

The WSPTA Outstanding Advocate Award was established in 2004 to recognize an individual for their statewide advocacy and commitment in helping to create strong policies relating to the health, welfare, safety and education of children and youth. The individual should have furthered WSPTA's policy positions (legislative principles, resolutions, and legislative issues) by activities such as, but not limited to, submitting policy positions, testifying on policy positions on behalf of WSPTA, or representing WSPTA on workgroups or coalitions.

Congratulations to our 2026 recipient, Melissa Stone!



This person comes from award-winning state, council and local PTAs.


She's good at making tough decisions and discussing them in a firm but gentle way. She approaches everyone with empathy, kindness and a sincere willingness to help. In fact, you have seen her here this weekend helping with a variety of things.

She has been a champion for school funding, ending gun violence, and pushing for simple majority for bonds. She has been indispensable in helping to craft Advocacy Alerts and lots of other communications. Name any aspect of WSPTA's advocacy program and it likely wouldn't be in the shape it is today without her. She is an unsung hero.

She stepped up to bat for kids by leading Legislative Assembly.

She spends much of her time guiding new advocates on how to submit legislative principles and priorities, speak to legislatures, and testify in Olympia. There are many advocates across our state that are advocates because of her.

One person summed it up by saying that this person knows that as much as she advocates, that the work will never be done, and it is important to create an army of advocates. This is how she serves the students across our state.



Please join me in congratulating Melissa Stone for being this year's WSPTA Outstanding Advocate!