

2026 SESSION WRAP UP

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WHAT WE'LL COVER

- Reminders
- 2026 Operating Budget – K-12 (cuts, adds)
- 2026 Capital Budget – K-12
- Bills that Passed
- Millionaire's Tax/Fix to ESSB 5814 (2025) sales tax extension
- Bills that didn't Pass
- Next Steps

WHAT WERE WSPTA'S 2026 PRIORITIES?

Top 5:

- Closing the funding gaps
- Addressing student mental health
- Preventing gun violence and youth suicide
- Supporting special education
- Expanding school construction funding options

Other Themes:

- Preserve and reinvest K-12 education funding
- Avoid unfunded mandates or costs to school districts
- Protect students and families from intimidation and threats
- Fix impact of ESSB 5814 on school districts

HOW DID WSPTA DO? THE GOOD

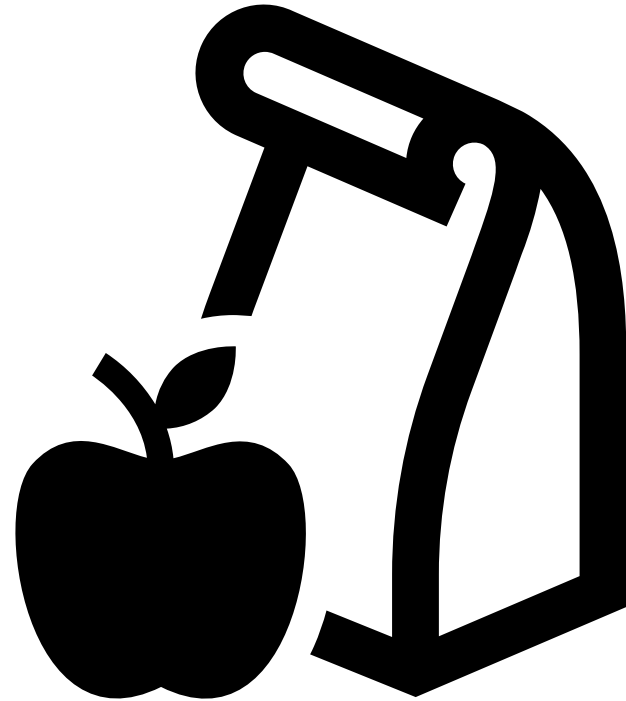
- Only \$95 million cut – Senate had a high of \$140 million.
- ESSB 5814 (sales tax on services) will be repealed for school districts, schools and Educational Service Districts (ESDs); and tax on live presentations for non-profits like WSPTA and PTA will also be repealed, effective July 1, 2026.
- Bills passed related to student mental health, reducing gun violence, improving environment for students and families receiving special education services, protecting students and families from intimidation and threats.
- Limited the number of unfunded mandates – at one time more than 20 introduced!
- Action Alert list grew by 50% during the session
- Sent out 9 Action Alerts, with 4,318 action takers sending 18,494 messages!!!
*This includes the end of session – contact budget writers, which had **1,044 action takers sending 10,263 messages***
- Testified 25 times

No NEW investments despite bills introduced (MSOC, transportation).

A \$95M cut – to Transition to Kindergarten, Local Effort Assistance, Bus Depreciation, Running Start.

Unusual emphasis on school meals for all kids rises above supporting basic education underfunding and intervention programs.

The budget woes aren't over yet. Expect more challenges (and gimmicks) in the 2027-29 session.



HOW DID WSPTA DO? THE “NOT SO GOOD”

\$94.56M IN CUTS TO K-12 EDUCATION PROGRAMS

WHAT	AMOUNT CUT	COMMENTS
Transition to Kindergarten	(\$27.26 million)	Reduces total by ~ 35% (from 7,266 slots to about 5,000 slots available) – OSPI's math
Local Effort Assistance Enhancement (not carried forward in Calendar Year (CY) 2028)	(\$25.09 million)	Instead of \$250 per student enhancement, cuts \$100 per student; \$300 CY27
LEA Alternative Learning Experience	(\$1.7 million)	Further cuts LEA to districts with 25% ALE total enrollment attending school online
Bus Depreciation – all student transportation vehicles	(\$21.10 million)	Extends Type A from 8 to 10 years; extends Type C & D from 13 to 15 years
ZEV Bus Depreciation	(\$4.65 million)	Temporarily removes 33% of federal and state grants and rebates from depreciation
Running Start	(\$7.0 million)	Student FTE is reduced from 1.4 to 1.3
National Board (main) Bonus inflation rate	(\$4.41 million)	Freezes bonus amount, starting SY 2026-27
Other cuts	(\$2.7 million)	Reduces BEST, Leadership Academy
Fire protection (1 year skipped payments)	(\$650,000)	Removes payments for school districts located in fire protection districts.

ESSB 6260 — K-12 STATUTE CHANGES: CUTS \$66.12M FROM THESE PROGRAMS

Section 1 – extends bus depreciation payments to districts; reduces by 33% the amount of federal and state grants and rebates used to purchase ZEV.

Section 2 – changes which students are eligible for Transition to Kindergarten (TTK).

- Prioritizes schools located within extreme childcare access deserts as determined by DCYF;
- Except that OSPI must prioritize funding for the existing programs that serve students who:
 - Qualify for free or reduced-price meals or have a household income at or below 185% of the federal poverty level AND lack access to licensed childcare;
 - Are income eligible for but not scheduled for ECEAP or Head Start;
 - Are eligible for or receiving special education services;
 - Are English learners or multilingual learners.

Section 3 – reduces LEA when a school districts FTE student enrollment in ALE courses exceeds 25% of average annual FTE student enrollment (down from 33%).

Section 4 – stops the inflationary adjustment for the main National Board bonus, beginning in the 2026-27 school year.

Section 5 – reduces Running Start from 1.4 FTE to 1.2 FTE – takes effect if ESSB 6346 is not enacted by June 30, 2026.

Section 6 – reduces Running Start from 1.4 FTE to 1.3 FTE in the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years – takes effect only if ESSB 6346 IS enacted by June 30, 2026

POLICY ADDITIONS (BEYOND MAINTENANCE LEVEL)

WHAT	AMOUNT	COMMENTS
High School & Beyond Plan Platform	\$1.83 million	For licenses: universal, online platform
Foster Youth restoration, FY27	\$3.5 million	For support: Treehouse program
Dual Credit Exam Fees, FY27	\$2.0 million	For exam fees: local income students
9 th Grade Success restoration, FY27	\$1.5 million	For: 9 th Grade Success programs in districts
Truancy support, FY27	\$1.4 million	For: districts to support truancy programs
Homeless Youth restoration, FY27	\$1.2 million	For: support for students who are homeless
Dual Language Grants restoration, FY27	\$1.2 million	For: existing programs (and of the amount, \$300,000 for Tribal language programs)

OTHER BITS AND BOBS ON OPERATING BUDGET

- (\$143M) Working Connections cuts and changes (implemented through SHB 2689)
 - Changes how providers are reimbursed
 - Wipes out the higher reimbursement rates in Benton, Clark, Walla Walla and Whitman counties
- Section 221, Department of Health: Requires all school districts to implement Phase 1 of the proposed school environmental health and safety rules with no funding AND directs DOH and the State Board of Health to begin rule making.
 - DOH to develop models for any required plans.
 - DOH, as resources allow, to make radon tests available to schools at no cost.
- \$5 million authorization to OSPI for private contractor bus driver health benefits
 - For 2027-29 will be carried forward into the Maintenance Level budget
 - Reflects the agreement to comply with RCW 28A.160.250(4).
- \$244 million shifted paying out of the General Fund making it a liability under the Education Legacy Trust Account (school food services, school meals)
 - The universal meals for all students is in the Intent section of ESSB 6346 (Millionaire's tax) - \$140M four-year outlook

2026 CAPITAL BUDGET — NEW FUNDING

- \$71.1 million for Small District Modernization Grants
 - School construction 12 projects @\$6 million each and eight planning grants (up to \$50,000 each)
 - [LEAP OSPI-1-2026 list](#)
- \$13.9 million for Seismic Safety grants (Hoquiam and North Beach school districts)
- \$3.78 million for “SCAP Enhancement Program Pilot” (Garfield, Wahkiakum, Wellpinit school districts)
- \$2.5 million for Lead in Pipes, as well as drinking water fixtures, purchase of water filters.
- Sec. 8016: implementing some of the SCAPR revisions: Proposal 1, Proposal 4, Proposal 7, Proposal 8 and elements of Proposal 9. Report [here](#).

A FEW MORE REMINDERS

Bill Actions

- Governor Bob Ferguson has 20 days, not counting Sundays, to sign bills – April 4th
- Vetoes are possible
- Governor can only veto full sections or line items in the budget

2027 Session

- Still expecting budget challenges in 2027-29 for operating budget
- 105-day session
- Planning starts NOW! 😊

WSPTA TOP 5 — STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

2SHB 2429 extends the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group by two years, through December 30, 2031. The bill also: Requires the Governor, subject to the availability of nonstate funding, to maintain an executive coordination officer for the Children & Youth System of Care to monitor the implementation of the Washington Thriving Strategic Plan.

Requires the Governor to establish a leadership council to address children and youth health and wellness issues and coordinate efforts to implement the strategic plan.

E3SHB 1634 encourages school districts to collaborate with OSPI and the ESDs as they develop a technical assistance and training framework to provide school districts and public schools with assistance in supporting student behavioral health. An OSPI update on the framework is due to the Legislature by November 1, 2027. The bill also requires OSPI and ESDs to use the framework to optimize delivery and coordination of behavioral health technical assistance and support to school districts, once the framework is developed. The framework must include nine components, as specified in the bill.

WSPTA TOP 5 – SPECIAL EDUCATION

- [ESHB 1795](#) – Changes definitions and practices regarding isolation and restraint of students, beginning with the 2026-27 school year, and prohibits establishing any new room or other enclosed area for the primary purpose of student isolation.
- [ESHB 2557](#) – Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, requires school districts to provide a student’s parent or guardian with a copy of the special education evaluation report no later than the 35th school day following receipt of consent to evaluate the student, unless an exception applies or the parent or guardian provides a written waiver. Also requires the school district to convene a special education eligibility determination meeting no sooner than 5 school days after the evaluation report is provided, and no later than the 40th school day following receipt of consent.
- [2SSB 5969](#) – The statewide online system for IEPs must be able to integrate a student’s IEP transition plan with the universal online High School and Beyond Platform (and vice versa) to the greatest extent possible.

WSPTA TOP 5: REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE

ESHB 2320 prohibits the manufacturing of certain firearms and firearm components using a 3D printer or computer numerical control milling machine, with some exceptions. The bill also prohibits the sale, transfer or distribution of certain digital firearms manufacturing code, subject to exceptions.

WSPTA ALSO SUPPORTED PRIORITIES



Closing the Digital Divide

No bills – HB 1365 came closest, didn't pass.



Mitigating the impacts of Climate Change

Legislature went in the wrong direction on extending bus depreciation payments by two years, keeping diesel buses on the road for two more years.



Restoring Funding for Education and Wrap Around Supports

Legislature gave funding to state agencies to start implementing H.R. 1, but hard to see where any new investments were made to preserve the social safety net.

Discussion around the Millionaire's tax is that it will help with health, food security and housing.

WSPTA RESOLUTIONS (NUMERICAL ORDER)

[ESHB 1295](#) - Structured literacy curriculum required, beginning with purchases made after September 1, 2027.

[ESHB 2225](#) regulates AI companion chatbots and requires certain notifications and precautions for minors, including protocols for detecting and addressing expressions of self-harm.

[ESHB 2266](#) establishes siting requirements for transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, indoor emergency shelters, and indoor emergency housing. When within 500 feet walking distance from the physical grounds of a school, when applying for a permit to site an indoor emergency shelter or indoor emergency housing, a city or county may enter good-faith negotiations with the sponsor of the housing to establish additional and reasonable requirements pertaining to health and safety protocols.

[ESHB 2534](#) – Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, changes school district requirements for enrolling children of military families, transferring their education records and providing students with services and accommodations.

[SHB 2594](#) – Establishes state requirements for ensuring that homeless children and youths have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education as is provided to other children and youths. States that when school districts meet the requirements of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act satisfy equivalent requirements established in the bill. 2026-27 school year.

WSPTA RESOLUTIONS (NUMERICAL ORDER)

- [SSB 5346](#) directs OSPI to do some work on student use of mobile devices during instructional hours.
 - By December 15, 2027, OSPI must provide to the Legislature a summary of the policies and procedures adopted by schools in Washington and in other states limiting student use of mobile devices during instructional hours. The report must include evidence-based recommendations.
 - Update the web-based portal on digital citizenship, media literacy and internet safety with research on student use of mobile devices and recommended best practice strategies for teaching students how to use their mobile devices responsibly.
- [SSB 5841](#) requires the universal High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP) platform to import financial aid application data maintained by the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) to provide an easy way to view the student's progress on financial aid applications and other requirements.
 - For school districts, beginning with the 2027-28 school year, financial aid information provided to the student in their HSBP must be reviewed by the student and appropriate staff, to the extent practicable, after the student has indicated completing a financial aid application. The purpose of the review is to determine the student's eligibility for scholarship programs and completion of related financial aid applications.
- [ESB 5872](#) creates the PreK Promise Account for the Balmer Group Foundation Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) funding. In the 2030-31 school year, ECEAP will become an entitlement and income eligibility will increase to 50% of the State Median Income (SMI).
 - In the 2025-27 biennium, ECEAP is funded to serve 14,278 children in FY26 and 14,528 in FY27.
 - Children who are ECEAP eligible are ages 3 to 5, from families with incomes at or below 36% of the SMI.
 - The bill takes effect immediately.

AUTHORIZES SCHOOL DISTRICTS (BEGINNING 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR):

- [HB 1796](#) authorizes school districts to contract indebtedness and issue bonds without securing a 60% vote, subject to the current indebtedness limit of 0.375 percent, for the purpose of constructing buildings and providing the necessary furniture, apparatus, or equipment. This authority is limited to school districts that have passed a capital levy, which must be used to fully repay the indebtedness, and have not been in binding conditions in the three years preceding the date of the contract.
- [SB 5922](#) authorizes a school district to petition OSPI for permission to transfer money from its transportation vehicle fund to another fund for alternative use if it decides to reduce its overall fleet of student transportation vehicles and does not replace a vehicle. The money to be transferred may include depreciation payments and earned interest from a fully depreciated vehicle.
- [SB 6065](#) allows a school district in binding conditions or enhanced financial oversight to petition OSPI for permission to transfer money from its transportation vehicle fund to another school fund. The district may petition OSPI to convert the temporary loan permanent, with no requirement for repayment, only if the transfer would not be detrimental to any function or project for which the transportation vehicle fund was established.

AUTHORIZES SCHOOL DISTRICTS (BEGINNING 2027-28 SCHOOL YEAR):

SHB 2360 authorizes (but does NOT require) school districts to maintain a supply of albuterol at each school in a designated location.

A licensed health professional may prescribe albuterol in the name of the school district or school to be maintained for use when necessary. They must be accompanied by a standing order.

By January 1, 2027, OSPI and DOH shall update the uniform policy to include a uniform procedure for when school nurses and designated trained school personnel access and administer the school or school district supply of albuterol.

School districts that choose to adopt a policy regarding the use of albuterol from a school or school district supply must also include the uniform procedure developed by OSPI and DOH.

ESSB 6346 — TAX ON INCOME ABOVE \$1M

What it does and doesn't do:

Imposes a 9.9% tax on individuals/households on the income that exceeds \$1 million, beginning in Calendar Year (CY) 2028 for taxes collected in CY 2029.

Repeals sales taxes on certain specified services, which were enacted in 2025 in ESSB 5814 (e.g., tax on temporary staffing services, tax on live presentations, tax on digital advertising or web design and hosting services). Specifically excludes K-12 schools, school districts, and ESDs, as well as public libraries, library districts and library service centers.

- For school districts, schools and ESDs, the repeal of the sales tax is not dependent on the rest of the bill being challenged.
- For school districts, schools and ESDs, the repeal is effective July 1, 2026.
- Under “live presentations” excludes before and after school care by elementary schools; presentations given by a nonprofit organization; musical, dramatic, comedic, or similar performances, including incidental instruction; one-on-one instructional activities, including tutoring and consulting; and music lessons regardless of the number of participants – **effective July 1, 2026!**

States an “intent” to “Increase state funding for K-12 education in order to improve 38 outcomes for Washington's students by strengthening high quality instruction and expanding student supports.” *But nothing is set aside or directed at the Education Legacy Trust Account, for example.*

BILLS TO HELP SCHOOLS, SCHOOL DISTRICTS: BIG 3

DIDN'T PASS

HB 2147/SB 5918 would have funded at \$100 per student or \$100,000 per district, whichever is greater. (Gregerson/Wellman)

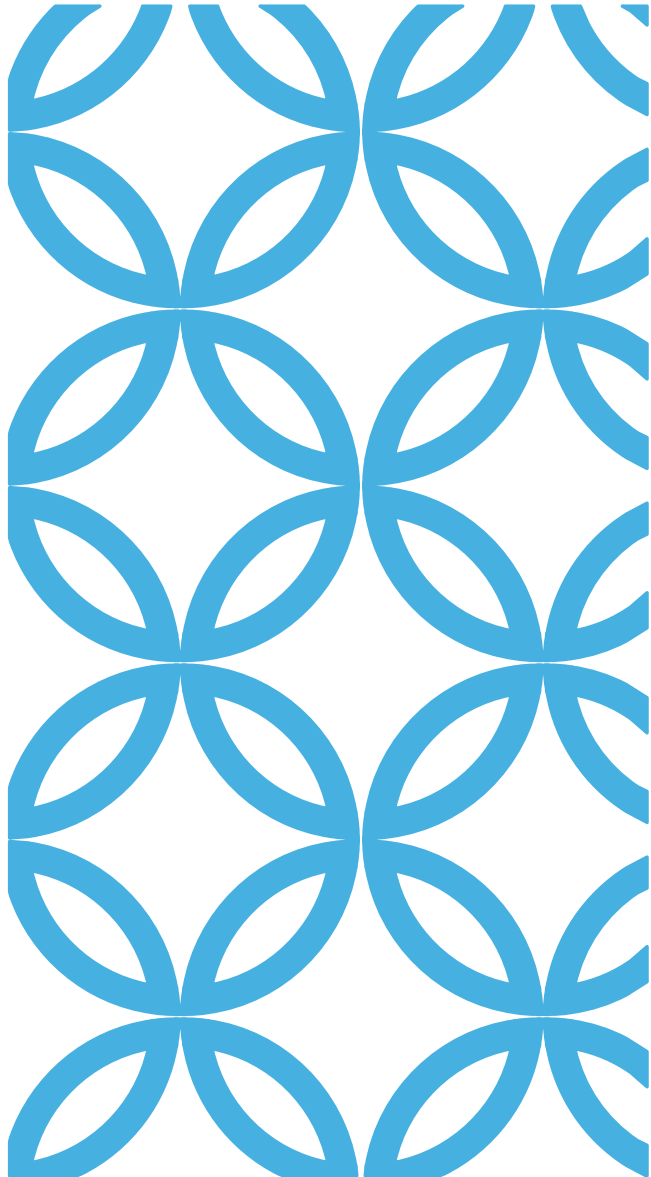
HB 2234 would have used Climate Commitment Act funds to pay for school utility bills. (Walsh)

HB 2519 would have required utilities to offer discounted rates for schools. (Bergquist)

SB 5858 would have funded Transportation Safety Net for special passengers (students who are homeless, students in foster care, students with disabilities). (Wellman)

SB 6125 would have created an enrollment stabilization “hold harmless.” (Wellman)

SB 6310 would have pulled out utilities and insurance and required the state to fund them. (Salomon)



- HB 2636 would have created a task force to identify unfunded mandates and recommend changes. (Rude)
- SB 5875 would have addressed school liability for Washington Laws Against Discrimination. (Wellman)
- HB 2470/SB 5901 would have excluded schools on military bases from counting in the SCAP inventory against the district. (Leavitt/Christian)
- SB 5920 would have made changes to the Public Records Act for districts. (Wellman)
- SB 5941 would have created exemptions to renewable energy systems requirements for schools under 500 students. (Short)
- SB 6049 would have exempted the Healthy Youth survey from public disclosure. (C. Wilson)
- SB 6239 would have required arbitration for tort claims against public entities. (Dhingra)
- SB 6263 would have raised the bid limits for school districts. (Muzzall)

**BILLS TO HELP SCHOOLS, SCHOOL DISTRICTS
DIDN'T PASS**

UNFUNDED MANDATES: DIDN'T PASS — MORE THAN 20 INTRODUCED

- HB 1289 – school surveys
- HB 2007/SB 5859 – competency-based graduation assessments
- HB 2160/SB 5883 – SEBB for subs
- HB 2138 – serious changes to school curriculum and assessments
- HB 2262 – teaching cursive, signatures
- HB 2328/SB 6042 – school mapping
- HB 2341/SB 6130 – national voter days
- HB 2549/SB 6118 – cardiac response plans
- SB 5240 – anaphylaxis medications
- SB 5327 – computer science graduation reqs
- SB 5574 – history instruction for Asian Pacific/
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- SB 5694 – boiler operator certification
- SB 5849 – financial education graduation requirement
- SB 5878 – plant-based food/meals
- SB 5897 – pulse oximeters in schools
- SB 5906 – new policies and procedures for ICE on school grounds
- SB 5952 – PE waivers
- SB 5956 – AI and discipline
- SB 5978 – student notifications on guaranteed admissions
- SB 5985 – Health instruction on endometriosis
- SB 6052 – requiring digital transcripts

NEXT STEPS

- ❖ Working on messaging for WSPTA members.
- ❖ Talk with your districts about how the continued underfunding of K-12 basic education (special education, transportation, MSOC and school staffing) impacts students and levies.
- ❖ Meet with your district legislators during the interim – best time to forge those relationships.
- ❖ Create a plan of engagement for parents and families to tell the stories of the good but also the not so good of 2026.

PLANNING FOR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

WSPTA adopts a new two-year set of priorities and a new Top 5

- Draft proposals (outline) are due May 1st.
- Final proposals are due June 1st.
- Advocacy Committee will review, make recommendations to the Board to bring to the Legislative Assembly.

What we're looking for:

- Actionable in the 2027 and 2028 legislative sessions
- Sense of urgency
- Issues where parent voice makes a difference

SUBMIT A RESOLUTION, LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLE OR LEGISLATIVE ISSUE

May 1 – Draft submissions (titles and concept) should be emailed to:

Legislative Issues and Legislative Principles: WSPTA Advocacy Director at ptaadvocacydir@wastatepta.org

Resolutions: WSPTA Resolutions Chair at resolutions@wastatepta.org

June 1 – Final, complete submissions should be emailed to:

Legislative Issues and Legislative Principles: WSPTA Advocacy Director at ptaadvocacydir@wastatepta.org

Resolutions: WSPTA Resolutions Chair at resolutions@wastatepta.org

Don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or need support!

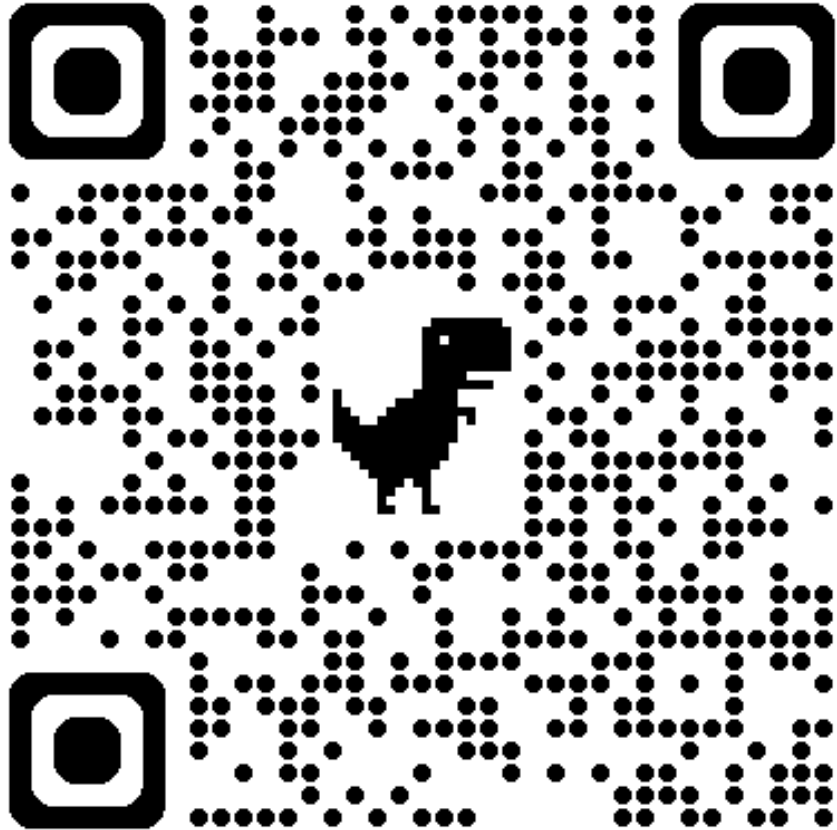


WSPTA'S ADVOCACY PROGRAM: WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Our advocacy program is guided by our member submitted legislative issues, legislative principles and resolutions which are amended and voted in by our members at Legislative Assembly and Convention.

1. Attend WSPTA Convention and Annual meeting this May 15-17 in SeaTac, WA
2. Submit a legislative issue, legislative principle or resolution for Legislative Assembly (Concept due by May 1, final submission due June 1)
3. Stay connected by joining the WSPTA Advocacy Slack
4. Join WSPTA's Action Network to get timely advocacy alerts
5. Save the Date: Legislative Assembly is October 2026. More info coming soon!
6. Follow WSPTA on Facebook and Instagram

We know advocacy can sometimes feel intimidating or complicated. Don't hesitate to reach if you have questions!
ptaadvocacydir@wastatepta.org



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PROGRAM:

Look through WSPTA's Top 5 legislative priorities, legislative principles, and resolutions

Read WSPTA legislative consultant Marie Sullivan's weekly updates from the legislative session

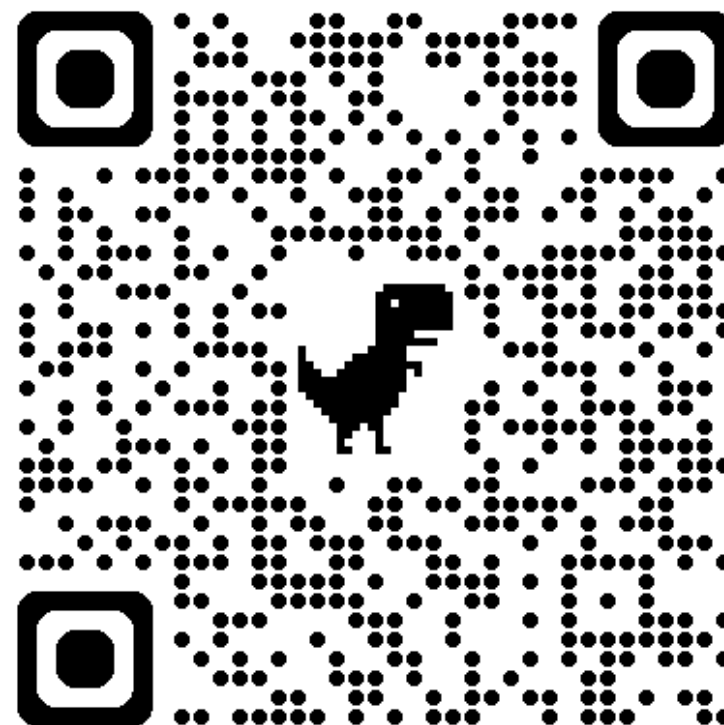
Check out our resources around how your PTA can vote to endorse and support a levy, bond or ballot initiative, hold a candidate forum and more!

WSPTA CONVENTION

WSPTA's 113th Washington State PTA Convention and Annual Business Meeting, taking place from May 15-17 2026, at the SeaTac Double Tree by Hilton. This three-day event is a fantastic opportunity for PTA leaders to come together, share ideas, and gain valuable insights.

Help amend and vote on two new resolutions!

Snap the QR code to register

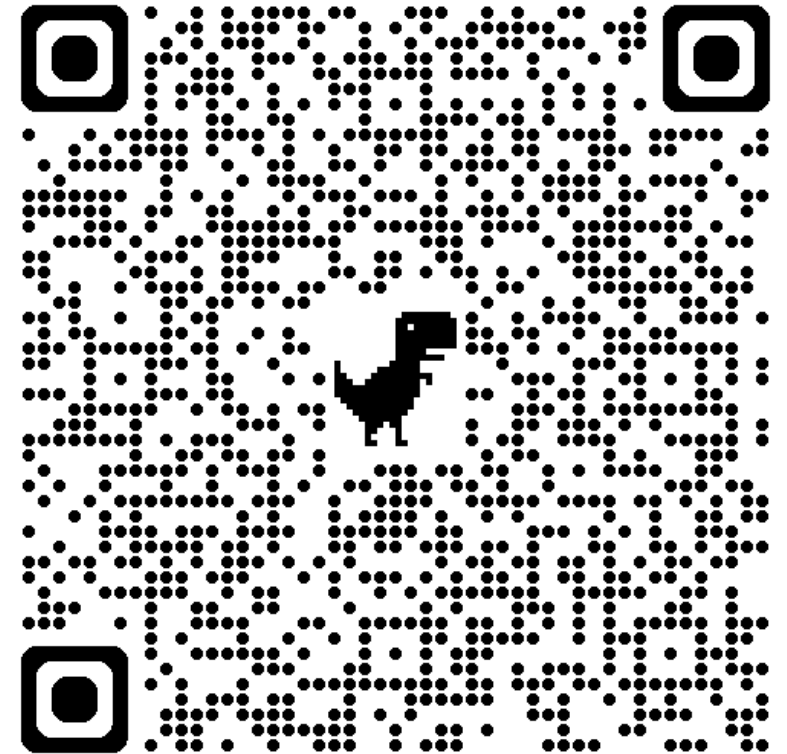


STAY CONNECTED: WSPTA'S ADVOCACY SLACK

Join WSPTA's Advocacy Slack to
connect with advocates statewide

Plan for events like Legislative
Assembly and Focus Day

Ask questions and share resources



JOIN WSPTA'S ACTION NETWORK

Timely advocacy alerts about legislation, funding and policy decisions that affect public education and the well being of children, youth and families in our state.

Each alert includes background information, talking points, and direct ways to contact your legislators and other decision makers. Whether you have just one minute or an hour, you can make a difference.

Share alerts out with your networks to up your impact with just a few clicks.

