

Migrant Student Opportunity to Dream

Washington State Board of Education January 2020

Western Washington Student Presentation

Margarita Amezcua



HOPE SQUAD

hold on. persuade. empower.











AWSL Student Voice and Advocacy Committee 2020 Platform

Mental Health

- Support the student mental health resolution from the State Board of Education.
- Support recommendations from the School-Based Behavioral Health Subcommittee regarding the definition of an MTSS framework for schools, suicide prevention training for staff and students, and funding ESD navigator positions and health centers in schools.
- Tie social services to educational services so that the connection between home and school is
- Provide more extracurricular activities such as intramural sports.

School Security

- Increase safety measures such as cameras in parking lots and locked doors around school
- Provide more gender neutral bathrooms.
- · Update dress code policies.
- Use different discipline tactics so that students get help with self awareness, emotions, stress relievers, and substance abuse. Treat students fairly. Reduce the inequity between how male and female students are treated.

Resources

- Provide resources to make dual credit opportunities such as College in the Classroom, Running Start, AP, and IB attainable for more students.
- · Translate more documents into different languages.
- . Provide more support to immigrant students so that they know their rights and options after high school.

Education

- Have fewer requirements so that students can personalize their education and find their passion.
- Include ethnic studies in schools.
- . Include LGBTQ+ studies in classes such as health or social studies.
- . Break the stigma for talking about sexual health education and provide information for students who choose to be sexually active.
- · Teach world languages at a younger age.
- . Make CTE credits flexible and related to our potential careers.

Student representatives are 10th, 11th and 12th grade students at these high schools: Central Valley, Auburn Riverside, Sumner, Hanford, Harrison Prep, Kamiakin, Ephrata, Timberline, Chiawana, Renton, Union, Bellingham, Warden, Toppenish, Klahowya, Othello, and White Pass





OUR PROGRAMS

High School Middle Level

Elementary

Latinx Programs CheerLeadership

Deaf Teen Programs

Credit Classes

Adviser Programs **Custom Programs**

Student Voice & Advocacy

I AM | WE ARE

AWSL Student Voice & Advocacy Board

The AWSL Student Voice and Advocacy Board (SVAB) participates in meetings and conferences, gathering student input on issues affecting today's schools. The SVAB is actively involved in developing programs that train students and adults on Leadership initiatives and activities.

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AWSL Student Voice & Advocacy Board Members 2019 - 2020

- Autymn Wilde (Central Valley HS) Eastern Washington SBE Representative
- Margarita Amezcua (Auburn Riverside HS) Western Washington SBE Representative
- · Sophia Wasson (Sumner HS)



Policies Currently in Place

- HB 1079 allows eligible undocumented students to pay in-state tuition at Washington state colleges and universities
 - According to the state legislature, eligible if:
 - Resided in WA for < 3 years prior to receiving HS diploma & completed full senior year at a Washington HS <u>OR</u> completed equivalent of HS diploma & resided in WA for three years prior to receiving equivalency if a diploma

AND

 Continued to reside in WA since earning HS diploma or equivalency diploma



Real Hope Act

- AKA WAFSA
- Application for students unable to complete FAFSA because of immigration status
- Allows for undocumented students to receive financial help in order to better chances of attending post- high school schooling



My Experience

- Original SBE / AWSL SVAB interview
- Who do I represent for my peers?
- Week in ESL classrooms
- Stories upon stories



Stories

- Isolated
- Lonely
- Outsider
- Terrified
- Humiliated
- Made to feel inferior
- "Like I was a wild animal roaming free, but then got locked in cage"



Our Mission Statement.

■ "The mission of the State Board of Education is to provide transparent leadership in K-12 education policy-making; effective oversight of schools serving Washington K-12 students; and, assertive advocacy for student personal growth and success. These three areas of responsibility will support a system that personalizes learning for each student and values diverse cultures, abilities, and learning styles."



What We Do Not Have

- According to stories shared
 - Patience
 - Empathy
 - One on One Communication
 - Hope
 - Encouragement
 - Inspiration

Whole student perspective is not here.



Questions/Comments



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