



For our children, our community, our world, our future
CHENEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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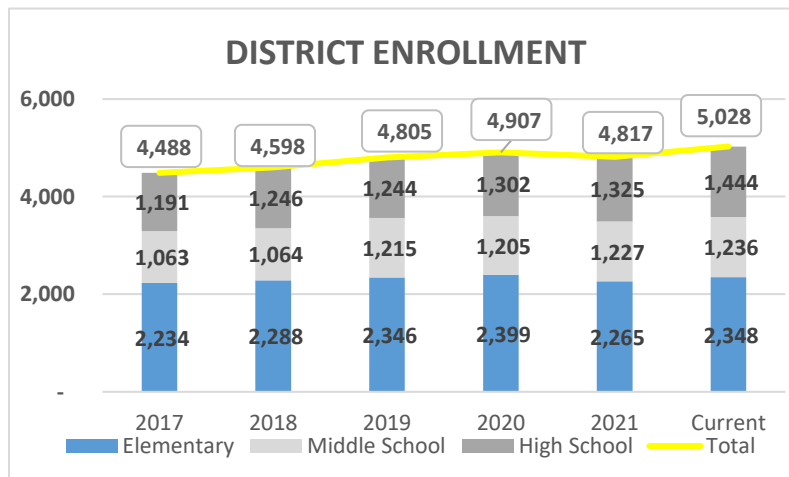
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Cheney Public Schools exists to guarantee a safe and caring learning environment where all students learn at high levels and graduate with options for post-secondary education, careers and civic engagement.



Cheney Public Schools truly appreciates the Legislature’s continued investment in K-12 education. As our state’s most valuable resource, our students deserve safe and secure schools and an equitable education system that provides meaningful learning opportunities for all children. We encourage the 2022 Legislature to support the priorities outlined on the next page.

2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PROVIDE CONSISTENT, EQUITABLE AND AMPLE RESOURCES

- Update staff allocation formulas and the prototypical school funding model. We urge the Legislature to begin a phase-in of updated ratios to improve state funded staffing levels (i.e. nurses, school psychologists, etc.)
- Special Education must be fully funded to provide legally required services to our most vulnerable students. We request the Legislature increase the multiplier to cover real costs and remove the 13.5% cap.
- To assist with staffing shortages, we request re-evaluation of the retire/rehire requirements for state employees.

IMPROVE HEALTH AND SAFETY

- We request increased funding for school health and safety so that districts can hire mental health professionals and additional school counselors.
- We request that the state continues to provide free meals to all students. When doing so we ask that an updated process for determining community poverty levels which impact programmatic funding is created.

SUPPORT SCHOOL FACILITIES AND OTHER CAPITAL NEEDS

- We request the State support the *actual* costs of school construction and update the antiquated per-student square footage allocations to support high-quality teaching and learning spaces.
- We also ask that the Legislature advance a constitutional amendment to the people that would reduce the 60% threshold for approval of school bond issues.
- We request legislative support for digital equity regardless of family income or student zipcode (connectivity/devices).
- We request that the state provides capital resources in support of child care facility needs.
- We request the state fully funds the costs associated with school mascot changes required in SHB 1356.

POLICY ADDITIONS

- We respectfully ask that the 2022 Legislature does not adopt policy additions that will significantly impact Washington's school districts.