

2020 Legislative Assembly Recap

Washington State PTA just hosted its first Virtual Legislative Assembly! Throughout last few weeks, panels and classes were held over zoom to help educate our Washington State PTA leaders.

The 42nd Assembly then wrapped up October 24-25 with the general sessions and voting on issues and resolutions.

This year's theme was **PTA: Now More Than Ever.**

During the legislative assembly Washington State PTA and its local PTAs, councils, and members work together to develop short-term legislative issues and long-term PTA resolutions. The issues and resolutions can be used to advocate not only at state level with our elected representatives, but also within schools and districts to help support all children.



WSPTA Top 5 Legislative Issues:

1. Increase Access to Nursing, Mental Health, and Social Emotional Learning Staff
2. Support Students and Preserve Education Funding
3. Increasing Educational Equity by Closing the Digital Divide
4. Supports and Funding for Students with Disabilities and Their Families
5. Prevent and Reduce Gun Violence and Suicide

Also Supported Issues:

- ◆ Equitable Identification and Services for Highly Capable Students
- ◆ Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Climate Change
- ◆ Safe School Plans and Emergency Preparedness

New and Updated Resolutions:

- Cultural Access Programs and Expanded Learning Opportunities
- School Nutrition, Breakfast and Lunch Policies
- Equitable Access to Recess, Play, Unstructured Time, and Physical Activity
- Social Emotional Learning and Student Success
- Restorative Justice and Improving Student Outcomes
- Dismantling Institutional and Systemic Racism
- Improving Access and Outcomes in Special Education
- Supporting K-12 Career and Technical Education
- Mitigating the Health Effects of Climate Change

New Principle under the category of Safe and Nurturing Environments for Children and Youth:

Washington State PTA shall identify and initiate education and action on public policy that

provides safe and supportive settings and climates for children and youth. The association

shall support:

- Anti-bullying and anti-harassment
- Multi-cultural education
- Student and parent education regarding internet safety
- Media education
- Traffic and pedestrian safety
- Substance abuse prevention
- Safe and healthy schools, which reduce environmental hazards
- Consistent, age-appropriate, unstructured play opportunities
- Prevention of trafficking, sexual exploitation, and abuse of minors
- Social Emotional Learning
- Integration of internet safety and electronic communications into school curriculums
- Anti-racism, anti-discrimination, anti-oppression ****new****

Information and details about Washington State PTA's full legislative platform can be found on their website: <https://www.wastatepta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/>

Our Washington State PTA leaders did a great job leading us through a legislative process that held true to the PTA spirit of consensus!