

School Director Legislative Program

The board will represent the district's interests in legislative action to promote the welfare of equitable public education in the state of Washington or will direct those interests to be represented through its executive officer, the superintendent or designee.

As a public entity, the board must operate within the bounds of state and federal laws affecting public education. To effectively meet these responsibilities to the public and students of the district, the board will work vigorously for the passage of new laws designed to advance the cause of effective schools and for the repeal or modification of existing laws that impede this cause. The board also supports a legislative program that fosters the maintenance of local control in decision making and governance within the district.

To achieve these goals, the board will periodically study, discuss and weigh the merits of pending legislation for the purpose of establishing its official position through board action. When established, these official positions will be the position of the district in the legislative process.

Board Legislative Activities

The board will:

- A. Designate one of its members to serve as legislative representative with the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA);
- B. Develop an annual legislative program through conferences with the WSSDA and the National School Boards Association;
- C. Support and work for legislation that promotes the quality of education within the Olympia School District, the region, and the state of Washington;
- D. Commit to sending a team to the WSSDA/WASA Legislative Conference held each February;
- E. Stay informed of pending legislation and actively communicate concerns and make its position known to elected representatives at both the state and national levels by regular contact with their legislators in-district, in Olympia, and in Washington D.C.;
- F. Seek adequate funding for schools and full funding for state and federally mandated programs;
- G. Set aside board meeting time to discuss legislative issues, using resources such as WSSDA's Legislative Updates;
- H. Respond appropriately to requests for legislative proposals, comments on legislative proposals, and development of priority positions;
- I. Ensure that local media representatives and legislators are invited to board meetings and school activities;
- J. Work for the achievement of common legislative objectives with WSSDA and with other concerned groups; and
- K. Inform the public of its legislative priorities and outcomes of its legislative efforts.

