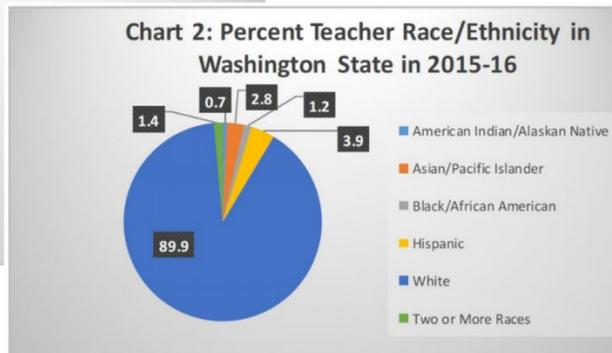
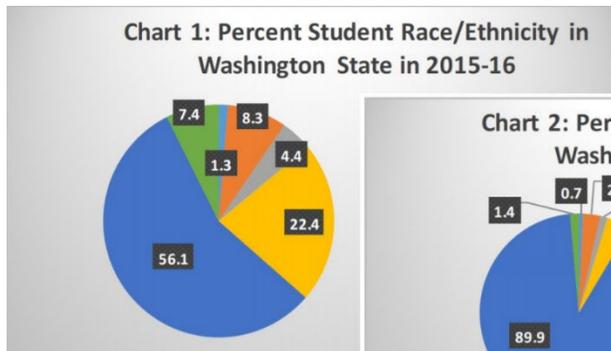
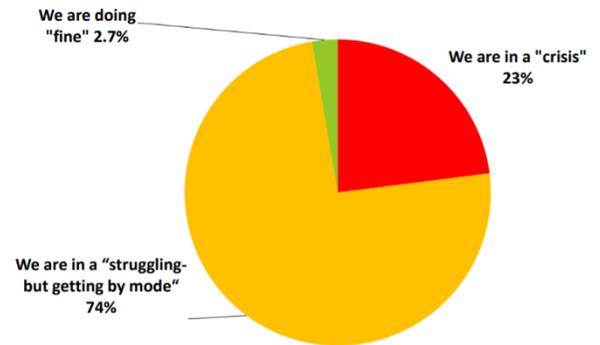


WSPTA recognizes that preparing students for career, college, and life is dependent on an excellent, engaged teacher in every classroom. Washington has an estimated annual shortage of 3,000 certificated teachers, especially in STEM, special education, ELL, early education (birth – grade 3), and elementary (K-8)^{1,2}.

Background

- In school year 2016-17, 85% of principals could not find fully-certificated teachers to fill all their teacher openings.²
- 97% of human resource directors say they are struggling or in crisis, and 74% said it is getting worse.²
- Washington’s teacher workforce is less diverse (10% non-white) than students (44% non-white.) Diversifying the teacher workforce is one effective strategy to narrow Washington’s opportunity gap.^{1,3}



Factors Causing the Shortage²

- Implementation of state-funding for **full-day kindergarten and K-3 class size reduction**.
- An increase in school district **hiring** of teachers since the "Great Recession".
- Increased **retirements** of the "baby-boomer" generation.
- Student enrollment **growth**.
- A **smaller number of individuals completing teacher preparation programs**.
- **New teachers leaving** the profession (20-25% attrition rate).³
- **Availability and costs** of alternative routes to certification.

Proposed Solutions

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:

- Funding of **recruitment and conditional scholarship programs**;
- Expansion of Professional Educator Standards Board-approved **conditional certificates and alternative routes to certification**;
- Phased-in expansion of **Beginning Educator Support Team (BEST) grants⁴** to all schools.

For More Information

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For more information on the WSPTA advocacy program, please visit our website (www.wastatepta.org)

Citations

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<https://www.pesb.wa.gov/data-reports/grow-your-own-teachers-report/>
2. Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Teacher Shortage in Washington: Current Status and Actions to Address It. Report to the House Education Committee (January 24, 2017)
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3. Plecki, M., Elfers, A. and Van Windenkens, A. (2016) Understanding Teacher Retention and Mobility in Washington State. Center for Study of Teaching and Policy, University of Washington.
<http://www.k12.wa.us/BEST/pubdocs/UWTeacherReportJan2017.pdf>
4. OSPI (2017) Beginning Educator Support Team. <http://www.k12.wa.us/BEST/>