Legislative Priorities

Washington State PTA
every child. one voice.

Top 5 Legislative Priorities for 2027

(listed alphabetically by title)

Address Support for Students with Disabilities, Inclusionary Practices, and Funding for Special Education Services

Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation, policies, and budgets that:

- Fully fund special education services and improve equity in funding formulas.
- Address the statewide special education staffing shortage.
- Provide ongoing training in inclusionary practices while meeting all specially designed instruction and accommodation requirements.
- Address disproportionality in referrals for special education evaluations, underidentification and overidentification in eligibility determination, and disproportionate discipline of students with disabilities.

Address the Student Mental Health Crisis

Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation or policies that ensure all students have access to behavioral and mental health resources, including funding, for:

- Reduced student to mental health professional ratios.
- Programs and incentives to recruit, train and retain mental health professionals.
- Resources for families, training and support for educators and administrators, and responses to traumatic incidents.
- Accessible, culturally responsive and trauma-informed mental health services and supports for students, including prevention, early intervention and support for school attendance.
- Increased equitable access to mental and behavioral health treatment, including increasing staffing in schools and more comprehensive screening.

Ensure Literacy & Math Proficiency for All Students

Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation or policies that ensure every Washington student builds foundational literacy and mathematics skills and advances to grade-level proficiency by:

- Strengthening early learning and learning outcomes across K-12.
- Funding enhanced intervention and coaching support.
- Investing in evidence-based instruction and training.
- Integrating mental health supports.

Keep Students Safer from Gun Violence

Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation or policies that:

- Strengthen safe storage laws and restrict unsupervised youth firearm access to reduce youth firearm suicide, unintentional shootings, school shootings, and violent crime.
- Limit firearms in sensitive places like parks, playgrounds, and public buildings.
- Support community violence prevention, suicide prevention, mental health programs and weapon safety education.
- Prioritize school premises safety.

Make Strategic Investments to Improve Student Outcomes

Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation and budgets that:

- Ensure the financial stability of all school districts.
- Close funding gaps.
- Avoid new unfunded mandates.
- Restore recent cuts.

So that state funding reflects and keeps pace with actual costs. WSPTA also supports revising the funding model to become more equity- and student centered, with increased investments in programs known to improve student outcomes and class sizes that support student academic and social-emotional success.

Also Supported Legislative Priorities

(listed alphabetically by title)

Empower Communities to Build Schools Where Students Thrive

Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation or policies that lower the school bond election threshold to a simple majority, remove the 40 percent validation requirement, and develop additional, equitable access to state school construction funds for districts where voter-approved bonds cannot generate sufficient revenue due to a limited property tax base.

Fund Climate-Ready Schools: Clean Air, Heat-Safe

Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation and policies that fund K-12 HVAC modernization — ventilation improvements, filtration, cooling, and clean, energy-efficient systems — using Climate Commitment Act revenues and capital funding, to protect student health and learning, including during wildfire smoke and extreme heat, and to meet Clean Buildings Performance Standards.

Restore Focus with Personal Electronic Devices Off and Away for the Day

Washington State PTA supports legislation and policies addressing student personal electronic device use in schools. It advocates for a statewide minimum standard for school districts that requires K-12 students' personal devices be off and away from first bell of the school day to the last bell, with:

- Individualized accommodations for disability-related or health-related needs, including communication and assistive technology.
- Local control over implementation.
- Positive, proactive enforcement.

How Washington State PTA Legislative Priorities Are Adopted

Submission — Legislative Issues are submitted by June 1 from members, PTAs, or WSPTA committees

Review — Legislative Issues are reviewed by the WSPTA Advocacy Committee and Board of Directors

Adoption — Legislative Issues are debated, amended, and adopted by members in October at WSPTA Legislative Assembly

Advocacy — Advocacy with Legislative Priorities is primarily directed to the Legislature by members at ALL levels of PTA

Get Involved — Contact Us & Take Action

Washington State PTA
949 Market Street, Suite 550 · Tacoma, WA 98402 · 253-214-7410

Washington State PTA is the state's oldest and largest child advocacy organization, with over 80,000 members. One out of every two students in Washington attends a school with a PTA.

For more information, visit wastatepta.org/advocacy or email the WSPTA Advocacy Director at ptaadvocacydir@wastatepta.org or WSPTA Legislative Consultant Marie Sullivan at legconsultant@wastatepta.org.

Action Alerts

Advocacy Slack

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