

WSPTA Legislative Issue Proposal Submittal Form 2008-09



Our Vision: To advocate for ALL kids and ALL families

Our Mission: To promote the welfare of children and youth in Washington State, leading to success for every child.

We do this by:

- Speaking on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children.
- Supporting parents/guardians in developing skills to raise, protect, and advocate for their children.
- Encouraging parent/guardian and community involvement

Deadline for Submission – June 15, 2008

Completed proposals can be submitted via:

- **Mail:** WSPTA, 2003 65th Ave. West
Tacoma WA, 98466
- **Fax:** 253.565.7753
- **Email:** <mailto:wapta@wastatepta.org>

About Short Term Issues

- Short-term platform issues are the highest priority legislative topics for WSPTA.
- Proposed issues are voted on at Legislative Assembly by unit, council and regional representatives. These issues are the primary factor in determining the advocacy actions and activities of the association.
- The short term platform also helps determine what WSPTA will monitor and attempt to influence through legislation and shapes WSPTA's collaborative work with other groups, coalitions, and organizations.

General Instructions for Issue Submittal Process

Thank you for your interest in writing a legislative issue proposal! This is an important role for PTA grassroots advocates. You are strongly encouraged to consult with Kim Howard, Advocacy Coordinator, at the state office 1-800-562-3804, to discuss your proposal early in your work. Collaborating up front should facilitate the process. Here are the general guidelines:

- Provide a typewritten, neatly printed or computer-generated form (attach additional pages if necessary) by the June 15 deadline.
- Send additional supporting research to the WSPTA office by June 30, 2008. Examples of helpful research include, but are not limited to, articles, talking points, data sheets, and website addresses.
- Be available to attend the July 12, 2008 Legislation Committee meeting in person or by phone to discuss your proposal and answer questions.

Legislative Issue Proposal Submittal Process Overview

Short term legislative issue proposals may be made by:

- Individual PTA members
- Any PTA/PTSA Unit in good standing*
- Any PTA/PTSA Council in good standing*
- Any WSPTA Committee

*Local units and councils must submit a copy of the meeting minutes showing that a membership vote was taken to submit the issue.

Issue submitters are encouraged to look at WSPTA's current issue positions, which, if applicable, can be used to help support your issue. Our short and long term platforms from 2007-08 are included on a single document, which is posted to our website at <http://www.wastatepta.org/IssueBkgrdPapers08.pdf>

Resolutions, which are voted on by delegates at our annual convention and remain Association positions until retired, are also on the website at <http://www.wastatepta.org/leg/resolutions07.pdf>

All issues will be reviewed by the Advocacy Coordinator, who will work with submitters to clarify issue proposals before they are submitted to the Legislation Committee for review at their July meeting. In the event that several proposed issues share a common concern, submitters may be contacted to discuss the possibility of combining proposals. Suggested changes will only be made with the agreement of the Submitter. When there is disagreement, issues will be forwarded to the Legislation Committee in their original form. It is the intent of both the Legislative Advocacy Coordinator and the Legislation Committee to work in a collaborative manner with issue submitters.

To help you think about your proposal the following are the key criteria used in the Legislation Committee's Review:

1. Is the proposed issue consistent with WSPTA's mission?
2. Is the proposed issue statewide in scope?
3. Is the issue similar to a current board position or resolution? (Information only)
4. Is there any pending public policy regarding this issue? (Information only)
5. Does addressing this issue strengthen the association's ability to advocate for children?
6. Does the submission include a plan to continue support for the issue?
7. Have two or more similar issues been presented?
8. Did the issue submitter attend the Legislation Committee meeting in person or via teleconference to help resolve any questions or concerns?

All issue submitters are strongly encouraged to attend the July 12, 2008 Legislation Committee meeting in person or via conference call, so that they can discuss their issue proposal(s) with the committee. During the issue review, the Legislation Committee may ask that issues be changed or combined. If the submitter does not agree with Legislation Committee recommendations, the submitter may still ask that the issue be submitted in its original form; however the Legislation Committee may then choose to move the issue forward with a "do not pass" recommendation and a proviso that only one of the competing issue proposals may be adopted. If the issue is to go forward with a "do not pass" recommendation, the issue submitter has two options:

- allow the issue to go forward with a "do not pass" recommendation; or
- choose to withdraw the issue.

The Legislation Committee may also choose to submit another version of this issue with a "do pass" recommendation.

Once the final issue proposal package has been approved by the Legislation Committee, it is sent to the WSPTA Board of Directors for placement on the Legislative Assembly agenda.

Please contact your Advocacy Coordinator or your Region Legislation Chair (who can be found on your region webpage at www.wastatepta.org) if you have questions about this process.

2008 Legislative Issue Proposal Form

Please complete the form below. You may do this online or print the form and fax or send.

Proposal Submitted by: (Include names of primary sponsors)	Click here to enter text.
PTA Local Unit/Council Name and Number:	Click here to enter text.
Phone Number of both a primary and secondary contact, if possible:	Click here to enter text.
Email Addresses of both a primary and secondary contact, if possible:	Click here to enter text.

You are encouraged to contact Kim Howard, WSPTA's Advocacy Coordinator, early on in your process, to discuss your proposal. She can also assist, if desired, with developing the proposal. 1-800-562-3804

The following specific proposal could address or resolve our issue/concern and shall read:

The Washington State PTA shall initiate and/or support legislation or policies that...

Click here to enter text.

Statements of Support/Explanation. (Please complete all boxes.) :

- a) Please explain why this issue has statewide implications and should be a top priority for WSPTA.

Click here to enter text.

b) How does this issue affect children in your community?

Click here to enter text.

c) If known, what are the potential fiscal impacts of the issue?

Click here to enter text.

d) Are any legislators and/or groups or coalitions currently working on this issue? Please describe any work in progress.

Click here to enter text.

e) Who would you suggest serve as an issue resource/presenter for this issue at Legislative Assembly and also serve as a contact(s) for this issue during the 2009 Legislative Session? (Can be more than one name.) Please include name(s) phone #s and email addresses.

Click here to enter text.