

## Top 5 Legislative Priorities

<p><b>Social Emotional Learning</b></p>	<p>The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that integrate Social Emotional Learning and Trauma Informed Practices in the education system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide pre-service and in-service educator and administrator training;</li> <li>• Ensure staffing levels in schools are funded to meet student need and to support student learning and well-being;</li> <li>• Increase partnerships with after-school providers and community partners;</li> <li>• Ensure staffing levels meet the needs of students, including but not limited to: psychologists, counselors, family and community engagement coordinators, social workers, speech-language pathologist, behavior specialists and nurses;</li> <li>• Support adoption of the Washington State SEL framework.</li> </ul>
<p><b>School Construction and Simple Majority for Bonds</b></p>	<p>The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that equitably assist districts to fund their capital needs for the 21<sup>st</sup> century to lower K-3 and Career and Technical Education (CTE) class sizes and address capacity, growth, modernization, and safety by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing school construction bonds from super-majority (60%) to simple majority vote;</li> <li>• Updating the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP);</li> <li>• Renewing the K-3 grant program with capital funding to support class-size targets;</li> <li>• Documenting use of portables, including but not limited to: age, quantity, condition, and purpose.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prevent Gun Violence</b></p>	<p>The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that reduce dangerous access to firearms by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prohibiting sales of semi-automatic rifles to &lt;21 and creating a 10-day waiting period;</li> <li>• Raising standards for semi-automatic rifle purchase to that for handguns;</li> <li>• Incentivizing safe storage of all firearms;</li> <li>• Ensuring continued eligibility for ownership of semi-automatic rifles;</li> <li>• Permitting and encouraging destruction of crime guns by the Washington State Patrol and other agencies;</li> <li>• Affirming the National PTA position statements on gun safety and violence prevention and the position statement on firearms;</li> <li>• Prohibiting the arming of school staff.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategies to Address the Teacher Shortage</b></p>	<p>The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that recruit and retain effective educators, develop a diverse workforce, and ensure equity and access to educator preparation through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding of recruitment and conditional scholarship programs;</li> <li>• Expansion of Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB)-approved conditional certificates and alternative routes to certification;</li> <li>• Phased-in expansion of Beginning Educator Support Team (BEST) grants to all schools.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategic K-12 Investments to Close Gaps</b></p>	<p>The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that include non-regressive revenue sources for any new funds needed to achieve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close Special Education funding gaps;</li> <li>• Increase the Prototypical School Model to I-1351 levels;</li> <li>• Include a categorical allocation for high mobility students;</li> <li>• Expand High Poverty Learning Assistance Program (LAP) by lowering the threshold;</li> <li>• Allow school districts to choose between the two enrichment levy caps and increase the Local Efforts Assistance (LEA) ceiling.</li> </ul>

For more information, contact WSPTA Advocacy Director Nancy Chamberlain at [ptaadvocacydir@wastatepta.org](mailto:ptaadvocacydir@wastatepta.org) or WSPTA Legislative Consultant Marie Sullivan at [legconsultant@wastatepta.org](mailto:legconsultant@wastatepta.org) or visit [www.wastatepta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/](http://www.wastatepta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/).

## Also Supported (listed alphabetically):

### Best Practices for School Meals - Lunch

The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that:

- Modify WAC 392-157-125 “Time for Meals” to define a minimum lunch period for students. Language should be added to specify a minimum of 20 minutes to eat lunch after being seated, with additional time scheduled to move through the lunch line;
- Promote recess before lunch for elementary students;
- Promote healthy and respectful eating environments and discourages practices such as silent lunch.

### Best Practices for School Recess

The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that:

- Define a *minimum* of 30 minutes of daily recess time for elementary school students;
- Prohibit recess from being withheld due to academic or punitive reasons;
- Promote schools as an effective and necessary partner in guiding children to meet the CDC recommendation of 60 minutes of daily moderate to vigorous physical activity;
- Specify that recess should be outdoors and primarily unstructured, with contingency plans for inclement weather or other safety concerns.

### Engaging Families in Student Success

The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that increase transformative family engagement practices by:

- Replacing “Parent Involvement Coordinator” with the more inclusive “Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Coordinator” in the funding formula;
- Adopting a clear definition for FACE Coordinators;
- Funding at least a 1.0 FTE FACE Coordinator per school, starting with high poverty schools first.

### Fund Paraeducator Training

The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that:

- Fully fund the training requirements for paraeducators mandated by law, including the 28-hour fundamental course of study and the additional 70 hours of professional development required within the first three years of employment.

### Increase Access to High Quality Preschool

The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that:

- Develop a plan to ensure all preschool-age children in Washington state have access to preschool that is:
  - High-quality
  - Local
  - Developmentally appropriate
  - Evidence-based
  - Inclusive
- The plan must address the equity gaps and improve student outcomes in the pre-K-12 public school system.

### Raise the Age of Tobacco and Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems to 21

The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that:

- Limit access, sale, and distribution of all tobacco products and electronic nicotine delivery systems, including but not limited to, e-cigarettes, vaping and Juul devices, to age of 21 and up;
- Prohibit packaging and marketing targeted at youth.

### Safe School Plans and Emergency Preparedness

The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that support emergency preparedness planning in schools through:

- Development of clear and specific guidelines and standards for safe school plans;
- Funding to support schools in developing safe school plans;
- Funding to ensure that every school is able to implement a safe school plan that will serve all students equitably.

For a full description of the platform and Top 5 issues, please visit:  
<https://www.wastatepta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/>.