

2018 Washington State PTA – Guide to Proposed Legislative Principles, Issues, and Resolutions

This On-line Open House will close on October 19, so please provide us with your input today!

On October 20-21, your Redmond Middle School PTSA delegates will represent you at the Washington State PTA Legislative Assembly. The purpose of this on-line open house is to give you an opportunity to see the issues under consideration and to provide your input.

Please review the information below and then send us an email (advocacy@rmsptsa.org) with your thoughts and opinions. The principles, issues, and resolutions were developed by others at the state level. We have the opportunity to request limited changes to wording. Most importantly, we are asked to rank the proposed legislative issues to help the state PTA define the top five priorities.

Read More Here: <https://www.wastatepta.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/2018-Legislative-Assembly-Voter-Guide-FINAL.pdf>

Delegates: We need more delegates. Let us know if you would like to be a delegate at the Assembly. Email advocacy@rmsptsa.org.

Legislative Issues: (Email us your top 5 Priorities – advocacy@rmsptsa.org, or visit our survey: <https://goo.gl/forms/VGRrBN6ZPTjITcE2>.)

- 1) **Best Practices for School Meals – Lunch.** The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that:
 - a. Modifies WAC 392-157-125 “Time for Meals” to define a minimum lunch period for students. Language should be added to specify a minimum of 20 minutes of seated time, with additional time to move through a line and be seated with a meal;
 - b. Promotes recess before lunch for elementary students. Engaging Families in Student Success
- 2) **Engaging Families in Student Success.** The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that increase transformative family engagement practices by:
 - a. Replacing “Parent Involvement Coordinator” with the more inclusive “Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Coordinator” in the funding formula;
 - b. Adopting a clear definition for FACE Coordinators;
 - c. Funding at least one FACE Coordinator per school, starting with high poverty schools first.
- 3) **Fund Paraeducator Training.** The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that: Fully fund the training requirements for paraeducators mandated by law, including the 28-hour fundamental course of study and the additional 70 hours of professional development required within the first three years of employment.
- 4) **Increase Access to High-Quality Preschool.** The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that: Develop a preschool expansion plan to ensure all preschool-age children in Washington state have access to high-quality preschool. The plan must address the equity gaps and improve student outcomes in the pre-K-12 public school system.
- 5) **Safe School Plans and Emergency Preparedness.** The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that support emergency preparedness planning in schools through:
 - a. Development of clear and specific guidelines and standards for safe school plans;

- b. Funding to ensure that every school has adequate means to serve all students equitably during times of crisis or natural disaster.
- 6) **Strategies to Address the Teacher Shortage.** The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that recruit and retain effective educators, develop a diverse workforce, and ensure equity and access to educator preparation through:
 - a. Funding of recruitment and conditional scholarship programs;
 - b. Expansion of Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB)-approved conditional certificates and alternative routes to certification;
 - c. Phased-in expansion of Beginning Educator Support Team (BEST) grants to all schools.
- 7) **Raise the Age of Tobacco and Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems to 21.** The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that:
 - a. Limit access, sale, and distribution of all tobacco products and electronic nicotine delivery systems, including but not limited to, e-cigarettes, vaping and Juul devices, to age of 21 and up;
 - b. Prohibit packaging and marketing targeted at youth.
- 8) **Best Practices for School Recess.** The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that:
 - a. Define a *minimum* of 30 minutes of daily recess time for elementary school students;
 - b. Prohibit recess from being withheld due to academic or punitive reasons;
 - c. Promote schools as an effective and necessary partner in guiding children to meet the CDC recommendation of 60 minutes of daily moderate to vigorous physical activity.
- 9) **School Construction and Simple Majority for Bonds.** The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that equitably assist districts fund their capital needs for the 21st century through:
 - a. Lower K-3 and Career and Technical Education (CTE) class sizes, capacity/growth, modernization, and safety needs;
 - b. Updating the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP);
 - c. Extending the K-3 grant program;
 - d. Documenting use of portables;
 - e. Changing school construction bonds from super-majority (60%) to simple majority.
- 10) **Prevent Gun Violence by Reducing Access.** The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that reduce dangerous access to firearms by:
 - a. Prohibiting sales of semi-automatic assault rifles to < 21 and creating a 10-day waiting period;
 - b. Raising standards for semi-automatic assault rifle purchase to that for handguns;
 - c. Incentivizing safe storage of all firearms;
 - d. Ensuring continued eligibility for ownership of semi-automatic assault rifles;
 - e. Permitting and encouraging destruction of crime guns by the Washington State Patrol and other agencies.
- 11) **Social Emotional Learning.** The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that:
 - a. Integrate Social Emotional Learning and Trauma Informed Practices in the education system and pre-service and in-service educator and administrator training;

- b. Ensure staffing levels in schools are funded to meet student need and to support student learning and well-being;
 - c. Increase partnerships with after-school providers and community partners.
- 12) **Strategic K-12 Investments to Close Gaps.** The Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that:
- a. Close Special Education funding gaps;
 - b. Increase the Prototypical School Model to I-1351 levels;
 - c. Include a categorical allocation for high mobility students;
 - d. Expand High Poverty Learning Assistance Program (LAP) by lowering the threshold;
 - e. Allow school districts to choose between the two enrichment levy caps and increase the Local Efforts Assistance (LEA) ceiling.

Legislative Principles: (Do you support these principles?) Email advocacy@rmsptsa.org.

- 1) Health and Well-Being of Children and Youth. Evidence-based policies that reduce or reverse adverse health effects of indoor or outdoor environmental conditions.
- 2) Health and Well-Being of Children and Youth. Reduction or elimination of all forms of violence to ensure safety of students, staff and communities.

Resolutions: (Email us comments on the wording – advocacy@rmsptsa.org)

- 1) **Improving Outcomes in Special Education.** Be it:

Resolved, that Washington State PTA encourage all stakeholders in the educational system – teachers (both general and special education), paraeducators, staff, families, administrators, school board directors and members of the community – to have and maintain high expectations for students with disabilities; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA collaborate with the entire school community to include children with disabilities and their families in all school-based and school-directed activities to promote cooperative relationships between students of all abilities through experiences such as peer mentoring, collaborative problem solving, and cooperative working groups, as well as through more casual or unstructured interactions; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its constituent associations support funding for ongoing pre-service training and professional development for all teachers regarding adapting instruction to meet the needs of students with disabilities in the general education classroom as well as accommodations that improve access to the general curriculum and high expectations for all students with regards to academics, extracurricular activities and overall school behavior; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington PTA and its constituent associations support implementing best practices in meeting the needs of diverse learners through such practices as inclusion, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), Response to Intervention (RTI), and any other similar instructional practices to support Core Content instruction, as well as access to accommodations including assistive technology for students with disabilities, so that they may reach their highest potential.

- 2) **Mitigating the Health Effects of Climate Change.** Be it:

Resolved, that Washington State PTA urges national, state and local policymakers to adopt and enforce legislation that enables people to adapt to climate change and mitigates the effects of climate change, and that uses market forces and regulations with the goal of slowing, halting and reversing climate change; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA encourages and calls for members, policy makers in government, inter-governmental bodies and non-governmental, school and community organizations to raise awareness to reduce and mitigate adverse health effects resulting from climate change; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA promotes utilization of the existing K-12 Integrated Environmental and Sustainability Education Learning Standards, including educating students on climate and energy literacy and human sustainability; and educates its members on how to calculate their carbon footprint, ways they can reduce their carbon footprint, and green, or clean, energy changes they can make in their lives; and be it further

Resolved, that the Washington State PTA and its constituent associations encourage policy makers to take action to make schools more energy-efficient, including the use of renewable, sustainable energy and technologies, and enact environmentally healthy land-use policies that take into account the geographic, economic, ethnic, cultural, and other societal factors that influence the incidence, exposure, and effects of environmental health hazards.

3) **Equitable Access to Highly Capable Services.** Be it:

Resolved, that Washington State PTA supports removing barriers to the identification of highly capable students of all genders in every demographic group, including students of color, English-language learners, low-income students, students experiencing homelessness, students in foster care, migrant students, and students with disabilities; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA supports access to highly capable services for ALL students who qualify for highly capable programming, and expressly objects to limiting access to highly capable programming based on space constraints, logistical considerations, lack of transportation, waitlists, holding appeals to a higher standard than general identification criteria, or any form of quotas; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA supports using best practices to remove barriers to the identification of ALL students who would benefit from highly capable services, including the use of universal screening in early elementary grades, and again before secondary school, conducting all screenings and assessments during the regular school day, and other best practices known to improve equity of access; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA supports teachers, counselors, principals, and administrators receiving meaningful pre-service training and ongoing professional development about the unique characteristics and social, emotional, and academic needs of highly capable students.

4) **Sexual Violence and Harassment Prevention and Victim Supports.** Be it:

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its constituent associations urge and support the strengthening of Title IX and other federal, state and local laws that identify, address the

effects of, and prohibit sexual harassment and sexual violence impacting students; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its constituent associations collaborate with school administrations, institutions of higher learning, and community partners to ensure that every school:

- Provides support services for victims of sexual harassment and sexual violence; and
- Presents awareness and prevention programs that address sexual harassment and sexual violence affecting students; and
- Includes training on the responsibilities of educational institutions, as well as the rights of sexual violence and sexual harassment victims under Title IX and other laws and regulations.

5) School Nutrition (Amendment). Be it:

Resolved, that Washington State PTA and its constituent organizations support the increased equitable access to school meals such as breakfast after the bell; support expansion of meal programs using the resources already in place across the state to ensure all students get adequate nutrition throughout the calendar year; support the national standard of twenty minutes of seated time to eat lunch, not including the time spent transitioning into a lunch room or waiting in line for food, as well as scheduling recess before lunch when possible; and oppose the practice of meal debt policies that shame or humiliate students, or prevent children from receiving a full meal due to meal debt.