



Spokane Public Schools  
excellence for everyone

*Spokane Public Schools and the Board of Directors affirms that all students and educators deserve a safe, respectful, welcoming, and inclusive learning and working environment in which their uniqueness is recognized and valued. It is the right of all students to receive a high quality, equitable, and inclusive education and have a safe social experience in school. We respectfully ask the 2022 Washington State Legislature to pass policies supporting these goals.*

### ► **Update Prototypical School Funding Model to support health and safety staff**

Spokane Public Schools urges the Legislature to phase in updated ratios to achieve more realistic state-funded staffing levels in all schools, beginning first with investments to meet students' needs for mental, social, emotional, and behavioral health. The full update to the prototypical model should be phased in over six-years and follow the recommendation of the Staffing Enrichment Workgroup as submitted its report to the Legislature.

### ► **Fully Fund Special Education**

Prior to the 2019 Session, OSPI identified a special education underfunded need of at least \$300 million. In 2019, the excess cost multiplier was increased; in 2020, additional funding was provided for safety net awards; in 2021, funding was provided for additional transition services, for professional development, and for family liaisons. While these incremental steps to reduce the special education funding gap are appreciated, the 2022 Legislature must take more deliberate action to eliminate the current underfunding.

### ► **Fix Pupil Transportation**

Under the current Pupil Transportation funding model (STARS), many districts experience significant funding gaps; in the last four years (prior to the pandemic) many districts received an allocation below their costs. The Office of Financial Management recently found in most situations, the STARS model will not provide adequate resources to school districts and recommends, at the very least, that more funding be provided to the system. It is time to fix this formula.

### ► **Close Opportunity Gaps and Advance Equity**

We urge the Legislature to provide school districts the resources, tools, and flexibility to: ensure equitable learning opportunities, and fair treatment for each student; and recruit, support, and retain effective classroom, building, and district staff who reflect the diversity of our student populations, including ethnicity and gender.

### ► **Support Capital Facilities**

Please enhance the state's investment in K-12 construction by updating the current, outdated funding formulas for the Construction Cost Allowance and Student Space Allocation to ensure funding more closely reflects actual construction costs and educational space needs.

### ► **Early learning Investments**

The legislature made significant investments in early learning through the Fair Start Act for Kids in 2021. We urge the continued commitment to early learning staffing and capital projects to support long term viability of our early learning system.

# 2022 Legislative Agenda

