

2023-2024 Washington State PTA Legislative Priorities

Putting Equity at the Core of Everything We Do

Safety

- Prevent and reduce gun violence and suicide.
- Fund school facility safety needs, seismic upgrades, earthquake early warning systems, and other indoor environmental health upgrades.
- Require safety plans to include persons with disabilities and all visitors, and annual emergency reunification training.
- Mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.
- Ban student isolation.
- Increase the transparency of the condition of school facilities to allow public review.

Funding Solutions

- Pursue progressive, sufficient, sustainable, and equitable revenue sources.
- Minimize or reduce the use of voter-approved debt and levies for basic education services.
- Fund professional development and training in technology use.
- Fully fund special education services and remove the 13.5% cap to support students with disabilities.
- Fund the actual cost of student transportation.
- Provide categorical funding to support highly mobile students.
- Fund Family Engagement Coordinators at all schools.

Safety

Equity

Funding Solutions

Mental Health and Wellness

Equity

- Ensure equitable digital inclusion by expanding infrastructure and affordable broadband services and access to developmentally appropriate devices.
- Grow, recruit and retain a diverse and effective educator workforce.
- Support student success by increasing inclusion and supports for special education programs, universal screening for highly capable programs, equitable family engagement, and a meaningful high school diploma for all graduates.
- Support all students with mastery-based learning.
- Preserve and expand funding to ensure learning gaps are closed.

Mental Health and Wellness

- Reduce ratios of students to mental health professionals.
- Improve access to mental health professionals by building the pipeline and increasing retention.
- Provide mental health resources to families.
- Offer all school district staff training and professional development in suicide prevention and how to address mental health disorders with emphasis on early detection and early intervention.