WSPTA recognizes that ALL students must have access to a safe and healthy learning environment.

Background

There is an 83% chance of a magnitude 6.5 or larger earthquake in Washington state in the next 50 years.¹ Yet in a recent study, 93% of schools in a sample of 561 school buildings are likely to collapse during an earthquake, leading to death, injury and entrapment of students and staff.²³

Earthquakes and tsunamis are not the only safety, health and environmental hazards facing our children and staff at schools. Other necessary school building reforms include emergency planning, and addressing indoor air quality and lead in drinking water.⁴⁻⁷⁻⁹⁻¹⁰ Districts and communities must be aware of the current conditions of our school buildings, from seismic safety status to environmental considerations, so that improvements to school buildings can be made.

It is not acceptable to mandate our kids to attend school in older, unsafe, and unhealthy buildings.

(please continue to next page)

For More Information
Lizzy Sebring, WSPTA Advocacy Director ptaadvocacydir@wastatepta.org
Marie Sullivan, WSPTA Legislative Consultant legconsultant@wastatepta.org

For more information on the WSPTA advocacy program, please visit our website.
Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation or policies that support safe and healthy school facilities through:

- Funding 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.
- Requiring safety plans to include persons with disabilities and all people in school buildings, and to conduct annual emergency reunification training.
- Increasing the transparency of the condition of school facilities to allow public review.

**Citations**