

# Restoring Funding for Education and Wrap Around Supports

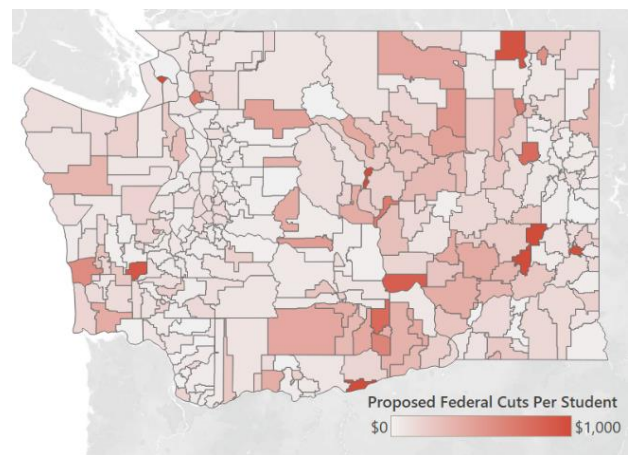
## 2025-26 Legislative Priority

***WSPTA advocates for programs that support the education, physical and mental health, welfare, and safety of children and youth. The federal government is proposing cuts to funding for programs that provide meals, access to health care, and critical services that support student learning and success. The Washington State Legislature must create a budget that maintains these critical programs and services.***

### Background

Many of the programs that support the education, health, and well-being of children, youth and families receive federal funding that is critical to their operations. About 29% of Washington state's 2025-27 biennial budget revenue comes from federal funds.<sup>(1)</sup> This funding is now at risk due to legislation (H.R. 1)<sup>(2)</sup>, cuts proposed through the appropriations process<sup>(3)</sup>, and the withholding or cancellation of previously appropriated funds.<sup>(4,5)</sup>

**Education funding** – Statewide, 7% of all school district revenue comes from federal sources.<sup>(6)</sup> The proposed federal budget cuts over \$100 million to Washington's schools, beginning in the 2026-27 school year. Every district would be affected, but impacts are highest in rural communities (see map.) Among the programs eliminated or reduced are Title I, Part C (Migrant Education Program), Title III, Part A (English Language Acquisition), Title II, Part A (professional learning for educators), Title IV, Parts A and B (before- and after-school programs and other programs that promote equity in education), students experiencing homelessness (McKinney-Vento), school safety grants, support for at-risk youth in institutions.<sup>(7)</sup>



**Nutrition Assistance** – The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) reduces food insecurity and improves educational outcomes; 45% of households in Washington receiving SNAP benefits have children.<sup>(8)</sup> The combined effects of changes to SNAP in H.R. 1 and the proposed cuts in the federal budget will mean loss of benefits for some students, and loss of automatic enrollment in free meals at school.<sup>(9)</sup> This could leave hundreds of thousands of Washington students food insecure.

**Apple Health / Medicaid** – H.R. 1 made changes to Medicaid eligibility and eliminated the federal subsidies for the Affordable Care Act (called Apple Health in Washington). This will lead to loss of health insurance for many of the nearly 2 million Washingtonians in Apple Health, 39% of which are children.<sup>(10)</sup> Medicaid is also the fourth largest source of funding for K-12 schools nationally, supporting school staff that provide physical and mental health services and disability support.<sup>(11)</sup> Loss of this funding will further strain school budgets and cut vital student services.

**Additional consequences** – In Washington, school districts can establish student eligibility for the free and reduced priced meal program (FRMP) by direct certification when students are members of households receiving benefits from public programs, including SNAP and certain categories of Medicaid.<sup>(12)</sup> The percentage of students qualifying for the FRMP affects the Community Eligibility Provision that funds school meals for all students in high-poverty schools. It also determines state funding for the Learning Assistance Program (LAP) and High-poverty LAP.<sup>(13)</sup> Enacted and proposed changes to eligibility for SNAP and Medicaid will impact state funding for these critical programs, further destabilizing school district budgets and leading to loss of student academic supports.

## Proposed Solutions

Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation or policies that create a state budget that maintains key programs previously funded by the Federal Government that support the whole child, including healthcare coverage, food insecurity assistance and other vital programs that support our state's children, youth and families until such a time as Federal funds are restored.

### For More Information

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*For more information on the WSPTA advocacy program, please visit our [website](#).*

## Citations

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