



Sample Resolution on Climate Change: Tips from the Climate Change Task Force

CSBA is pleased to offer the enclosed sample resolution on climate change for California's school districts and county offices of education. The language in this resolution was crafted and adopted by the members of **CSBA's Climate Change Task Force**, composed of 14 school and county board trustees and two student representatives. This Task Force has convened to discuss the issue of climate change and how California schools and CSBA can respond to the issue.

This resolution, which is fully customizable, can serve as a guide for your local educational agency in pursuit of objectives related to climate change. It can be tailored to fit your LEAs existing goals and initiatives on sustainable practices and to reflect the interests of your students and families in addressing climate change.

The Climate Change Task Force offers the following guidance for how LEAs can best customize this resolution to make it a truly local document that speaks to your own communities:

Make it local: Using the framework provided, add information that speaks to the climate-related issues facing your district and your community (i.e. local air quality and/or water quality issues, changes in average temperatures, effects of recent natural disasters as applicable and/or risk of impacts from future disasters) and the interconnected nature of human activity in the fight against climate change.

Speak to all your constituents: By highlighting the benefits to student achievement, to your LEAs finances, to your local economy and to the health and safety of those who live in your district or county, the resolution will speak broadly to your entire community: including those who may have varying opinions about the core issue of global climate change.

Identify partners: Establishing your resolution as a joint effort with identified community partners, businesses, local government, chambers of commerce and other organizations — and perhaps most importantly, student leadership groups — will broaden its reach and create a wider pool of advocates. For school districts, include your county office of education as a partner as well.

Establish goals: Any existing climate-related initiatives and goals related to those initiatives that your LEA has in place should be reflected and detailed in the resolution, alongside any new goals or initiatives you intend to set forth. Consider where your LEA and your schools, as part of the community, can best contribute to reducing the carbon footprints (i.e. transportation impacts of bussing and drop-off/pick-up practices, reduction of waste, energy efficiency on school campuses, etc.).

Set deadlines: Set specific dates by which certain benchmarks in the resolution should be met; this will make the resolution actionable and allow it to be used as a vehicle to encourage the district and partners to meet the stated goals. Boards may wish to also consider an annual reporting schedule, where the resolution can come back to the board for review and, if applicable, re-adoption with new benchmarks. Boards can also consider making the resolution a recurring agenda item for annual review of the goals and initiatives set forth.

Be bold!: California has established itself as a national leader in the fight against climate change: its local government agencies (including school districts) should be likewise bold and ambitious in their local efforts and in their commitment to address the crisis. As with all elements of this sample resolution, the final "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED" is optional but will help increase the visibility and reach of your adopted resolution.