



SCHOOL BOARD ACTION REPORT

DATE: October 12, 2018
FROM: Directors Mack and Geary, Board Legislative Liaisons
LEAD STAFF: Denise Juneau, Superintendent; Stephen Nielsen, Deputy Superintendent, sjnielsen@seattleschools.org; JoLynn Berge, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Finance; Erinn Bennett, Executive Director of Government Relations & Strategic Initiatives, epbennett@seattleschools.org

For Introduction: October 17, 2018
For Action: October 30, 2018

1. TITLE

2018-19 Legislative Agenda

2. PURPOSE

The annual Legislative Agenda is the formal statement of the District's legislative priorities from the School Board to members of the state and federal legislatures. Because it is the District's official position, the Board must take action to approve the Agenda, per Board Policy No. 1225, Legislative Program & Advocacy.

3. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the School Board adopt the 2018-19 Legislative Agenda, as attached to the Board action report.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- a. **Background:** The Board traditionally adopts a legislative agenda to share the District's focus and priorities for the upcoming legislative session with the Washington State Legislature. These legislative priorities were developed with consideration to the current budget outlook and the District's strategic objectives for this year. Although the Legislative Agenda is typically focused on a limited number of priorities, the formal Agenda does not limit District input on other topics.

The 2018-19 proposed legislative agenda is focused on three main areas:

1. Provide Ample and Sustainable Funding for K-12
2. Fund Capital Facilities Projects and Remove Barriers to Address Needs
3. Eliminate the Opportunity Gaps

Funding is the primary focus of this Legislative Agenda because ample and appropriate funding of General Fund K-12 is the paramount duty of the State of Washington; and the District also needs capital funds to meet needs. The purpose of this Legislative Agenda is to ensure that the Seattle delegation and the full Legislature understand the critical needs of Seattle Public Schools.

- b. **Alternatives:** The alternative is to not approve the Legislative Agenda. This option is not recommended because it is very important the District take a stance on the important issues that affect Seattle Public Schools.
- c. **Research:** The legislative agenda from the prior year was reviewed in developing this agenda. In addition, legislative priorities identified by the Washington State Directors' Association (WSSDA) were also reviewed. District staff also worked with the Board's legislative liaisons and the district's lobbyist to ensure the highest priorities of the District were named.

5. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

The fiscal impact of creating the Legislative Agenda is negligible; however, the Legislative Agenda itself has potential to bring revenue to the District if the Legislature implements the priorities.

The revenue source for this motion is N/A.

Expenditure: One-time Annual Multi-Year N/A

Revenue: One-time Annual Multi-Year N/A

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

With guidance from the District's Community Engagement tool, this action was determined to merit the following tier of community engagement:

Not applicable

Tier 1: Inform

Tier 2: Consult/Involve

Tier 3: Collaborate

While this item was not formally taken through the community engagement tool, upon discussion with the Communications department, N/A was identified because engagement will occur with districts across the state, as well as other key partners and stakeholders throughout the legislative session.

7. EQUITY ANALYSIS

One of the three priorities on the legislative agenda is to support legislation that would bolster the district's work to Eliminate the Opportunity Gaps.

8. STUDENT BENEFIT

The priorities on the legislative agenda include: providing ample and sustainable funding for K-12, funding capital projects, and supporting legislation that helps to eliminate the opportunity gaps. All three of these priorities have the potential for significant student benefit.

9. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY

- Amount of contract initial value or contract amendment exceeds \$250,000 (Policy No. 6220)
- Amount of grant exceeds \$250,000 in a single fiscal year (Policy No. 6114)
- Adopting, amending, or repealing a Board policy
- Formally accepting the completion of a public works project and closing out the contract
- Legal requirement for the School Board to take action on this matter
- Board Policy No. 1225, Legislative & Program Advocacy, provides the Board shall approve this item
- Other: _____

10. POLICY IMPLICATION

Per Board Policy No. 1225, Legislative & Program Advocacy, the Board is responsible for developing annual federal and state legislative agendas for the District that are consistent with the furtherance of the District's current strategic plan.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was discussed at the October 11, 2018 Executive Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed the motion and moved it forward for consideration.

12. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Upon approval of this motion, the Legislative Agenda will be sent to the Seattle delegation in the Washington State Legislature and other key partners including the Governor's Office, Mayor's Office, and the Seattle Council Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), as well as being used during the legislative session.

13. ATTACHMENTS

- 2018-19 Legislative Agenda (clean - for approval)

Our goal is success for Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day.

SPS has three priorities for this session:

1. Provide Ample and Sustainable Funding for K-12
2. Fund Capital Facilities Projects and Remove Barriers to Address Needs
3. Eliminate the Opportunity Gaps

❖ **Provide Ample and Sustainable Funding for K-12:**

- Provide for the True Cost of Special Education and English Language Learners (ELL), which is part of basic education
- Fully Fund the Cost of Implementing the School Employee Benefits Board (SEBB) Program
- Increase Local Levy Authority: Under the new state funding formula and current levy limitations, there are insufficient funds for “enrichment” activities; Local levy funding is still needed to support education activities, including special education and unfunded state mandates.
- Provide K-3 Class Size Funding Flexibility
- Provide Funding for Comprehensive School Safety

❖ **Fund Capital Facilities Projects and Remove Barriers to Address Needs**

- Update the State’s Outdated School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP), which provides state financial assistance for qualifying major construction projects. The current state school construction formula needs to be adjusted to provide sufficient funding for needed renovation and new construction projects by differentiating between instructional vs. non-instructional space and increasing the funding per square foot allocation for elementary, middle school, high school, and special education.
- Provide Directed Capital Funding to Address Facilities with Critical Capacity, Safety, and Security Needs.

❖ **Eliminate the Opportunity Gaps**

- Help Eliminate the Opportunity Gaps, Including Supporting Legislation which Dedicate Funding Sources
 - Fund measures to promote district strategies for equitable outcomes (e.g., provide funding to support students experiencing homelessness, restorative justice programs, or addressing disproportionate discipline).
- Address Fair and Equitable Assessment
 - Adopt an alternative summative assessment framework to allow use of assessments other than Smarter Balanced Assessments.
- Ensure Quality Teachers in Every Classroom
 - Provide funding for programs that will assist in recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers who will serve our most vulnerable students.

***Federal:** SPS will advocate at the federal level in alignment with these priorities.