

What is Focus on Advocacy Week and Focus on Advocacy Day?

[Be the change] through legislation

Previously, Focus on Advocacy Day and Focus on Advocacy Week happened at the same time. This year, it was decided by the Focus on Advocacy Committee that we were going to hold the two events separate from one another with the focus on one being in person and one being virtual.

Focus on Advocacy Week: February 6-10

This year we will hold our “Focus on Advocacy Week” February 6-10. Each day will focus on a specific issue from our Top 5 list and will bring up timely information. During Focus on Advocacy Week, WSPTA develops targeted but customizable messaging for members to send to their legislators. It’s always best to include a personal story if you have one related to the daily topic. Start thinking about your compelling or personal stories for each of the Top 5 by review the list [by reviewing the Top 5 Legislative Priorities we have for 2023.](#)

Focus Day Returns: February 20

After several years of closed campus at the Washington State Capitol, legislators are back and taking in-person meetings. Washington State PTA will host a Focus Day in Olympia February 20, President’s Day. WSPTA has reserved the Columbia Room in the Legislative Building (the one with the dome) for the whole day. The Columbia Room is on the main floor and will be a great spot to gather, share information, decompress, organize yourselves, and hear from guest speakers on the hour, from 10 AM to 1 PM. Also, if you haven’t toured the Capitol, we are arranging for two tours just for WSPTA members.

The centerpiece of Focus Day, however, are your meetings with legislators. February 20 may seem like a long way off, but in scheduling terms, it’s right around the corner. [Please use this handout](#) to help guide your requests for meetings with legislators. And if you can’t make it to Olympia, legislators are still meeting virtually, so you could request that option as well. Please know that most legislators are limiting office meetings to no more than four visitors. If you know you’ll have more than four people, please ask them if scheduling a conference room for the meeting is possible.

Coming to Olympia? Here’s a rough outline of events planned for the day:

- 9:30 AM – Welcome and Overview of the Day, Messaging
- 10:00 AM – Alissa Muller, State Board of Education, Mastery-based Learning
- 11:00 AM – Tania May, Assistant Superintendent, Special Education Programs, OSPI (invited)
- 11:30 AM – Tour the Capitol (up to 40 guests, including children)
- 12:00 PM – Jenny Plaja, Government Relations Director, OSPI
- 1:00 PM – Maddy Thompson, Governor’s K-12 Policy Adviser
- 1:30 PM – Tour the Capitol (up to 40 guests, including children)

Watch for registration on the WSPTA Events page. No cost to attend unless you would like to purchase lunch.