

# Nebraskans United for Property Tax Reform & Education

## PRINCIPLE #1

### Adequate and sustainable funding of high quality K-12 education is imperative for the future of Nebraska.

- A well-educated workforce is essential for economic development and a high quality of life. *Educational Attainment as an Economic Driver for States, Regions and Communities; Larry Good and Jeannine La Prad - Corporation for a Skilled Workforce, Michigan State University, 2013.*
- **Education** reduces poverty, boosts economic growth and increases income. In sum, **education** is one of the most **important investments** a state can make in its people and its future. *The economic case for education, Ludger Woessmann, University of Munich, Journal of Education Economics, 2016.*
- Low levels of state funding for education is at the heart of Nebraska's property tax issues, not school spending. *Property Tax Truth, NSEA Voice Magazine, February, 2017. Property Taxes, State Aid and School Spending, NSEA Research, January, 2017; Data Source: Nebraska Department of Education Annual Finance Reports of School Districts, 1995-96 to 2015-16.*

## PRINCIPLE #2

### Tax reform which reduces the over-reliance on local property taxes is necessary to ensure our tax system is fair to all Nebraska taxpayers.

- Nebraska must reduce property taxes to ensure a fair and balanced tax system.
  - Nebraska ranks 49th in the country in the percentage of K-12 funding that comes from the state. <https://www2.census.gov/govs/school/14f33pub.pdf> U.S. Census Bureau, Public Education Finance Report, June, 2016.
  - Nebraskans pays the 7th highest effective property tax rate in the nation. *How High Are Property Taxes in Your State?* Tax Foundation, July, 2016; Data Source - 2014 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau data.
- To fund the state budget, we need a tax system that is fair and balanced for all Nebraska taxpayers. Nebraska's taxpayers need a significant reduction in property taxes.
  - Nebraska K-12 schools receive 33% of their funding from state sources while the national average is 47%.
  - Nebraska K-12 schools receive 49% of their funding from local property taxes while the national average is 29%.

U.S. Census Bureau, Public Education Finance, 2016 – Based on 2014 Survey Data.

