



SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

State and Federal Legislative Agenda 2020-21



SPS has four priorities for this session in alignment with the district's strategic plan:

1. Stable funding
2. Counseling and Social Emotional Supports
3. Restorative Justice
4. Access to Learning

Stable Funding

- Reimburse for unfunded costs and for reopening costs associated with COVID-19, beyond what is reimbursed by federal funds, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for students and staff, food service, transportation, and online learning
- Protect K-12 funding and prevent mid-year budget reductions; any budget reductions deemed necessary must not create or further exacerbate funding inequities between districts and must be tied to an expenditure-mandate that is also eliminated; limit new requirements for school districts and those that are passed must come with funding
- Maintain stable support for enrollment, levy and pupil transportation funding

Counseling and Social Emotional Support

- Invest in counseling and social emotional learning supports for students, with a specific focus on black students' needs. Every student across the state has been impacted by COVID19. Students and educators will need support with mental health, trauma informed support, and social emotional support to reconnect in person, support each other, and grow as students.

Restorative Justice

- Invest in restorative justice practices for students, particularly black and indigenous students and their families, by providing resources to change school culture, repair harm and transform student to student and staff to student relationships caused by the impacts of disproportionate discipline and structural racism

Access to Learning

- Provide equitable access to technology resources including devices and broadband connectivity
- Ensure resources for individualized needs of all students

Long Term Requests

- After the current budget crisis is over, we ask the legislature to continue work on restoring equity in the K-12 education system by addressing these ongoing issues:
 - Special Education Funding
 - Increased funding for nurses



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Additional Information

Transportation Hold Harmless

Pupil transportation allocations to school districts are based on student counts and prior year spending. Without changes, the current formula will result in uneven and impractical funding levels for school years 2020-21 and 2021-22, due to drastic interruptions in ridership during the pandemic.

Enrollment and Levy Hold Harmless

Due to the pandemic, the district saw unprecedented declines in student enrollment in 2020-21 especially in kindergarten. We ask the legislature to hold our enrollment at the same levels that were used for funding in 2019-20, less three percent. These unexpected enrollment declines also impact levy collections.

Allow the school districts to find stability by not adding new policy or funding

requirements. As the state addresses the coronavirus outbreak and its economic impacts, the Legislature should avoid imposing additional mandates on school districts that are not funded. The provision of equitable learning experiences for students is incumbent on stable funding.