

2024 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



Washington's education system is still recovering from the impacts of the pandemic. The Board urges the Legislature to **invest in learning recovery** options, including tutoring and extended learning. The Board supports investments and evidence-based strategies that accelerate learning and address the long-term impacts of the pandemic, as well as systemic inequities that existed prior to the pandemic. As we work towards long-term recovery, we must take the opportunity to build a better education system with students and educational equity at the center.



To this end, the Board's 2024 legislative priorities center on **creating an equitable education system** that is responsive to the individual needs of students.

The Board supports legislation targeted to dismantling institutional policies, programs, and practices that contribute to disparate and statistically predictable outcomes based on race, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, and other factors.

Achieving this goal requires investment in long-standing **FOUNDATIONAL PRIORITIES:**

- **Equitable funding** – Prioritize funding based on the diverse needs of students.
- **Special education** – Fully fund special education services by removing the arbitrary cap and support inclusionary practices.

FOCUS PRIORITIES FOR 2024

Support the Whole Child to Create the Conditions Needed for Learning

Expand and Strengthen Opportunities for Powerful Learning

Build Capacity for Education Partners to Better Serve Students & Families



FOCUS PRIORITIES FOR 2024

Support the Whole Child to Create the Conditions Needed for Learning

- Ensure all youth have access to quality and accessible mental/behavioral health care and other equity-based practices that promote student well-being.
- Provide school staff with the tools they need to effectively support students in distress and manage challenging situations, including training in de-escalation and trauma-informed practices.
- Support recruitment and retention of staff who reflect the diversity of the students they serve.
- Incentivize school districts to expand culturally responsive and inclusive offerings, such as ethnic studies, in which students see their own cultures reflected and learn about cultures other than their own.

Expand and Strengthen Opportunities for Powerful Learning

- Expand dual language education statewide and provide all students with the opportunity to earn the Seal of Biliteracy and mastery-based world language credit.
- Establish a clear timeline for implementation of Since Time Immemorial and tribal-developed history curriculum (fulfilling the state requirement that began in 2015) and provide more robust implementation support.
- Support expansion of the Ninth Grade Success Initiative to increase course passing rates for ninth graders, a key predictor of high school graduation and post-secondary readiness and success.
- Continue supporting the Mastery-based Learning Collaborative and lessons learned to increase student access to this culturally responsive instructional approach that provides more personalized, relevant learning to students. Additionally, incentivize schools to provide opportunities for students to experience engaging, hands-on learning.

Build Capacity for Education Partners to Better Serve Students and Families

- Provide funding, professional development, and technical assistance to build capacity for schools to foster authentic and mutually beneficial school-community partnerships.
- Support student-led advocacy efforts and promote student representation on local school boards and work groups.
- Provide flexibility for state-level education boards to meet their administrative needs so that they can streamline operations and strengthen focus on the priority work of developing education policy in partnership with the individuals and groups most impacted.