



PROPOSED PRIORITIES FOR PLATFORM DISCUSSION

Submitted for the August 2023 Board meeting by J. Lee Schultz, Director of Advocacy and Engagement

The Legislative Committee proposes the following advocacy priorities **to serve as a starting point for the Board's discussion in August**. The Board will continue this discussion at the September meeting and adopt the final legislative platform at the October meeting.

This includes long-standing Board priorities (educational equity, funding, and special education); carry over priorities from last year's platform; and emerging priorities from the Board's engagement with students and community partners.

UMBRELLA PRIORITY: Educational equity

- The Board's 2024 legislative priorities center on creating an equitable education system that is responsive to individual needs of students.

FOUNDATIONAL PRIORITY: Equitable Funding

- Prioritize funding based on the diverse needs of students.
- Fully fund special education services and support inclusionary practices.

PROPOSED PRIORITY BUCKETS (with example strategies) – FOR DISCUSSION

- **Physical and Emotional Safety**
 - Implement a statewide approach for assessing school climate that supports school districts in engaging with students and families to use survey results to improve climate and culture.
 - Address Washington's adolescent mental health crisis by ensuring all kids have access to quality and accessible behavioral health care (e.g., Children's Alliance report recommendations).
- **Cultural Responsiveness**
 - Support recruitment and retention of staff who reflect the diversity of the students they serve.
 - Incentivize school districts to expand culturally affirming offerings, such as ethnic studies, in which students see their own cultures reflected and learn about cultures other than their own.
 - Require school districts to implement Since Time Immemorial and tribal-developed history curriculum (fulfilling the state requirement that began in 2015).

- **Information Transparency and Accountability**

- Support joint communications and sharing of information across education agencies to make it easier for the public to navigate systems and access resources.
- Streamline data sharing so that policymakers and stakeholders have the information needed to make data-based decisions.
- Broaden what the state measures for monitoring the education system and informing improvements to include resources and experiences in addition to outcomes (education system health report recommendations).

- **Community Partnership**

- Create more authentic and meaningful opportunities to engage students, families, and community members as essential partners in the collective process of policymaking.
- 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.

- **Relevancy and Personalization of the Student Learning Experience**

- Address barriers and incentivize schools to offer more hands on, project based, personalized, and cross-curricular learning opportunities that are tailored to students' interests.
- Support schools to recognize the multiple ways students can show what they know and can do (through, for example, mastery-based crediting, performance-based assessment, and standards-based grading).
- Continue supporting the Mastery-based Learning Collaborative and lessons that come out of it to increase student access to this culturally responsive instructional approach that provides more personalized, relevant learning to students.
- Expand opportunities for students to develop technology and media literacy, financial literacy, and life skills.

- **Access to Powerful Learning Opportunities**

- Expand access and fully fund dual credit programs so students can engage in advanced coursework and earn college credit at no cost to the student or family.
- Expand dual language education statewide and provide all students with the opportunity to earn the Seal of Biliteracy and mastery-based world language credit.
- Ensure equitable access to high quality elementary science learning opportunities; support elementary educators to integrate science with other content areas.
- Promote best practices for implementation of academic acceleration policy (automatically advancing qualified students to the next most rigorous course).
- 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.