts.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Support		75.0%	108
Do not support, but would not oppose		11.8%	17
Oppose		13.2%	19
Other (please specify)		0.0%	0
<b>answered question</b>			<b>144</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>1</b>



**7. Item # 07-School Funding-Sparsity Funding Legislative Proposal to keep “sparsity funds” in place as amended by the 2011 Legislature. Proponents might argue that this is a much needed funding source when faced with trying to provide educational services to students over a vast geographical area, and that in 2011 the definition was expanded to include some additional schools districts. Opponents would argue that they would rather see dollars utilized to increase the per-student allocation per the funding formula for all local school districts. The addition of more school districts to this funding source further erodes dollars that could be used to increase the formula funding for all schools.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Support		61.1%	88
Do not support, but would not oppose		20.1%	29
Oppose		16.7%	24
Other (please specify)		2.1%	3
<b>answered question</b>			<b>144</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>1</b>





**8. Item # 08-School Funding-General Fund Budget 2010-2011 SDSSA is interested in having statistical data to present the 2012 Legislature concerning local school districts ability to have enough revenue to support expenditures for the 2010-2011 school year. Did you utilize reserve dollars to meet your expenditures for 2010-2011?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		66.7%	94
No		33.3%	47
<b>If Yes, how much?</b>			<b>44</b>
<b>answered question</b>			<b>141</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>4</b>





**9. Item # 09-School Funding-General Fund Budget 2011-2012 SDSSA is interested in having statistical data to present the 2012 Legislature concerning local school districts current ability to have enough revenue to support expenditures for the 2011-2012 school year. Are you projecting the utilization of reserve dollars to meet your expenditures for 2011-2012?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		76.6%	108
No		23.4%	33
If Yes, how much do you anticipate using?			62
<b>answered question</b>			<b>141</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>4</b>

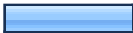


**10. Item # 10-School Funding-Capital Outlay Flexibility** A legislative proposal that would extend the use of the Capital Outlay Fund to offset General Fund expenditures farther than what was enacted by the 2011 Legislature. In the 2011 Legislative Session provisions which allow for fuel and utility expenses to be taken out of Capital Outlay were extended. There was an effort to add group health insurance and increase the percentage of Capital Outlay funds which may be expended that was not passed. The Capital Outlay Fund exists to purchase new equipment and pay the cost of facility upgrades. Proponents might argue that they realize that the intent of the Capital Outlay Fund was not to cover General Fund expenditures, but with the severe financial situations that schools and the state are experiencing some schools have been forced to utilize this option. They may feel that as tough economic times continue schools should be able to utilize even more flexibility than is currently allowed. It is optional and should be stopped or phased out once the economy rebounds. Opponents might argue that the mixing of General Fund and Capital Outlay sets a precedent that we only need one fund. Many administrators struggle with this bill. The erosion of the Capital Outlay Fund pits day-to-day expenses against capital expenditures. Many support efforts to allow limited flexibility but believe strongly that no further flexibility should be allowed in order to keep intact the integrity of the Capital Outlay Fund.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Support		46.9%	67
Do not support, but would not oppose		21.7%	31
Oppose		22.4%	32
Other, please specify		9.1%	13
<b>answered question</b>			<b>143</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>2</b>





**11. Item # 11-School Funding-Allow for the Establishment of Fees for any Voluntary Program A legislative proposal to allow school districts to establish a fee for any voluntary program, other than extracurricular activities, offered in schools to benefit students. Proponents might argue that in recent years state funding has not allowed school districts to meet budgetary demands of K-12 education and parents' needs and/or requests. Allowing local School Boards to have the option of the establishment of a fee for a voluntary program, other than extracurricular activities, to enhance the educational programming in their district could help make sure these much needed programs stay in place. Opponents might argue that a recent Attorney General's opinion has established that the fees should not be allowed under the SD Constitution and SDCL. If school districts are going to offer these programs they should do so without the charge of a fee and any law established to do so could be challenged as unconstitutional. The fees could also create hardship for economically disadvantaged students who are helped by these programs and keep them from participating.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Support		71.3%	102
Do not support, but would not oppose		11.9%	17
Oppose		14.7%	21
Other, please specify		2.1%	3
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>143</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>2</b>






**12. Item # 12-School Funding-Allow for the Establishment of Fees for Extracurricular Activities (Pay to Play)** A legislative proposal to allow school districts to establish a fee for extracurricular activities offered in schools to benefit students. Proponents might argue that in recent years state funding has not allowed school districts to meet budgetary demands of K-12 education and parents' needs and/or requests. Allowing local School Boards to have the option of the establishment of a fee for extracurricular activities could help make sure these much needed programs stay in place. Opponents might argue that a recent Attorney General's opinion has established that these fees should not be allowed under the SD Constitution and SDCL. If school districts are going to offer these programs they should do so without the charge of a fee and any law established to do so could be challenged as unconstitutional. The fees could also create hardship for economically disadvantaged students who are helped by these programs and keep them from participating.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Support		18.9%	27
Do not support, but would not oppose		13.3%	19
<b>Oppose</b>		<b>67.8%</b>	<b>97</b>
Other (please specify)		0.0%	0
<b>answered question</b>			<b>143</b>
<b>skipped question</b>			<b>2</b>





**13. Item # 13-Continuing Contract A legislative proposal to eliminate continuing contract. SDSSA has not been able to get a confirmation or denial that this might be brought forward by the Department of Education, the Governor or a Legislator. Proponents might argue that the elimination of continuing contract would make it easier for districts to dismiss ineffective or marginal teachers. This issue has been identified by many Governors across the country as a reform needed to be implemented. Many other states have or are now in the process of making revisions to these types of statutes. Opponents might argue that eliminating the provision might result in teachers being arbitrarily dismissed for reasons other than classroom performance. Instead of eliminating the provision some are promoting extending the provision to allow probationary teachers more time before they are granted the continuing contract status.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Support		51.0%	73
Do not support, but would not oppose		19.6%	28
Oppose		27.3%	39
Other (please specify)		2.1%	3
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>143</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>2</b>





**14. Item # 14-Start of School Year-2012 Start Date** Many school districts are being asked to address the issue of moving back the starting date for school. SDSSA would like to collect information as to when South Dakota schools will be starting the 2012-13 school year. Proponents might argue that moving the date back would (1) allow students to complete summer jobs; (2) reduce the chance of early dismissals for heat; and (3) match the SD calendar closer to that followed by other states. Opponents might argue that: (1) the school calendar should be a local control issue; and (2) an earlier start allows the first semester classes to be completed before the Christmas/Winter break.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Plan to start the 2012-13 calendar the Week of August 13th		10.5%	15
<b>Plan to start the 2012-13 calendar the Week of August 20th</b>		<b>72.7%</b>	<b>104</b>
Plan to start the 2012-13 calendar the Week of August 27th		9.8%	14
Plan to start the 2012-13 calendar After Labor Day		1.4%	2
Other (please specify)		5.6%	8
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>143</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>2</b>





**15. Item # 15-Bullying Policy Support a legislative proposal that would require all school districts to have a harassment and bullying policy in their school policy manual. Proponents might argue that harassment and bullying have become a major issue for all schools. The national media has continued to put a spotlight on all types of harassment and bullying and they seem to be blaming schools for lack of action in these situations. Now federal lawmakers are weighing legislation to protect students from bullying and harassment that would apply to every school and district in the country and that could also add an explicit layer of protection for students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans gender. Many states already do require schools to have harassment and bullying policies and plans. The public has been consistently reminded that we are one of the only states that do not have some type of law in place. Opponents might argue that local school districts have been responsive to this issue. Surveys have shown that almost all South Dakota schools already have a policy and a plan to handle harassment and bullying situations. A state law requiring a policy and plan would not do anything to solve the harassment and bullying problems in schools. This should be handled as a local control issue.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Support		33.6%	48
Do not support, but would not oppose		27.3%	39
<b>Oppose</b>		<b>37.8%</b>	<b>54</b>
Other (please specify)		1.4%	2
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>143</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>2</b>

**16. Item # 16-Transportation-Crossing Boundaries Legislative Proposal to prevent a local school district from driving outside of their borders in order to pick up students outside of their borders. Proponents might argue that other local school districts should not be able to offer busing to students to facilitate open enrollments. This causes friction between neighboring local school districts and patrons as one local school district loses funding as students take advantage of this opportunity. Opponents might say that students have the right to open enroll and if a student wants to attend the local school district they should be able to provide the transportation.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Support		30.8%	44
Do not support, but would not oppose		12.6%	18
<b>Oppose</b>		<b>53.1%</b>	<b>76</b>
Other (please specify)		3.5%	5
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>143</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>2</b>





**17. Item # 17-Transportation-Eliminate Open Enrollment Door-to-Door Busing Legislative Proposal to revise the law passed in the 2011 Legislative Session that tried to eliminate door-to-door busing of open enrolled students within another school district’s boundaries. The new law allowed for neighboring schools districts to mutually agree to establish pick up points and if they could not agree the Department of Education would put forth a plan. This revised proposal would further strengthen the intent of the changes made last session and address some concerns with implementation of this law during the 2011-2012 school year. Proponents might argue that other local school districts should not be able to offer door-to-door busing to facilitate open enrollments. This causes friction between neighboring local school districts and patrons as one local school district loses funding as students take advantage of this opportunity. The new law, however, did address the issue and schools should be following the intent of the statute passed during the 2011 Legislative Session. Opponents might say that students have the right to open enroll and if a student wants to attend the local school district they should be able to provide the transportation. They may argue that they might not be following the intent of the new law but they are not in violation due to their own unique circumstances.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Support		54.5%	78
Do not support, but would not oppose		15.4%	22
Oppose		25.9%	37
Other (please specify)		4.2%	6
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>143</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>2</b>





**18. Item # 18-Open Enrollment Per-Student Allocation Legislative proposal to adopt a standard per-student allocation to local school districts for all open enrollment students. Proponents might argue that a student in one local school district open enrolling to another local school district should be worth the same amount of dollars. Opponents might argue that if they have an enrollment under 600 and they receive the “small school factor” for all other students, they should receive it for open enrollment students.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Support		43.4%	62
Do not support, but would not oppose		11.9%	17
Oppose		42.7%	61
Other (please specify)		2.1%	3
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>143</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>2</b>





**19. Item # 19-Sales Tax Exemptions Legislative proposal to promote the elimination of some of the current sales tax exemptions to create additional revenue for the state general fund and K-12 education. Proponents might argue that a Summer Study was held and many of the current exemptions were identified and discussed. The group, however, was lobbied extensively and was unable to come up with any substantial proposals to move forward in the upcoming Legislative Session. Many would say it is time to make some hard decisions on eliminating many of these exemptions to help the state in tough economic times. Opponents might argue that many of these exemptions were put in place for appropriate reasons and should stay in place. Many of the industries that get exemptions would just cost shift to the consumer the added cost of the sales tax and this would not be good for those people who purchase the now exempt services.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Support		62.0%	88
Do not support, but would not oppose		20.4%	29
Oppose		14.1%	20
Other (please specify)		3.5%	5
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>142</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>3</b>

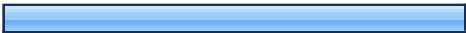



**20. Item # 20-Revision of the Opt Out Procedures under SDCL Legislative proposal to revise the current statute that outlines the rules and procedures for a school district to pass an opt out. This would include making the procedure much more user friendly for schools and even consider a name change to “Instructional Support Levy”. Proponents might argue that currently in many school districts it is almost impossible to pass an opt out. The name “opt out” has a very negative connotation and the procedures are very unfriendly. For example: the opt out has to be identified in red print on the patrons tax bill. Many states have processes that allow schools to raise the property tax levies but the process and approach are much more positive in nature. In many of these states the success rates are higher and a better relationship with the local patrons is promoted through the process. Opponents might argue that local school districts should be required to complete a rigorous process if they are asking to raise local property taxes. The current process is working and some schools are able to pass opt outs and even some are not referred to a vote of the patrons. Others could be concerned with how any changes might affect the current opt outs that are in place.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Support		79.6%	113
Do not support, but would not oppose		14.1%	20
Oppose		5.6%	8
Other (please specify)		0.7%	1
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>142</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>3</b>

**21. Item # 21-Reauthorization of ESEA Rationale: SDSSA should work with other national educational groups (AASA, NSBA, NASSP, & NAESP) to support current efforts to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Most recently the Senate HELP Committee has moved forward with a comprehensive bill to reauthorize the Act. Many of the national educational organizations are weighing on the pros and cons of this proposal and SDSSA should be working with them to support efforts to make the federal law as responsive to the needs of South Dakota as possible.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Support		91.5%	130
Do not support, but would not oppose		3.5%	5
Oppose		2.1%	3
Other (please specify)		2.8%	4
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>142</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>3</b>

**22. Item # 22-Submission of a Waiver for Flexibility under the current NCLB by the SD Department of Education Rationale: South Dakota is working on an application to apply for 10 flexibilities from No Child Left Behind, as announced by the U.S. Department of Education. In exchange, the state must agree to address four key principles aimed at improving student achievement and increasing the quality of instruction. These four key principles are College- and Career-Ready Expectations for All Students; Differentiated Recognition, Accountability, and Support; Supporting Effective Instruction and Leadership; and Reducing Duplication and Unnecessary Burden. Even though this waiver promises flexibility there are many areas where the flexibility is limited and it also requires the linking of test scores to teacher and principal evaluation which is an unpopular idea. SDSSA should still work with the South Dakota Department of Education and the newly formed Next Generation Accountability Task Force to complete and submit an application which best meets the needs of South Dakota schools and students.**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Support		69.5%	98
Do not support, but would not oppose		11.3%	16
Oppose		12.8%	18
Other (please specify)		6.4%	9
		<b>answered question</b>	<b>141</b>
		<b>skipped question</b>	<b>4</b>