

SUMMARY OF WSSDA PRIORITIES

As part of WSSDA's year-round advocacy cycle, school directors prioritize member-adopted positions following the General Assembly each fall. That process informs WSSDA's priorities for the next legislative session. The highest-ranked positions from 2021 are reflected in the bullets below and drove the advocacy work during the 2022 Legislative Session. For each priority area, WSSDA advocated on your behalf and engaged you in the direct effort with the legislature.

A list of bills reflecting your positions and priorities that will be enacted into law are listed below. More priorities will be met through the final budget.

Improved health and safety for students and staff

Ensure the student experience of physical, social, and emotional safety by advancing mental health supports and engaging student voice in decision-making.

- [**HB 1664**](#) - Increases minimum allocations for nurses, social workers, psychologists, and counselors in the prototypical school funding model over three school years. Designates certain staff positions as "physical, social, and emotional support staff" (PSES staff) and specifies that the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) may only allocate funding to the extent of and proportionate to a school district's demonstrated actual ratios of PSES staff. Requires that funding for PSES staff be prioritized to staff with a valid educational staff associate certificate.

Increase access to free and nutritious meals and highly-qualified, diverse staff to facilitate student learning in safe and healthy buildings.

- [**SHB 1878**](#) - Expands the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) mandatory participation requirements to all public schools with an identified student percentage of 40 percent, or lower if permitted by federal law. Requires school districts, to the extent practicable, to group schools for the purpose of maximizing the number of schools eligible to participate in the CEP.

- [**HB 1833**](#) - Requires the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to initiate and oversee the development and implementation of a statewide electronic repository of household income information that is required for a student's enrollment in, or eligibility for, the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, or both. Establishes requirements for the electronic repository and makes its contents exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act. Establishes related annual reporting requirements for the OSPI.

Support for special education programs

Increase access to inclusionary practices and invest in the required services for eligible students. This should be done without imposing an artificial cap and by recognizing that costs will vary in each district according to the unique needs of each student.

- *No bills directly impacting special education programs were introduced this session.*

Funding for staff that reflects current reality

Stabilize funding to maintain existing staff and programs.

- [**HB 1590**](#) - Provides enrollment stabilization amounts in the 2021-22 school year equal to 50 percent of the difference in combined state revenues using 2019-20 enrollment and 2021-22 enrollment if a local education agency's combined state revenue generated in the 2021-22 school year is less than what its combined state revenue would be using 2019-20 enrollment. • Authorizes the use of 2019-20 enrollment values to calculate enrichment levy limits in the 2023 calendar year and to calculate local effort assistance in the 2022 and 2023 calendar years.

Update the prototypical school funding model to reflect the needs of our students by increasing their access to highly-qualified, well-trained, and diverse staff.

- [**HB 1664**](#) – See description above.

Sufficiently fund the required benefits for all eligible school district employees.

- *No bills directly related to SEBB were introduced this session.*

Equitable and ample resources to implement basic education

Create a model to ensure that each and every student benefits from equitable funding and remove disproportionate access to levy and levy equalization (Local Effort Assistance).

- *HB 1590 provided some stability for levy and LEA but not within a new model or to remove disproportionate access.*

Facilitate equal access to a basic education by modifying the current student transportation formula to cover actual costs.

- *Progress made in the budget without the specific passage of a bill.*

Enhanced infrastructure to bolster student learning

Support digital equity by furthering access to online learning regardless of student location or family income.

- [**HB 1723**](#) - Requires the State Broadband Office to develop a state digital equity plan and provide a report to the Governor and the Legislature by December 1, 2023, that includes the state digital equity plan and certain related information. • Makes modifications to the Community Technology Opportunity Program, including renaming it the Digital Equity Opportunity Program and redefining its purpose to be the advancement of broadband adoption and digital equity. Establishes the Digital Equity Planning Grant Program to provide grants to local governments, institutions of higher education, workforce development councils, or other entities to fund the development of a digital equity plan for a discrete geographic region of the state. • Codifies the Digital Equity Forum and adds a provision allowing funds to be used to compensate, for any work done in connection with the

Forum, additional persons with lived experience navigating barriers to digital connectivity.

Support simple majority votes for bonds and improve school construction to enable safe and healthy learning environments.

- *A bill proposing a move to simple majority for school bonds was introduced this session but did not progress.*