

## Top 5 Legislative Priorities (adopted October 2022)

<p><b>Addressing the Student Mental Health Crisis</b></p>	<p>Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that ensure all students have access to the behavioral and mental health resources they need to thrive, including funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced ratios of students to mental health professionals.</li> <li>• Programs and incentives to recruit, train, and retain mental health professionals.</li> <li>• Resources to assist families.</li> <li>• Training and support for educators and administrators.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Addressing Critical Gaps in Education Funding</b></p>	<p>Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation or policies that help resolve critical education funding gaps and inequities with predictable, progressive, and sustainable revenue sources including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources for students needing additional academic/physical/emotional supports.</li> <li>• Services for students with disabilities.</li> <li>• Categorical funding to support highly mobile students.</li> <li>• Student transportation.</li> <li>• Unfunded mandates to school districts.</li> <li>• School construction.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Preventing and Reducing Gun Violence and Suicide</b></p>	<p>Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that prevent and reduce gun violence and suicide including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing the disproportionate impact on BIPOC and LGBTQ+ youth.</li> <li>• Funding community-based prevention and intervention programs.</li> <li>• Promoting safe storage of medication and firearms.</li> <li>• Prohibiting the sale or transfer of military-style assault weapons.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Addressing Funding, Inclusion, and Supports in Special Education</b></p>	<p>Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation or policies that support students with disabilities and their families by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fully funding special education services with no caps on funding enrollment.</li> <li>• Developing solutions to address a statewide special education staffing shortage.</li> <li>• Promoting full inclusion in general education classrooms.</li> <li>• Promoting high leverage teaching practices.</li> <li>• Assessing needs for and providing assistive technology and multi-tiered systems of support.</li> <li>• Simplifying the safety net reimbursement process to school districts.</li> <li>• Banning student isolation in schools.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Building and Maintaining Safer School Facilities</b></p>	<p>Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation or policies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund school safety changes, including emergency signs, improving indoor air quality and other environmental hazards, seismic upgrades, and an earthquake early warning system in all schools.</li> <li>• Require safety plans to include persons with disabilities and all people in school buildings, and to conduct annual emergency reunification training.</li> <li>• Increase the transparency of the condition of school facilities to allow public review.</li> </ul>

### Also Supported (listed alphabetically):

- Creating a Diverse and Effective Educator Workforce
- Expanding School Construction Funding Options
- Harnessing the Benefits of Mastery-based Learning
- Improving Equitable Identification and Access for Highly Capable Students
- Increasing Education Equity by Closing the Digital Divide
- Increasing Support for Equitable Family Engagement
- Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Climate Change
- Supporting a Meaningful High School Diploma

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

For more information, contact WSPTA Advocacy Director Lizzy Sebring at [ptaadvocacydir@wastatepta.org](mailto:ptaadvocacydir@wastatepta.org) or WSPTA Legislative Consultant Marie Sullivan at [legconsultant@wastatepta.org](mailto:legconsultant@wastatepta.org).