

During the 2009 Legislative Assembly, WSPTA will develop the second year of its two year legislative platform. All issues that were placed on the platform at the 2008 Legislative Assembly will remain on the platform for this year and retain their rank order.

At the 2009 Legislative Assembly we will address both proposed amendments to issues currently on the platform and new issues that will be voted on and ranked at the end of the current platform.

For the current platform see the 2008-09 short term platform at the following link:  
[http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/association\\_position/index.html](http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/association_position/index.html)

At their August, 2009 meeting, the Washington State Board of Directors approved the following issue for placement on the proposed platform for the 2009 Legislative Assembly:

- I. Amendment Proposal for Issue # 1 Basic Education Funding. (This wording would completely replace the current issue language.)  
The Washington State PTA shall initiate and/or support legislation or policies that advance the Education Finance reform legislation, ESHB 2261, passed in 2009, and restore both the early learning component and the highly capable safety net to include:
  1. the formation of the Funding Working group report with recommendations due by December 1, 2009;
  2. the formation of the K-12 Data Governance Group with initial report due by November 5, 2009 and follow up by Sept. 1, 2010;
  3. the completion of the accountability proposal by the State Board of Education with report due by December 1, 2009;
  4. the completion of work charged to the Professional Educator Standards Board to address teacher standards and certification with initial recommendations due January, 1, 2010 and subsequent reports in 2011;
  5. the formation and preliminary report answering specified questions of the Quality Education Council by January 1, 2010;
  6. the addition of targeted early learning to the definition of basic education;
  7. the addition of a highly capable safety net process for districts that can demonstrate significant need.
  
- II. Amendment Proposal for Issue #5 Support Rational Approaches to Teacher Compensation. (This wording would completely replace the current issue language.)  
  
The Washington State PTA shall initiate and/or support legislation or policies that advance the achievement of the stated goals of ESHB 2261 relating to teacher standards, certification and compensation to include:
  1. the completion of work charged to the Professional Educator Standards board to adopt performance standards for effective teaching and continuous student improvement, calibrated for each level of certification and along the entire continuum; to continue work on the Professional Certification assessments; to develop a definition of master teacher that includes teachers with National Board certification; to recommend a proposal for a classroom-based means of evaluating student-teacher effectiveness which includes multiple measures of performance;
  2. the formation of the Compensation work group by the Office of Financial Management in July, 2011 to recommend the details of an enhanced salary allocation model that aligns educator development and certification with compensation.

#### New Issue Proposals for the 2009-10 Platform

- III. The Washington State PTA shall initiate and/or support legislation or policies that fund education first. In order to implement Article IX of our state constitution which says "It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders", education funding would be considered first in any budget process undertaken by the state legislature.

- IV. The Washington State PTA shall initiate and/or support legislation or policies that
1. increase funding to provide for both identification and delivery of Highly Capable services for at least 3% of district enrollment.
  2. ensure that districts are enabled to make decisions about their Highly Capable services in K-12.
  3. ensure that small districts receive assistance to provide services.
  4. amend Section 403 of ESHB 2261 to add Highly Capable professional development. Content for this training shall align with core curriculum required for Gifted Education specialty endorsement.
- V. Washington State PTA shall initiate and/or support legislation or policies that ensure that every child in Washington State has access to music and other arts as part of a balanced education addressing the whole child and preparing them for the critical thinking necessary for success in the work force, to include, but not be limited to:
1. comprehensive, sequential music education taught by qualified instructors, recognizing music as the basis for providing all students with substantive education in the arts;
  2. programs in music and the other arts that include rigorous instruction, progress monitoring, meaningful assessment, and accountability to school officials, parents, and the community.
- VI. Washington State PTA shall initiate and/or support legislation or policies that replaces WAC 392-415-050, which defines an unweighted GPA (grade point average), with a new law defining a weighted GPA. The current 4.0 GPA would continue for the standard high school curriculum, while introducing a weighted scale for all Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), dual credit and honors (H) classes.
- For all AP, IB and dual credit classes:  
A=5.0, B=4.0, C=3.0, D=2.0, E/F=0
- For honors classes:  
A=4.5, B=3.5, C=2.5, D=1.5
- For standard high school classes:  
A=4.0, B=3.0, C=2.0, D=1.0, E/F =0

Using this list, staff will develop a survey and issue background papers to help you have conversations about the issues with your units and councils. These will be published by the end of August.

For questions about the platform or process, please contact your Region Legislation Chair, who can be found on your region webpage <http://www.wastatepta.org/regions/index.html> or Kim Howard, Government Relations staff at 253-565-2153 or [khoward@wastatepta.org](mailto:khoward@wastatepta.org) .