



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.

Legislative Session Kick-Off

PREPARED FOR THE JANUARY 2020 BOARD MEETING

Information and Possible Action

Materials included in packet:

- 2020 Legislative Platform Mark-up – *Possible Action*
- [Governor’s Proposed 2020 Supplemental Budget and Policy Highlights](#)

Synopsis:

Staff will provide legislative update and suggest minor revisions to the platform document in response to the Governor’s budget release. In addition, staff will brief members on bills aligned with the platform and/or bills that impact the board or the board’s areas of authority.



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2020 Legislative Platform (January 15 - Draft)

The Board appreciates the progress the 2019 Legislature made in increasing flexibility in high school graduation requirements. During the second year of this biennium, the Board is committed to continued collaboration with the legislature and our other K-12 partners to implement and refine current state policies to ensure all of Washington's students graduate prepared for civic engagement, careers, postsecondary education, and lifelong learning. The Board's 2020 legislative platform builds on the priorities established last year. The Board will also advocate to advance additional initiatives consistent with our 2019-2023 strategic plan.

Educational Equity

The Board supports legislation targeted to dismantling institutional policies, programs, and practices that contribute to disparate and statistically predictable educational outcomes based on race, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, and other factors. Specifically, the Board supports changes to school funding that are equitable and based on the diverse needs of students and changing societal demands. In addition, the Board supports increasing access to dual credit and high-quality expanded learning opportunities for historically underserved students.

School Safety

Safe schools foster academic achievement and a healthy K-12 system. The Board urges the state to create a state-wide framework for mental health support, social emotional learning, and trauma-informed instructional models in the K-12 system; and to further expand and sustain comprehensive statewide school safety and mental health systems via regional coordination.

Special Education

Despite critical investments made in 2019, Special Education funding remains inadequate. The Board urges the Legislature to increase funding for students who have Individualized Education Plans and students qualifying for the Safety Net, and to support inclusionary practices.

Early Learning

The Board appreciates the progress made last year and urges the Legislature to continue to expand access to affordable, high-quality early childhood education for all of Washington's children, particularly children of color and children in poverty, to mitigate opportunity and achievement gaps.

Modest Budget Requests

The Board ~~has submitted requests~~[is requesting funding](#) to support ~~our website ADA accessibility and~~ local development of credit-bearing High School and Beyond Plan options. In addition, the Board is advocating for additional [staff](#) resources at ERDC to support cross-agency data analysis and reporting [in support of Career Connect Washington](#).

