

Washington State PTA
Legislative Issues Survey 2009-10
 For Local PTA Units and Councils



This survey is meant to assist local units and councils with both understanding and determining their issue positions for the 2009 Legislative Assembly. The 2009 Issue Guide, which provides additional information from both the issue submitters and staff to assist you with understanding these proposals, will be posted to the WSPTA website next week.

Beginning in 2008, the Washington State PTA platform has been following a two year cycle. Issues that were voted onto the platform during the 2008 Legislative Assembly will remain on the platform for 2009-10. The titles of these issues are listed below for your information. To see complete issue statements go to http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/association_position/index.html and click on **2008-09 Short-Term Legislative Platform**.

1. Basic Education Funding
2. Strengthening Math and Science Curriculum and Education
3. Washington State Assessment System Improvements
4. Support State Board of Education CORE 24 Framework
5. Support Rational Approaches to Teacher Compensation
6. Creating a School Safety Zone
7. Autism Insurance Parity
8. School Emergency Preparedness
9. School Traffic Safety
10. Training for School Nurses
11. Firearm Violence Prevention
12. Conditional Scholarships

I. The following two issues are proposed amendments to issues on the current platform. (The first issue statement has been slightly abbreviated for survey purposes.) These amendment proposals, if approved, would completely replace the existing issue proposals. Amendment proposals will be debated and voted on. Amended issues will retain their rank on the platform. **Vote “yes” if you wish to approve this change or “no” if you are against this change.**

Each issue begins with the following phrase: The Washington State PTA shall initiate and/or support legislation or policies that

<p>Basic Education Funding: advance the Education Finance reform legislation, ESHB 2261, passed in 2009, and restore both the early learning component and the highly capable safety net to include: 1. the formation of the Funding Working group report with recommendations due by December 1, 2009; 2. the formation of the K-12 Data Governance Group with initial report due by November 5, 2009; 3. the completion of the accountability proposal by the State Board of Education with report due by December 1, 2009; 4. the completion of work charged to the Professional Educator Standards Board to address teacher standards and certification with initial recommendations due January, 1, 2010; 5. the formation and preliminary report answering specified questions of the Quality Education Council by January 1, 2010; 6. the addition of targeted early learning to the definition of basic education; 7. the addition of a highly capable safety net process for districts that can demonstrate significant need.</p>
<p>Support Rational Approaches to Teacher Compensation: advance the achievement of the stated goals of ESHB 2261 relating to teacher standards, certification and compensation to include: the completion of work charged to the Professional Educator Standards board to adopt performance standards for effective teaching and continuous student improvement, calibrated for each level of certification and along the entire continuum; 1. to continue work on the Professional Certification assessments; to develop a definition of master teacher that includes teachers with National Board certification; to recommend a proposal for a classroom-based means of evaluating student-teacher effectiveness which includes multiple measures of performance; 2. the formation of the Compensation work group by the Office of Financial Management in July, 2011 to recommend the details of an enhanced salary allocation</p>

model that aligns educator development and certification with compensation.

- II. The next four issues are new issues. These issues will be voted on and placed in rank order at the end of the platform. Rank these issues in importance from 1-4, with “1” being the most important. You may also mark “no” if you feel that an issue should not be supported. Each issue begins with the following phrase: **The Washington State PTA shall initiate and/or support legislation or policies that**

Fund Education First: fund education first. In order to implement Article IX of our state constitution which says “It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders”, education funding would be considered first in any budget process undertaken by the state legislature.
Increase Funding and Support for Highly Capable Students: 1. increase funding to provide for both identification and delivery of Highly Capable services for at least 3% of district enrollment; 2. ensure that districts are enabled to make decisions about their Highly Capable services in K-12; 3. ensure that small districts receive assistance to provide services; 4. amend Section 403 of ESHB 2261 to add Highly Capable professional development. Content for this training shall align with core curriculum required for Gifted Education specialty endorsement.
Music and Arts Education: ensure that every child in Washington State has access to music and other arts as part of a balanced education addressing the whole child and preparing them for the critical thinking necessary for success in the work force, to include, but not be limited to: 1. comprehensive, sequential music education taught by qualified instructors, recognizing music as the basis for providing all students with substantive education in the arts; 2. programs in music and the other arts that include rigorous instruction, progress monitoring, meaningful assessment, and accountability to school officials, parents, and the community.
Weighted GPA: replaces WAC 392-415-050, which defines an unweighted GPA (grade point average), with a new law defining a weighted GPA. The current 4.0 GPA would continue for the standard high school curriculum, while introducing a weighted scale for all Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), dual credit and honors (H) classes. For all AP, IB and dual credit classes: A=5.0, B=4.0, C=3.0, D=2.0, E/F=0 For honors classes: A=4.5, B=3.5, C=2.5, D=1.5 For standard high school classes: A=4.0, B=3.0, C=2.0, D=1.0, E/F=0

- III. The final proposal for consideration is an amendment to our Legislative Principles. To see entire set of Legislative Principles, go to http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/association_position/0809_Leg_Principles.pdf

This following is the original version of section three of the Legislative Principles:

Public Education Policies and Funding

The WSPTA shall identify and initiate education and action on public policy that will strengthen public education for our state’s children and youth: alternative programs for all schools; K-12 class sizes aligned with best practices research findings; continued support for education reform efforts; re-defining basic education; reducing the achievement gap; promotion of early childhood education programs; alignment of P-12 and higher education requirements; restructure of education funding in Washington State; reduction of high school dropout rates; levy and bond election reform; increased state-match funding for school facilities construction and renovation; ample transportation funding; and equitable levy lids; school staff salaries, and levy equalization.

The proposed change would be inserted after “ample transportation funding;” which is at the end of line 6, above. Please vote “yes” if you wish to approve this change or “no” if you are against this change.

equitable levy and local effort assistance (LEA) funding per student; and equitable school staff salaries.
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For more information about these proposals, please see the 2009 Issue Guide, which is posted to the Advocacy section of the WSPTA website. www.wastatepta.org or contact Washington State PTA at 253-565-2153.