

Washington State PTA
LEGISLATIVE ISSUES SURVEY
For Local PTA Units and Councils
2007-2008

Each spring, local PTA units, councils, and individual members have the opportunity to submit issues that have state-wide importance for children. Then, in October, by process of caucus and debate, the priority issues of the Washington State PTA are chosen. These priority issues become the priority focus of WSPTA's activities during the legislative session.

The following statements are abbreviated for survey purposes only. For complete issue statements, issue information, and Legislative Committee recommendations, please visit the WSPTA website at www.wastatepta.org/legislation.htm to view the Legislation webpage, and click on Issue Summaries.

Please read over the list of submitted issues and cast your vote for **ten (10) items** you deem to be of the greatest importance to the children of Washington State. If there is an issue(s) that you believe should **not** be on the 2008 WSPTA Platform place an “**N**” by that item. Your PTA's delegate(s) at Legislative Assembly will consider the results of this survey as well as facts presented at assembly when voting on your PTA's behalf.

It is the dedication of the Washington State PTA to the democratic process that proudly makes this 29th Annual Legislative Assembly. WSPTA is a leader in its grassroots driven legislative program unlike many state PTAs and other Washington child advocacy organizations whose legislative platform is selected by their Board of Directors. WSPTA's legislative platform is determined by you, our membership, and we thank you for your participation.

Each issue statement is preceded with: ***WSPTA shall initiate and/or support legislation and/or polices that:***

Budget and Revenue Policies

- ___ **Simple Majority for School Bonds:** allow voting based on Simple Majority for school bonds run in any election.
___ **State Tax System:** address the structural deficiencies of our state tax system.

Parent and Family Involvement

- ___ **Family Education Leave:** allow parents/guardians to access their vacation time, paid personal time, and or paid time for personal illness to attend school conferences, meetings, or events of their children.

The following two issues deal with the release of student information and changes to NCLB.

Proviso: Only one of the two issue proposals will move forward on the WSPTA legislative platform. The issue receiving the greatest number of votes will remain on the prioritized platform of the WSPTA and the issue receiving the least number of votes will be removed.

- ___ **NCLB-Eliminate Section 9528:** urge U.S. Congress to amend renewal NCLB bill to eliminate requirements that school districts release personal information of high school students to military recruiters; and the requirement that military recruiters have the same access to students allowed to college recruiters.

- ___ **Release of Student Information:** endorse Student Privacy Protect Act and encourage OSPI to guide schools in disseminating information on options regarding the release of personal student information to recruiters.

Public Education Policies and Funding

- ___ **Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate:** initiate and/or support legislation and/or polices providing funding for AP and IB honors programs.

- ___ **Assessments for English Language Learners:** exempt English language learners from having WASL scores count until they successfully pass an English language proficiency test.

- ___ **Conditional Scholarships:** provide funding for conditional forgivable college scholarships in exchange for teaching service in Washington State public schools.

- ___ **De-link WASL as Graduation Requirement:** restore WASL system to its original intent satisfying the requirements of NCLB and state law to provide evaluation data of educational systems rather than students.

- ___ **DREAM Act:** urge Congress to enact the Development, Relief, and Education of Alien Minors Act and or the Student Adjustment Act to allow immigrant students to begin the process of becoming legal citizens.

- ___ **Foster Youth Supports:** improve educational outcomes for foster youth including incentive grants for schools that maintain foster youth enrollment, increase education advocates, community-based foster care recruitment and address data sharing issues between school districts and DSHS.

- ___ **Funding Inequities:** eliminate inequities in Education Funding formulas to include but not be limited to teacher salaries, levy lids, and levy equalization.

____ **Highly Capable Programs:** fund highly capable programs at 3% level of total school district enrollment and provide professional development for teachers of highly capable students.

____ **K-12 Education Funding:** establish an updated definition of basic education and a basic education funding formula that reflects current education practices and requirements. The redefinition and funding formula must fulfill the State's obligation to fully fund education as its paramount duty by providing ample opportunities for all students to achieve higher learning levels consistent with standards-based education reform. The funding system must ensure accountability by generating consistent and transparent accounting processes.

____ **Math and Science Education:** enhance pre-K through college math and science education through a balanced instructional program to support students including but not limited to basic computational and procedural skills, algorithms, formulas and definitions, conceptual understanding and problem solving; advance professional development and training for math and science teachers; support community involvement in math and science curriculum selection; and encourage family collaboration in teaching math and science.

____ **Quality Teaching:** support enhanced professional development for teachers; develop resources for retention and recruitment of most proficient teachers; promote collaboration for classroom with family and community involvement; promote reasonable and respectful evaluation of teachers; and develop support strategies for teachers.

____ **Social Studies Education:** increase emphasis on, and funding for social studies education by refining the first drafts and re-piloting the classroom-based assessment; increasing funding for professional development; and developing an accountability system to assure compliance.

____ **Special Education Funding:** provide full funding of required services for special education students as defined by individual education plans under federal law.

____ **Student Support Services:** mandate or support student success in school by adequately funding K-12 school counselors, school librarians and school nurses.

____ **WASL Appeals Process:** provide appeals process for WASL at all grade levels.

____ **Washington State Assessment System:** improve the Washington State Assessment System to make it more effective, efficient, and focused on student learning, while preserving high standards and meeting NCLB requirements.

____ **World Language and International Competencies:** increase world language and international sign language study and support learning about world economy, cultures, geography, and history in all grades.

Health and Well-being of Children and Youth

____ **Children's Health:** promote children's health in the areas of health care access; both physical and mental health care; appropriate physical education and recess opportunities; nutrition programs that include education of children and families and review of school meals; and programs on substance abuse.

____ **School Recess:** support required recess periods and supervised unstructured breaks during the school day.

Safe and Nurturing Environments for Children and Youth

____ **Comprehensive School Behavioral Systems:** promote legislative action to fund and require school districts to develop school-wide positive behavioral systems that identify problems; focuses on prevention and intervention; protects students subject to bullying; and makes referrals to special needs programs available.

____ **Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect:** provide information and skills to parents and children on prevention and intervention of physical, sexual and emotional abuse and/or neglect of children.

____ **Sex Offender Monitoring:** require electronic monitoring of all Level III sex offenders, sex offenders convicted of failure to register, and all sex offenders registered as transient or homeless.

____ **School Construction and Renovation:** provide state-level funding for remodel and new construction of school facilities.

____ **School Traffic Safety:** mandate creation of speed zones on any thoroughfare adjacent to any school and post standardized warning signs containing the word "School".

Please return this survey to: _____ Return by: _____

I am interested in learning about attending Legislative Assembly – contact information below.

Name: _____ Email or Phone: _____