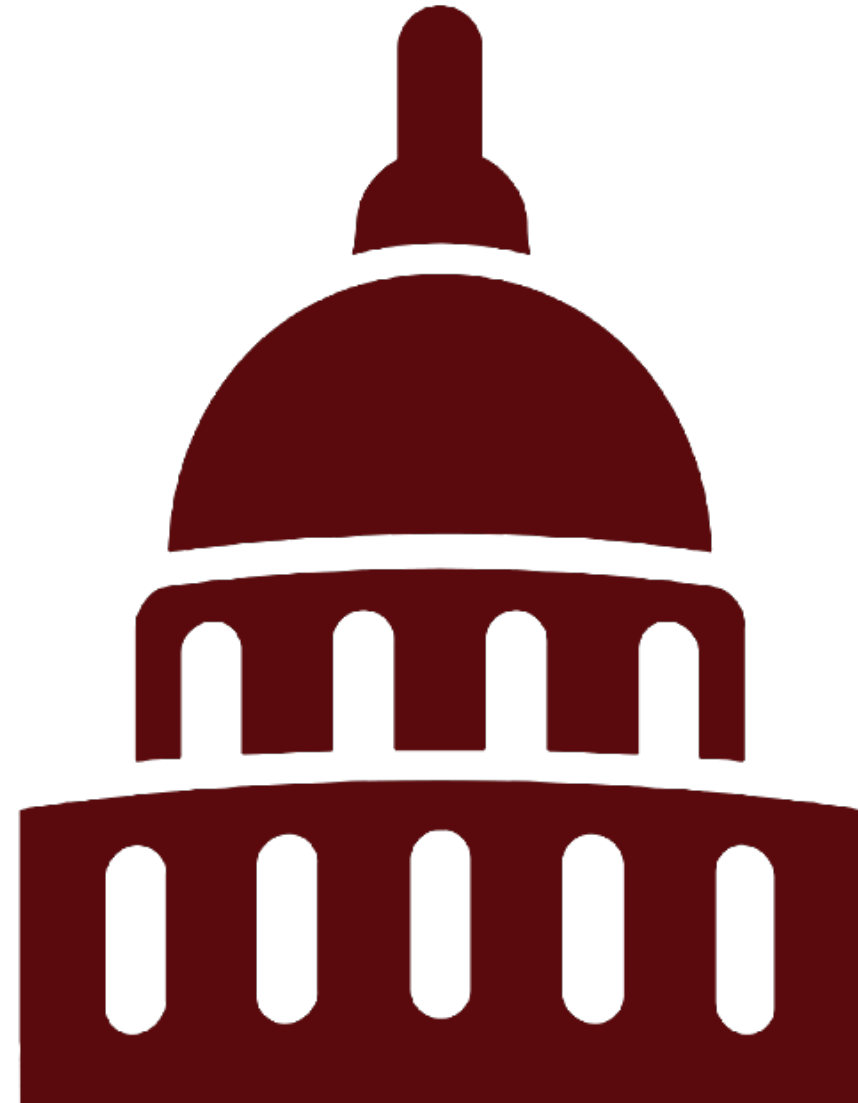




# Legislative Priorities

Washington State Board of Education  
June 25, 2025



# Discussion Today

- Background and updates on interim plan and implementation
- Discussion of potential agency requests
- Legislative platform
  - Background on platform development process
  - Collaborative activity

# Objectives

1. The Board will provide staff with direction on legislative requests concepts to explore and potentially develop for submission to the Governor's Office in September.
2. The Board will begin to identify and discuss priorities for potential inclusion on the Board's legislative platform for the 2026 session, which is scheduled for adoption in October.



# Background & Updates

# Legislative Committee

## Purpose

- Serves in advisory capacity to the staff and the Board
- Develops the Board's annual legislative platform and year-round advocacy plan
- Provides guidance on legislative positions

## Commitment

- Meets weekly during session and once or twice per month during interim

## Members

- Mary (Chair)
- Angela
- Bill
- Brooke
- Paul
- Ron

# Interim Plan Timeline

## April 16-17 Board Meeting

- Board receives recap of 2025 session outcomes

Mid-April (TBD) through June

- Staff and Leg Comm explore interim issues
- Stakeholder engagement

## June 24-26 Board Meeting Annual Planning

- Community liaisons share issues and priorities
- Board reflection and discussion of priorities
- Board provides staff direction on budget and legislative requests to explore/develop

July to mid-August

- Staff and Leg Comm explore and develop request concepts
- Stakeholder engagement

## August 13-14 Board Meeting

- Legislative Committee shares update on development of requests
- Board provides feedback on requests
- Board discussion of platform priorities

Second half of August

- Staff and Leg Comm address feedback and finalize requests for board approval
- Stakeholder engagement

## September 4 Board Meeting

- Board approval of requests
- Board discussion of platform priorities
- *Sep 15th - OFM deadline for agency requests*

Sept. to mid-October

- Staff and Leg Comm develop platform for board approval
- Stakeholder engagement

## October 15-16 Board Meeting

- Board approval of legislative platform

# What Tools Do We Have?

- **Rulemaking Authority (WAC):** The Board creates administrative rules on specific areas, such as graduation requirements and compliance with basic education programs.
- **Agency Request Legislation:** When issues fall outside rulemaking authority, the Board may request changes in statute (RCW) to address needed policy changes to better serve our students.
- **Agency Budget Request:** The Board may request funding consistent with its role and mission.
- **Advocacy:** The Board advocates for change through partnerships with the Governor's Office, Legislature, and other stakeholders.
  - Advocating for priorities featured on the Board's **legislative platform**.
  - Sharing positions on bills and testifying before legislative committees.
  - Providing feedback and suggestions to lawmakers.
- **Legislative Reports:** Provide analysis and typically include recommendations to support the work of the Legislature.

# SB 5189—Supporting the Implementation of Competency-based Education (CBE)

## Designation Process:

- SBE must recommend a process to identify and designate schools implementing CBE and outline associated costs.
- Recommendations due in SBE's December 31, 2025 legislative report (findings from the MBLC work).
- External Contract to support process design.

## CBE Transcript Format:

- In consultation with partners, SBE must recommend to OSPI a format for a CBE transcript.
- Deadline: Before the 2026–27 school year; will be included in SBE's December 2025 report.
- Stakeholder engagement scheduled for summer/fall 2025.

## Additional Requirements:

- OSPI and WIAA have implementation responsibilities.
- OSPI must consult with SBE on select tasks.



# Potential Request Concepts

# Potential Budget Request Concepts

- Mastery Based Learning Collaborative
- Administrative
  - Transition to small agency IT services
  - Public records staff support
  - Restoring the 6% administrative cut
  - Address an increase in OSPI indirect charges the agency pays



# Budget Request: Mastery Based Learning Collaborative

- Interest in revisiting a budget request
  - Aim: Better support for participating MBLC schools
  - Context: Last year's underfunding impacted implementation
- Desire to strengthen the focus on sustainability
  - Within this year's request, include a sustainability component to begin building towards a long-term structure for this work.
  - A more holistic sustainability request package is anticipated next year, following the December 2025 legislative report.





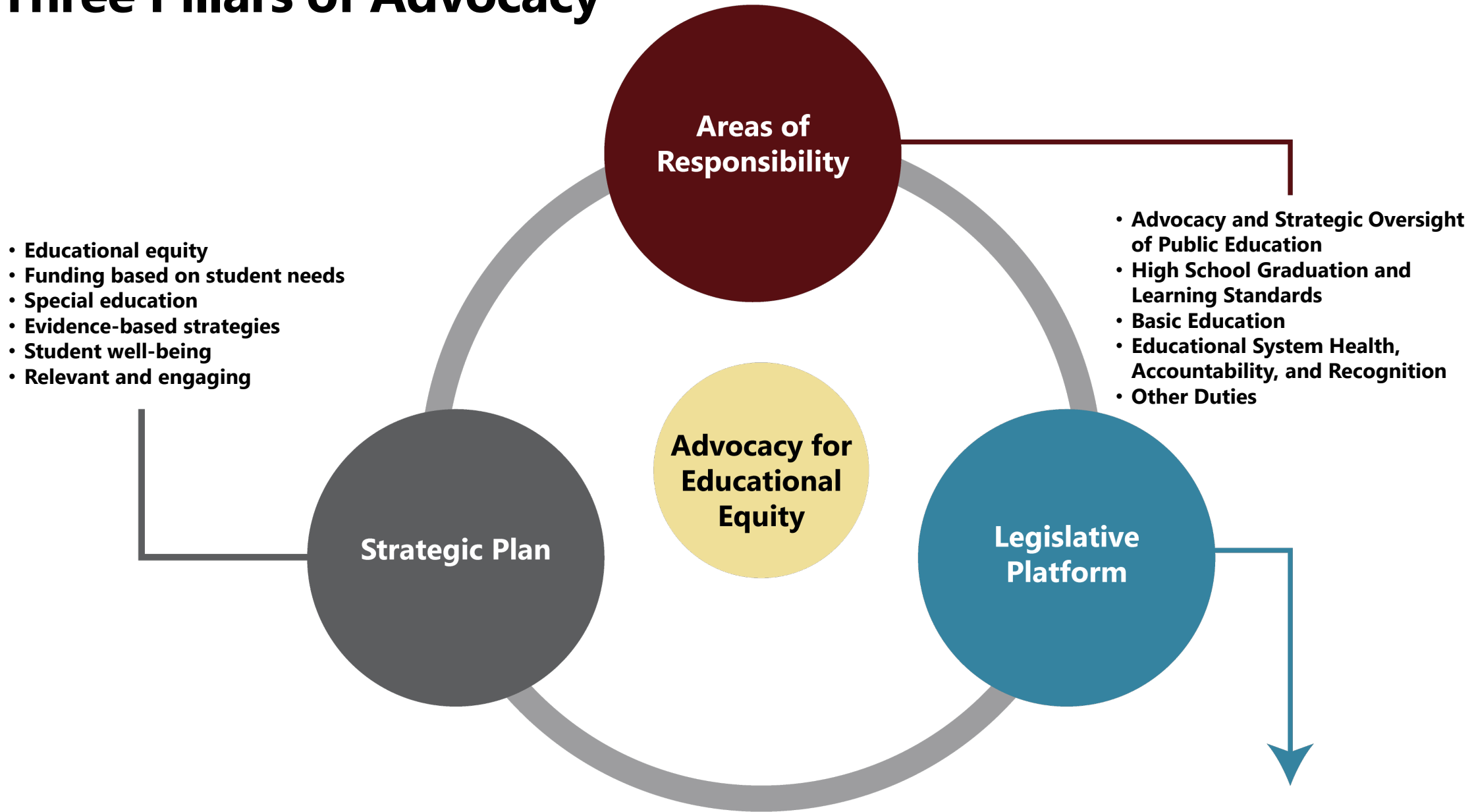
# Budget Request(s) on Administrative Matters

- **Transition to WaTech Small Agency IT Services** Small agency IT services would provide more customizable support for agency functions, in particular providing better support for Board emails, agency owned devices, and remote access for members and staff.
- **Public Records Staff Support**  
The volume and complexity of public records requests and other required records searches has increased substantially. The impact on staff time is creating significant capacity challenges – particularly for administrative staff.
- **Restoring the 6% Administrative Cut**  
The 2025-2027 biennial operating budget includes a 6% general administrative cut without a corresponding cut in our responsibilities.
- **Address an increase in OSPI indirect charges the agency pays**  
The agency currently pays 10.7% of most expenses to OSPI to cover the cost of providing administrative services for the agency. The rate is based on OSPI's federal restricted indirect cost rate and is subject to change and reapproval each year. For fiscal year 2026, OSPI proposed an increase to 14.9%. This rate increase results in an additional \$89,000 cost to SBE.



# Legislative Platform Development

# Three Pillars of Advocacy



## Develop an Annual Legislative Platform

- The Board dedicates the time between legislative sessions (a.k.a. "interim") to crafting our legislative platform for the upcoming session.
- Serves as a tool to highlight the Board's top priorities for the Legislature's consideration.
- Establishes priorities for the Board to engage on during a given legislative session.
- Informed by input from education partners, students, families, and communities—especially those historically underserved.

# Strategic Plan: Foundational Priorities

Promote **educational equity** where each student receives the support they need

Allocate **funding** based on student needs

Fully fund **special education** and support inclusionary practices

Invest in **evidence-based strategies** for learning recovery

Promote **student well-being** and a supportive learning environment

Provide equitable access to **relevant and engaging** learning opportunities

# Strategic Plan: Values

- **Champion inclusive and equitable education**  
Ensure every student receives the opportunity and support they need to grow and thrive
- **Honor the brilliance of each student**  
Value the diverse strengths and unique backgrounds of every student
- **Create learning environments focused on relationships**  
Foster mutual respect, belonging, and joy
- **Personalize learning for every student**  
Challenge and support each student to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- **Build strong relationships and community connections**  
Partner with families and communities to create new opportunities that incorporate diverse histories, identities, and experiences
- **Support holistic development**  
Nurture students' well-being and academic growth
- **Reflect diverse identities in education**  
Ensure curriculum is inclusive and culturally responsive, empowering students to address societal challenges
- **Promote relevant and engaging learning**  
Make learning hands-on and applicable to real-world contexts



# Platform Development Collaborative Activity

# Grounding the Platform in Community Voice

This conversation is the launching point for the Board's legislative platform development. Priorities identified through today's discussion will help inform the Board's direction, alongside continued engagement with partners, leading up to platform adoption in October.

## **Community Liaisons:**

- Share top issues and stories from your community
- Help identify where state-level support is needed
- Ensure community voices stay centered in the conversation

## **Board Members:**

- Listen actively and ask clarifying questions
- Explore how issues align with the Board's role and responsibilities
- Share state-level context and connect ideas to policy levers

# Activity Overview

**Three rounds of conversation** with visiting community liaisons.

Each round builds on the last:

**1. Round 1 – Surface Issues (~20 min)**

Identify key community issues and circle those that may need state-level action

**2. Round 2 – Explore Solutions (~20 min)**

Focus on circled issues. Discuss what's needed from the state to make progress.

**3. Round 3 – Select Priorities (~15 min)**

Select 1-2 top priorities to elevate. Prepare to share out.

**Wrap-up & Report Out (~3 min per group)**

Each table shares their top issues, what support is needed, and why it matters.

# Round 1: What Issues Are Top of Mind? (~20 minutes)

**Goal:** Broadly surface community priorities and identify which may require state-level support

## Instructions:

- Start with a broad brainstorm of key community issues. Liaisons should share top-of-mind priorities, along with relevant stories and context.
- Board members ask clarifying questions to better understand each issue and help explore whether it lends itself to state-level action or support.
- Write down all issues on chart paper.
- Review the list together and **circle** those items that connect to state-level solutions or advocacy.

## Discussion Questions:

- **Top of mind issues**
  - What educational challenges or issues are most top of mind for your community right now?
  - Where are students, families, or educators experiencing barriers that feel urgent or systemic?
- **Local or state level**
  - Do these issues seem rooted in local conditions, or do they reflect broader gaps that require action at the state level?
  - What examples or experiences highlight the need for change at the state level?
- **Scalable solutions**
  - Are there any standout programs, partnerships, or practices in your community that are showing strong results and could be replicated or scaled statewide?

# TRANSITION

Board members, please rotate to a new table. Community liaisons, stay where you are and keep your brainstormed list visible—we'll build on it in the next round.

## Round 2: What Would Move The Needle? (~20 minutes)

**Goal:** Deepen the conversation around issues identified as requiring state-level support

### Instructions:

- **Focus only on circled issues** from Round 1.
- Together, liaisons and board members will explore what is needed from the state to help address or alleviate the issue.
- Liaisons will share ideas grounded in community experience, while board members will help identify potential actions or policy changes the state could consider in response.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What would it take to make real progress on this issue?
  - What specific types of support or action do you need from the state?
  - Are there policy changes, better guidance, flexibility, or shifts that would help—even without major funding?
2. What's getting in the way right now?

# TRANSITION

Board members, please rotate to a new table. Community liaisons, stay where you are and keep your brainstormed list visible—we'll build on it in the next round.

# Round 3: What Rises To The Top (~20 minutes)

**Goal:** Identify the most urgent and impactful issues that require state-level action.

## Instructions:

- Board members and liaisons work together to reflect on the evolving list of issues and collaboratively select 1–2 shared priorities to elevate. These should reflect both the community’s most urgent needs and the Board’s ability to support or act.
- Board members help think through why these issues stand out and what role the Board might play.
- Choose a representative that will report out for the whole group.
- Prepare your recap before next transition.

## Discussion Questions:

- Which 1–2 issues feel most urgent and important?
- What makes them a strong fit for Board attention or advocacy?
- What change or outcome would you like to see in the next year or two?
- What would help these priorities gain momentum - either legislatively or through other state-level support?

# Group Report Out

**Goal:** Recap of their conversation and share

## Instructions:

- Each table will briefly recap their discussion. You'll have ~**3 minutes** to share the following:
  - Share 1–2 top-priority issues that call for state-level action
  - A short summary of what kind of support or change is needed
  - Why these priorities raises to the top

# Next Steps

## July – Mid-August

- Continued development of request concepts by staff and the Legislative Committee
- Ongoing stakeholder engagement to refine ideas and ensure alignment

## August 13–14 Board Meeting

- Legislative Committee presents an update on draft requests
- Full Board provides feedback and engages in discussion
- Board begins identifying and refining platform priorities

# Contact Information

**Website: [www.SBE.wa.gov](http://www.SBE.wa.gov)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/washingtonSBE](http://www.facebook.com/washingtonSBE)**

**Twitter: [@wa\\_SBE](https://twitter.com/wa_SBE)**

**Email: [sbe@k12.wa.us](mailto:sbe@k12.wa.us)**

**Phone: 360-725-6025**

