

# 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## Urgent Priorities



### SCHOOL FUNDING POLICY

School finance decisions must put student achievement first. Western Dubuque supports SSA increases that ensure equity, stability, efficiency, and local control, providing predictable, timely resources to recruit and retain staff and meet student needs in a high-quality education system.



### PRIVATE SCHOOL CHOICE

Iowa already provides ample educational choice. Additional tax credits or funding for nonpublic options divert resources from public schools. Any private-school expansion must meet public standards for transparency, equity, and responsible use of taxpayer dollars.



### MENTAL HEALTH

Rising mental health needs are directly impacting student success. We support comprehensive school and community systems that expand access to qualified providers, sustain therapeutic classrooms, strengthen partnerships, fund staff training and suicide prevention, and ensure reliable, dedicated resources so students and educators receive the support they need.



### SCHOOL SAFETY

Every student deserves a safe learning environment. Effective school safety requires resources, strong leadership, community partnership, and a comprehensive approach to crime, health risks, natural disasters, and internal threats. Prevention, preparedness, and response must be continuous, with boards empowered to safeguard sensitive security plans.

## Our Values



**PEOPLE FIRST** - We prioritize all people; students, staff, families, and community members are the driving force behind our success.

**CONTINUAL GROWTH** - We embrace improvement in academics, activities, engagement, environment, and mindset.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL** - We promote opportunities for personal, professional, and collective advancement.

## Our Commitments

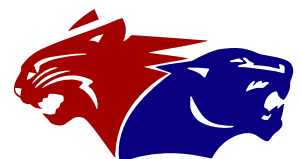
- ✓ Provide a safe environment that supports student social, emotional, and behavioral development.
- ✓ Secure efficient, effective, and equitable use of resources to support district unity and maintain fiscal integrity.
- ✓ Ensure a satisfying partnership with families and communities.
- ✓ Enhance student growth and achievement in all content areas and career-readiness skills.
- ✓ Create a productive learning environment that utilizes exemplary professional practices.

### School Board

Jessica Pape, President  
Kari Krogman, Vice President  
Chad Ostwinkle, Member  
Mike Rea, Member  
Jody Willging, Member

### Superintendent

Dr. Dan Butler  
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*Developing individuals through  
lasting education and  
opportunities.*