



# The Washington State Board of Education

An education system where students are engaged in personalized education pathways that prepare them for civic engagement, careers, postsecondary education, and lifelong learning.

## 2021 Legislative Platform

The COVID-19 public health crisis has shed light on long-standing inequities in our education system. The impacts of the coronavirus are amplified by our long history of institutional racism. Rather than returning to normal, this dual pandemic presents an opportunity to transform the education system into one that serves all students equitably. To this end, the Board's 2021 legislative priorities center on **creating an equitable education system** that is responsive to the individual needs of students. Achieving this goal requires additional K-12 funding. In the current financial crisis, the Board urges the Legislature to honor its constitutional commitment to fully fund basic education, and further, to **prioritize funding to those most in need**. The state must ensure resources for students receiving special education services and those furthest from educational justice who are disproportionately impacted by disruptions to learning.

### Put student and staff physical and emotional safety at the forefront

- Ensure students and staff return to safe school environments
- Modernize the school funding model to invest in more social emotional health and safety staff
- Provide school staff with professional development in trauma-informed, antiracist, and culturally responsive instruction
- Make sure state policies support school environments where teacher-student relationships are prioritized and educators are given the time and capacity to foster these relationships

### Center student, family, and community voices in policymaking

- Create more authentic and meaningful opportunities to engage students, families, and community members as essential partners in the collective process of policymaking
- Support student-led advocacy efforts and promote student representation on local school boards and work groups

### Incorporate ethnic studies and antiracism throughout K-12

- Ensure every student sees their own culture reflected in their education and learns about cultures other than their own
- Incentivize recruiting and retaining a diverse educator workforce
- Incorporate antiracism and cultural responsiveness into educator preparation and professional development programs
- Bolster efforts to embed ethnic studies throughout K-12 state learning standards and curricula and to increase ethnic studies offerings in our schools

### Ensure digital equity to support continuous learning

- Ensure every student and educator has access to broadband Internet, an appropriate device for online learning, and technology support
- Provide school staff with professional development on how to effectively engage students in remote learning
- Support families, caregivers, and community partners in creating environments for successful remote learning

### Build supports and incentives to promote mastery-based learning

- Continue the Mastery-based Learning Work Group to transform our education system and close opportunity gaps
- Develop a clear policy framework to address barriers and support implementation of the work group's recommendations

