

2009-10 LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

Budget and Revenue

The WSPTA shall identify and initiate education and action on public policy affecting tax policies that are fair, equitable, and provide stable, adequate revenues for public education and for programs that benefit children and youth: oppose the expansion of gambling; support the passage of state budget bills containing adequate levels of funding for child-related programs; oppose tax credits for elementary and secondary school tuition; and oppose budget policies, deficit reduction efforts, and other legislative proposals that negatively impact funding for child-related programs.

Parent and Family Involvement

The WSPTA shall identify and initiate education and action on public policy that increases parent and family involvement based on the PTA's National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement by advocating for and promoting parent involvement provisions in state legislation affecting children and youth: pre- and in-service training opportunities on Parent/Family Involvement for school personnel; employee release time for parent and community involvement; and outreach to all communities to increase awareness of the importance of parent/family involvement at every level of public policy.

Public Education Policies and Funding

The WSPTA shall identify and initiate education and action on public policy that will strengthen public education for our state's children and youth: alternative programs for all schools; K-12 class sizes aligned with best practices research findings; continued support for education reform efforts; re-defining basic education; reducing the achievement gap; promotion of early childhood education programs; alignment of P-12 and higher education requirements; restructure of education funding in Washington State; reduction of high school dropout rates; levy and bond election reform; increased state-match funding for school facilities construction and renovation; ample transportation funding; equitable levy and local effort assistance (LEA) funding per student; and equitable school staff salaries.

Health and Well-being of Children and Youth

The WSPTA shall identify and initiate education and action on public policy that protect and promote the health and welfare of children and youth: increased access to health care for children and youth; mental health parity; promotion of children's oral health; effective prevention and intervention programs; comprehensive medically accurate sexual health programs; school nutrition and physical fitness; services for homeless youth and children in foster care; comprehensive juvenile justice programs that focus on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation; and improvements in safety for students with life-threatening health conditions.

Safe and Nurturing Environments for Children and Youth

The WSPTA shall identify and initiate education and action on public policy that provides safe and supportive settings and climates for children and youth: anti-bullying and anti-harassment; multi-cultural education; student and parent education regarding internet safety; media education; traffic and pedestrian safety; substance abuse prevention; and safe and healthy schools which reduce environmental hazards; consistent, age-appropriate, unstructured play opportunities.