

Washington State PTA  
**LEGISLATIVE ISSUES SURVEY**  
*For Local PTA Units and Councils*  
2006-2007

Each spring, local PTA units, councils, and individual members have the opportunity to submit issues which 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 the WSPTA activities during the legislative session

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 2007 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 28th 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 of is selected by their Board of Directors. WSPTA's legislative platform is determined by you, our membership, and we thank you for your participation.

To learn more about the issues visit the WSPTA legislative webpage and click on Issue Summaries: [www.wastatepta.org](http://www.wastatepta.org).

**Budget and Revenue Policies**

\_\_\_ **Simple Majority:** allow the people to vote on Simple Majority for excess levy and bond ballot measures run in any of the six election dates. These ballot measures include but are not limited to school levies and bonds.

\_\_\_ **Washington State's Tax System:** designs and enacts a tax system for Washington State that is fair, equitable, stable, straightforward, easily administered, provides ample revenue to meet the needs of all children for education, health and human services, and promotes a healthy economy.

**Equity in Education**

\_\_\_ **Conditional Scholarships:** provides consistent and sufficient funding for college scholarships which may be forgiven in exchange of teaching services in identified areas of high needs, such as special education, science, math, and bilingual education.

\_\_\_ **Dream Act:** calls upon the US Congress to support the enactment of the Development, Relief and Education of Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, and/or the Student Adjustment Act that allow immigrant students to begin the process of becoming legal citizens.

**Health, Safety, and Well-being of Children and Youth**

\_\_\_ **Sex Offender Registration:** requires all Level III sex offenders to be electronically monitored for the duration of the registration requirements and as well as the requirement for all sex offenders who register as transient or homeless to be electronically monitored for the duration of their homeless and/or transient status.

**K-12 Public Education -- Assessments**

\_\_\_ **Assessments for English Language Learners:** The Washington State PTA shall initiate and/or support legislation and/or policies that ... would exempt English language learners from having their WASL scores count until they have successfully passed an English language proficiency assessment approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Legislation should require school districts to prepare a plan to ensure these students are making adequate progress in learning the English language.

\_\_\_ **Assessment System Improvements:** enhances the current state assessment system by: creating a process that allows students to access WASL alternative assessments and/or additional performance measures before failing the WASL twice; utilizing technology readily available to the students for the purposes of offering alternative methods of assessment; and by creating and implementing valid and reliable alternative assessments that actively engage students and allow students with different learning styles and students not proficient in the English language to demonstrate proficiency in all subjects.

\_\_\_ **Phase-in Certificate of Academic Achievement:** phases in the Certificate of Academic Achievement as a graduation requirement as follows: Reading and Writing portions of the WASL implemented for the graduating class of 2008. If the supporting elements of the assessment system are fully implemented and deemed valid and reliable by the State Board of Education math will be added for the class of 2011 and science will be added for the class of 2014.

\_\_\_ **Restore National Student Assessments:** restores national student assessments and balances the assessment system required by NCLB by 1) only administering the WASL in the required grades of 4, 7 and 10; and replacing the WASL in the alternate grades of 3, 5, 6, and 8 with a national or international student assessment; or 2) substituting parts

of the WASL, such as mathematics and reading comprehension, with sections from national or internationally standardized tests.

### **K-12 Public Education – Curriculum**

\_\_\_ **Advance Placement and International Baccalaureate Programs:** provides identified funding for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) honors programs.

\_\_\_ **Highly Capable Programs:** defines highly capable education as basic education, and increase capacity and consistent quality for highly capable programs.

\_\_\_ **Mathematics:** advances professional development and ongoing assistance for math teachers, community involvement in the selection of math curricula, and family collaboration in teaching math.

\_\_\_ **Mathematics and Science:** strengthen scientific and mathematical education in Washington State, including but not limited to enhanced pre-K through college education in mathematics and the sciences by ensuring: sufficient local flexibility; K-12 teachers are not restricted from "supplementing" their school approved curricula; each K-12 math and science student in Washington State has a textbook in each subject; opportunities for every Washington State student to pursue mathematics and science courses beyond the current graduation requirements; implementation of "catch up" programs once new standards are in place; and elimination of gender barriers to math and science.

\_\_\_ **Medically Accurate Sexual Health Information:** ensures that all public schools follow the guidelines published by the OSPI and provide a medically accurate sexual health curriculum.

\_\_\_ **World Languages and International Competencies:** substantially increases world language study in all grades; but especially in grades P through 5 where it has not been previously available; and support teaching and learning about world economy, cultures, geography and history in all grades.

### **K-12 Public Education – Funding**

\_\_\_ **Full Day Kindergarten Funding:** funds full-day kindergarten programs, should individual school districts choose to implement them.

\_\_\_ **Funding Inequities:** eliminates the inequities in Education Funding formulas to include but not be limited to teacher salaries, levy lids, and levy equalization.

\_\_\_ **K-12 Education Funding:** establishes 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.

\_\_\_ **Reduce Class Size:** supports funding and policies that secure smaller class sizes for students.

\_\_\_ **School Construction and Renovation:** provide for state-level remodel and new construction funding of school facilities based on the development of state standards, review process, timeline, dedicated source of funding and auditing procedures for these projects.

\_\_\_ **Special Education Funding:** provides for full funding of the actual costs for all of the required services for special education students, as defined by individual education plans required under federal law.

### **K-12 Public Education – Student Support**

\_\_\_ **Recess:** protects recess as a right of elementary students; clearly defines recess as supervised unstructured play periods during the school day, recognizes recess as an important part of the school experience, Identifies recess' contribution towards the development of the whole child/person who can function in society and the workplace, and supports a minimum daily amount time/hour of school allowed for recess.

\_\_\_ **Student Support Services:** supports student success in school by adequately funding k-12 school libraries, school nurses, and school counselors; explores alternate means of funding for school nurses.

### **Parent and Family Involvement**

\_\_\_ **Military Recruiting in High Schools and Secondary Schools:** offers all Washington state high school students and their parents a free and fair opportunity to avoid aggressive recruitment by all branches of the U.S. military.

\_\_\_ **Parent Access to the WASL:** by May 1, 2007, implements processes and procedures which allow parents to have complete and timely access to information about state required assessments, their student's performance on any assessments, and any information related to areas of needed improvement in order to pass assessments.

Please return this survey to: \_\_\_\_\_ Return by: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email or Phone: \_\_\_\_\_