2027 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



Washington's Future Starts *Now*

The future of Washington enters our schools every morning.

Public education isn't optional; it's the state's legal and paramount duty. Every student and staff member deserves to learn and lead in safe, equitable environments where goals become achievements. We want every student to graduate inspired, skilled, and equipped with a credential that opens doors to stability, opportunity, and purpose.

Investments in education and school leadership today create lasting returns for Washington. By strengthening our schools now, we can expand opportunities for students, support educators, develop future leaders, and build the skilled workforce our communities and economy depend on. Investing early and consistently is the most effective path to long-term success and sustainability.

School districts are facing mounting costs beyond the classroom—from staff time consumed by abusive public records requests to rapidly escalating insurance costs driven by tort and liability pressures. Washington should pursue commonsense reforms that reduce these compounding costs and protect taxpayer resources, allowing more funding to remain focused on students, educators, and learning.

Our kids can't wait.

Invest in Every Student: Engage in What Shapes Their Future

Artificial Intelligence

Establish statewide expectations and safeguards for artificial intelligence in schools, including responsible educator use of AI-generated instructional materials and assignments, and strong protections for student information and privacy.

Mental Health

Support Medicaid school-based services and preserve funding for Student Assistance Professionals and Behavioral Health Navigators. Protect and expand School-Based Health Centers, and systems that identify and support students earlier.

Civic Engagement

Expand student voice, civic engagement, and leadership opportunities, including continued support for the Student Civic Education Summit, student government, youth advisory boards, mock legislatures, debate, community engagement, and public-agency internships.

Continued

Invest in the People for Students: Create a Statewide Educational Leadership Program

Dean of Students Pilot

Launch a Dean of Students Principal Preparation Pilot for educators enrolled in an approved principal preparation program and completing the required 540-hour principal internship. Districts would receive funding to employ participating interns as Deans of Students, providing authentic, supervised leadership experience while they complete certification requirements.

Mentoring

Provide dedicated, non-evaluative mentoring for aspiring and beginning principals, including statewide principal mentor and induction standards, mentor training, and stipends for experienced leaders serving as mentors.

Leadership System

Build a consistent statewide leadership language and support system by aligning principal preparation programs, districts, and the AWSP Leadership Framework through the School Leader Paradigm and related resources.

Invest in the Foundation for Students: Legally Fund Basic Education

MSOC

State funding should reflect the rising cost of essential school operations, ensuring districts can sustain high-quality educational programs while meeting increasing utility, insurance, and operating expenses.

Special Education

Students with disabilities deserve timely, individualized support. State funding continues to fall short, requiring districts to redirect funding for critical student supports. Strengthen accessibility and disability supports so students with physical, learning, and other disabilities receive meaningful services and accommodations.

Educator Leave and Substitute Costs

Fund additional leave days for educators. The state requires districts to provide up to ten days of educator leave, but only funds four. Districts absorb millions in substitute costs each year, eliminating resources from student learning.

The Return: A Stronger Washington.

- ***Do no harm: no cuts to K–12 education.***
- ***Pause on new policies so that schools can focus on core academic needs.***
- ***Restore funding to the Transition to Kindergarten program.***
- ***Protect and maintain Local Effort Assistance (LEA) to ensure students have equitable opportunities regardless of local property wealth.***
- ***Expand the Learning Assistance Program (LAP) to better support students experiencing poverty and academic barriers.***
- ***Protect districts from abusive public records requests that divert staff time and taxpayer resources.***
- ***Reform tort and liability laws that drive escalating insurance costs.***

The Washington School Principals' Education Foundation

Adopted October 2026