



THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

A high-quality education system that prepares all students for college, career, and life.

Title: SBE 2018 Legislative Priorities		
As related to:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal One: Develop and support policies to close the achievement and opportunity gaps. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal Two: Develop comprehensive accountability, recognition, and supports for students, schools, and districts.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal Three: Ensure that every student has the opportunity to meet career and college ready standards. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal Four: Provide effective oversight of the K-12 system. <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Relevant to Board roles:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy leadership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> System oversight <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication <input type="checkbox"/> Convening and facilitating
Policy considerations / Key questions:	What will the Board's legislative priorities be for the short 2018 legislative session?	
Relevant to business item:	2018 legislative priorities	
Materials included in packet:	2018 SBE Legislative Priorities Recommended by the SBE Legislative Committee	
Synopsis:		

The Board decided at its annual retreat in September to establish a Legislative Advocacy Committee with four purposes:

1. Reviewing all potential legislative priorities (post-September retreat), then recommending legislative priorities to the full board for November consideration/adoption.
2. Assisting in creation of a year-round legislative advocacy plan.
3. Galvanizing the fellow board members as needed to maximize collective and individual relationships and expertise.
4. Advising Executive Director and Director of Policy and Partnerships during legislative sessions, as necessary, to support nimble and strategic advocacy.

Committee Membership: Patty Wood (Chair), MJ Bolt, Alan Burke, Judy Jennings, Holly Koon, and Ricardo Sanchez.

The Committee has spent extensive time, accomplishing #1 and has a 2018 Legislative Platform to recommend to you for adoption at your November 8-9 meeting.



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DRAFT 2018 Legislative Platform

The State Board of Education urges the Legislature to prioritize funding for programs and services that close opportunity gaps and support high achievement so that every student in Washington graduates from high school career- and college-ready.

Top legislative priority: Fully Fund Special Education

Washington State's Special Education program remains underfunded, which necessitates districts' use of local funds to meet federal mandates under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The State Board of Education urges the 2018 Legislature to eliminate districts' reliance on local dollars for this basic education purpose by increasing the per-student state funding for students with an Individualized Education Plan from 0.93 FTE to 1.09 FTE and by increasing safety net account funding from \$31 million to \$47 million.

Support timely policy and budget requests that align with SBE strategic priorities:

- Persistent educational opportunity and achievement gaps exist across the P-20 spectrum among various student groups based on race, ethnicity, special needs, income, and English language proficiency. The State Board urges the Legislature to increase personnel and programmatic investments proven to close these egregious gaps, including culturally responsive teaching and learning.
- Far too many of our students are suffering deeply, and students throughout our K-12 system need educators' help to bolster their abilities to manage emotions, set and accomplish goals, establish and sustain relationships, and make responsible decisions. The State Board of Education urges the Legislature to invest in social-emotional and trauma-informed educational approaches.
- Hundreds of schools across our state are poised to be identified for *targeted or comprehensive support* in the new Achievement Index. The State Board of Education urges the Legislature to provide financial and programmatic support for persistently low performing schools and technical support for challenged schools in need of improvement.
- Strong guidance and planning around post-secondary preparation has been shown to be critical for students. The 2017 Legislature made the High School and Beyond Plan more meaningful by expanding it to the middle school level. The State Board of Education urges the Legislature to provide the financial and programmatic support at the middle school level required to effectively implement the new changes.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact Kaaren Heikes at Kaaren.heikes@k12.wa.us.