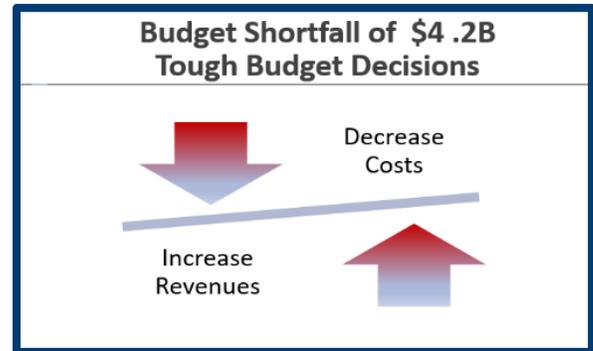


WSPTA recognizes that we must support students, preserve education funding and protect the health, education and welfare of children and youth both during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Background

- When districts transitioned to online learning, the lack of preparation and needed supports caused gaps in opportunities for students and youth – both from in academic and social emotional health.
- Washington state legislators are faced with some very tough budget decisions as they wrestle to close a projected \$4.2 billion state budget shortfall. About half of that hits the operations budget which funds state parks, prisons, K-12 schools, mental health, foster care and other programs.
- As many programs that serve children and youth are not protected under the state constitution, it is the very DNA of PTA to advocate and protect funding that ensures the health, education and welfare of all students and youth in Washington state, especially those in underserved communities, those in the achievement and opportunity gaps, and those without a voice.



Proposed Solutions

Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation or policies that support students during and after COVID-19 to:

- Protect early-learning school, K-12, post-secondary, and child-related programs especially:
 - resources for students needing additional supports (academic, physical, or emotional)
 - local effort assistance funding
- Authorize flexibility within transportation and categorical allocations to allow districts to meet students' needs, retroactive to 3/1/2020 through 8/31/2022.
- Address the state budget deficit without creating or increasing funding inequities:
 - with progressive, sufficient, sustainable, and equitable revenue sources
 - avoid mid-year budget cuts and/or redistribution of existing education funds
- Allocation of new state or federal funding to support:
 - students who receive special education services or are furthest from educational justice
 - meals for children and youth facing food insecurity
 - COVID-19-related childcare and school-age-student care needs
 - social and emotional health of students and staff

For More Information

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



Citations

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/as-tax-collections-rebound-washington-states-projected-9-billion-budget-shortfall-is-cut-in-half/>