

WSPTA 2021 Legislative Session Report



Areas of Success

Budget Assistance

Closing the Digital Divide/Broadband

Mental & Physical Health

Dismantling Systemic Racism

General Education

Early Learning

Budget Assistance

Some state funds for transportation backfill for this school year

No state funds for SPS for enrollment stabilization

Federal funds for learning loss, emergency school meals, and IDEA

State funds for 2 days of paraeducator training

\$40 million for seismic safety retrofit

Extra \$25 per student in MSOC (Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs)

Closing the Digital Divide/Broadband

ESHB 1336 – creating and expanding unrestricted authority for public entities to provide telecommunications services to end users.

2SSB 5383 – Authorizing a public utility district to provide retail telecommunications services in unserved areas under certain conditions.

E2SHB 1365 – procuring and supporting appropriate computers and devices for public school students and instructional staff. \$24 million

Mental & Physical Health

E2SHB 1477 – implementing the national 988 system to enhance and expand behavioral health crisis response and prevention services

E2SHB 1139 – addressing lead in school drinking water, \$3.6 million

SHB 1373 – requires schools to post contact information for behavioral health organizations on websites and social media sites

ESHB 1273 – requiring menstrual products in middle and high schools

Mental & Physical Health cont'd

EHB 1342 – eliminating lunch copays for students who qualify for reduced-price lunches, \$8.9 million

ESHB 1214 – changing training requirements for SROs

\$2.4 million for the Attorney General's office to develop an anonymous youth safety/suicide tip line

Funds for extra 0.5 counselor for all high poverty schools

Dismantling Systemic Racism

Many new restrictions on policing, including use of force and data collection

SHB 1356 – prohibiting the inappropriate use of Native American names, symbols, or images as public-school mascots, logos or team names, \$1.6 million

SHB 1016 – making Juneteenth a legal holiday

ESHB 1426 – requiring 25% of training for certificate renewal to be in cultural competency, diversity, equity, and inclusion

ESSB 5044 – requiring professional learning in equity, cultural competency, and dismantling institutional racism in schools

E2SSB 5227 – requiring diversity, equity, inclusion, anti-racism training and assessments in institutions of higher education

ESSB 5405 – instructing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to perform racial equity analyses

General Education

Emergency waiver of graduation requirements for class of 2020 and 2021

ESHB 1176 – prohibiting withholding of a diploma for certain fines/fees

SHB 1302 – allowing 9th graders to receive College in the High School credit

SB 5299 – allowing the use of computer science for the purpose of graduation requirements

SB 5184 – establishing a building point of contact in all K-12 public schools for students in foster care

Early Learning

E2SSB 5237 – expanding accessible affordable childcare and early childhood development programs, i.e., Fair Start Act

ESSB 5096 – excise tax on capital gains (revenue supports the Fair Start Act)

Early Childhood Education & Assistance Program slots are increased by 500 in FY22 and 750 in FY23, \$24.9 million

Continuing work

Revamp the way schools are funded so that we can have more counselors, social workers, and psychologists

Gun control

Major budget deficits in the future for SPS