

2021 ASCA AGM SOS Guide to Advocacy Resolutions

For Reference:

[ASCA 2021 Proposed Advocacy Resolutions](#) - refer to this document for full text of resolutions

[ASCA Bylaws](#)

The following guide is intended for the use of interested school councils and their representatives to the ASCA AGM who are committed to advocacy for public education. We have reviewed all of the proposed motions with an eye to whether they support or undermine public education, and indicated our support or opposition. We hope this guide will be useful to your school council as you review the proposed resolutions, particularly those that seem a bit like “inside baseball” or niche arguments. If you’re interested in learning more about the issues raised in these advocacy resolutions, please contact us at sos4schoolcouncils@gmail.com with your questions.

Concise Table:

Motion #	Title	SOS Position
P21-01	Continued Support and Advancement of Technology Funding to Support all Levels of Learning Throughout Alberta Schools	Support

P21-02	Acknowledgment of CoSC/DSC in the Alberta Education Act	Support
P21-03	Restore PUF Funding to Alberta Schools	Support
P21-04	Transportation – Maximum Time Limit Students can be on the Bus	SOS takes no position on this resolution
P21-05	Renewal of Alberta Curriculum	Support
P21-06	Addressing Barriers to Student-centred Public Education	Oppose
P21-07	Respect for ASCA's Bylaws, Values, and Members	Oppose
P21-08	Education Stakeholder Organizations Financial and Governance Accountability	Oppose

P21-09	Equal Opportunity of Access to All Public Schools	Oppose
P21-10	Achieving Universal Public Education	Oppose
P21-11	Allocating Public Funds to Public Education	Support

Detailed table:

Resolution #	Title	SOS Position	Rationale
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P21-01	Continued Support and Advancement of Technology Funding to Support all Levels of Learning Throughout Alberta Schools	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The pandemic has shown the importance of adequate funding and support of technology to all public schools. ● As technology is expensive to purchase, requires ongoing support, and ages rapidly, adequate government funding is need to ensure equitable access, otherwise it falls to Parent Association fundraising, which is not equitable across schools.
P21-02	Acknowledgment of CoSC/DSC in the Alberta Education Act	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The motion supports increased stakeholder engagement by boards/divisions with CoSCs/DSCs to gather input around divisions' three-year plans. ● May provide CoSCs/DSCs with a more formalized stakeholder/advocacy role
P21-03	Restore PUF Funding to Alberta Schools	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PUF funding provides early intervention services to children with special needs. ● Cuts to this funding have not been made up by a new funding framework. ● Vulnerable families who cannot afford private assistance for their children are disproportionately affected

P21-04	Transportation – Maximum Time Limit Students can be on the Bus	SOS takes no position on this resolution	
P21-05	Renewal of Alberta Curriculum	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We support this resolution’s call for meaningful parental engagement in curriculum and development of a curriculum that reflects 21st century learning needs, as well as the call to delay this process during the pandemic, which has stressed education workers and students ● We are concerned with UCP politicization of curriculum and of the process for curriculum development – notably, appointing experts with dubious qualifications and cutting out educators and curriculum experts ● We would suggest a friendly amendment to the resolution that calls on the government to turn the curriculum development process back over to the non-partisan public service in Alberta Education, as was the practice of past governments, and cease making political appointments to the advisory panel.

P21-06	Addressing Barriers to Student-centred Public Education	Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This is a poorly worded motion that fails to define student-centred, barriers, or the organizations it applies to. ● We do not see the need for a policy and practice framework to be developed for stakeholders or new workshops for school councils. ASCA already has much of this material developed. ● It is not clear that it's an appropriate role for Alberta Education to resolve disputes between education stakeholder organizations, which is one of the points of this resolution.
P21-07	Respect for ASCA's Bylaws, Values, and Members	Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This is a request to rescind an advocacy resolution that passed at last year's Special General Meeting with an overwhelming majority (87%), to define public education as inclusive of public, separate and francophone school boards, but not charter schools. ● It is argued that the resolution is in conflict with the current ASCA bylaws; if that is the case, then we consider it more appropriate to pursue a bylaw amendment in keeping with the clearly expressed preference of the majority of school councils represented at the meeting. ● We request the opinion of the Parliamentarian on this matter

P21-08	Education Stakeholder Organizations Financial and Governance Accountability	Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● While SOS Alberta encourages transparency for all public dollars in Alberta education, we have concerns about the motivation behind demands for more “transparency” from organizations like ASCA, or trustee and school board associations. ● Some of the entities listed are private education organizations (including charter school groups). SOS’s position is that private education should not receive public dollars at all, however transparent they are in their operations.
P21-09	Equal Opportunity of Access to All Public Schools	Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This resolution closely mirrors the UCP resolution in favour of a <i>Choice in Education Act</i>, which advances a privatization agenda. ● Aims to force school boards to provide prospective parents with information on not only their own schools, but area charter schools that may siphon off their students. ● Is generally couched in language that views education as a marketplace and parents as customers, and “choice” as catering to individual needs. This is contrary to a vision of public education that promotes equity, inclusion, children as citizens with inalienable rights independent of their parents, and a view of the greater public interest and the role that public education plays in a democratic society.

P21-10	Achieving Universal Public Education	Oppose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is unclear why FFCA is proposing two contradictory resolutions: 21-07 asks that the resolutions from last year that exclude charter schools from the definition of public education be rescinded as they allegedly violate ASCA bylaws; this resolution is asking that those same 2020 resolutions be amended. • The amendments proposed are hostile to the intent of the original resolution. We would like the opinion of the Parliamentarian on whether this is allowed by Robert's Rules of Order.
P21-11	Allocating Public Funds to Public Education	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This motion is in accord with SOS's position that public schools are insufficiently funded, that public funds should not be allocated to private schools at the current rate of 60-70% of per-pupil funding, and that these dollars be directed back to the public system, defined as public, francophone and separate school systems