

2018 WSSDA Legislative Positions, Position Proposal Submission Process

NEW POSITION PROPOSALS

Each fall, school directors from school districts across the state come together to deliberate on and prioritize the association's legislative positions. The process begins each spring when WSSDA's Legislative Committee solicits proposals for new and/or returning legislative positions for the coming legislative session; and culminates in September at the annual Legislative Assembly.

There are two types of legislative positions: Standing Legislative Positions (SLP) and Legislative Positions (LP).

- **SLPs** are legislative positions that have been adopted by the assembly four years in a row. These positions are generally considered so important and/or universally accepted by school directors that they do not need to be reintroduced every year to be included in WSSDA's legislative agenda. Once adopted, SLPs remain and are not brought forward to the assembly unless amendments or elimination are recommended by the Legislative Committee. If, through your review of the current suite of Legislative Positions, you have recommendations for revision of an SLP, please contact WSSDA's Government Relations staff and they will connect you with the sub-committee tasked with annual review of SLPs.
- **LPs** are positions that are either newly submitted for consideration, or that are working their way through the process to become an SLP. In order for LPs to continue to be included in WSSDA's suite of legislative positions, they must be resubmitted annually, until they become an SLP.

Legislative position proposals may only be submitted by a current school director, a school board (or boards), a WSSDA standing committee or WSSDA task force, or the WSSDA Legislative Committee. Each submitted proposal is reviewed by the Legislative Committee and given a "Do Pass" or "Do Not Pass" recommendation that is taken forward to the assembly for a vote. All proposals, unless they are withdrawn, are included in the Legislative Assembly Handbook along with a rationale for the recommendation. In instances where the committee presents a "Do Not Pass" recommendation, the submitting individual or board may include a statement of support that is also included in the Assembly Handbook.

This form is for **NEW** legislative positions that are not currently part of WSSDA's suite of legislative positions. Prior to submitting a new position proposal, it is important to work with your board and to review WSSDA's current suite of legislative positions to ensure a position on this issue does not already exist. Sometimes more than one district has a similar issue they wish to address; it is not uncommon for districts to come together in submitting a collective proposal. It is important to focus on the policy problem or issue the proposal is meant to address. Exact wording is not necessary; however, it is important to be as clear and concise as possible.

If you find that the issue you would like to address is already encompassed in an existing WSSDA position or positions and has yet to become an SLP, please complete the RETURNING Position Proposal Form.

All new and/or returning position proposals must be submitted via [ONLINE FORM](#) by 5:00 p.m., Monday, April 30, 2018.

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1. Name of lead school district
Issaquah School District
2. Name of proposal lead
Harlan Gallinger
3. Email of proposal lead
gallingerh@issaquah.wednet.edu
4. Daytime phone number of proposal lead
206-390-4312
5. If you are jointly submitting a proposal with one or more school districts, please list district(s):
6. Please list the names, titles, and email addresses for proposal contacts in the other districts involved:
7. Check the applicable box:
 - The proposal was approved for submission by the school board
 - Approval is pending by the school board
 - This proposal has not been reviewed by the school board
 - This proposal was rejected for submission by the school board
 - I am submitting this proposal as an individual school director, not on behalf of my school board
 - If this proposal is a joint proposal, please share the status of its review and approval with the other districts involved
8. Proposed position title (short)
Promote Comprehensive School Safety
9. Focus of proposed position (issue area or concern)
School Safety
10. Proposed legislative position statement (ex. WSSDA shall initiate and/or support (or oppose) legislation...)
WSSDA shall initiate and/or support legislation that will:
 - **Provide stable and adequate funding for local discretionary use to include but not limited to the following measures that will continue to emphasize school safety, be it expanding existing staff trainings, promoting student assemblies and peer-to-peer student engagement, providing expanded instruction on digital citizenship, continuing bullying prevention programs, social emotional learning, and coordinating with mental health professionals for threat assessments, and interventions for at-risk students.**
 - **Promote gun violence prevention, adequately funds public-health research and education on firearms-related issues, and materially advances the coordinated delivery of mental health prevention and intervention programs between schools and communities as they are likely more effective than stand-alone programs. Washington State Legislature to recognize and prioritize its critical role in providing**
 - **Rejects arming school staff for any purpose, and will maintain existing regulation of firearms at school and will NOT support any effort to arm educators and staff.**

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11. Additional information: What resources, funding, or capacity would be necessary to implement this proposal at the school district level?

Funding for position that provides district wide support for and coordination of safety plans, implementation, and partnerships

Funding for infrastructure improvements that promote safe schools

12. Statement of support/explanation ("Argument For"): Thoroughly explain why this issue has statewide implications and should be a WSSDA legislative position. This information will be used in the "Argument For" statement in the Legislative Assembly Handbook (Note: all final arguments will be edited to 350 words or less).

Content should be compelling and include: how this issue applies to school districts/directors statewide (i.e., impacts to student learning, school safety, school district policies, funding, etc.); consequences if this issue is not addressed; how the issue may affect local control and/or school district accountability through local governance. If data on the issue is available, please cite it.

Every student who attends K-12 school in the state of Washington deserves to attend a safe school. More than 150,000 students attending more than 170 K-12 schools have experienced a shooting on campus since Columbine High School in 1999. Gun violence is the second leading cause of death in adolescents. Efforts to improve school safety will require sustained and coordinated efforts that include public policy that addresses access to guns, social-emotional curriculum K-12, access to mental health supports, improvements to building infrastructure, and comprehensive safety plans and staff training.

13. Which WSSDA legislative position category does this proposal pertain to?

- LEARNING (Student-focused: basic education, essentials for learning, pathways, assessments, graduation requirements)
- TEACHERS & ADMINISTRATORS (Educator-focused: recruitment & retention; certification & evaluation; professional development; employment, placement, benefits, bargaining)
- CAPITAL FACILITIES & SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
- FUNDING & ALLOCATIONS (State funding & compensation; local funding; transportation)
- GOVERNANCE (Local control / general district structures and operations; state/federal government requirements)

14. Which additional existing WSSDA legislative or permanent position/s does this proposal pertain to? (Please list the position number and title of the current position.)