

(INPUT HIGHLIGHTED SECTIONS)

DISTRICT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_

**WSSDA PRIORITIZATION OF LOCAL CONTROL & NO UNFUNDED MANDATES**

**WHEREAS**, in Washington State the Washington State School Director’s Association (WSSDA) participates in strategic advocacy and lobbying at the state and federal level; and

**WHEREAS**, WSSDA represents all 1,477 locally elected school board members from 295 diverse school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, in Washington State every community and school district has unique needs, goals, and budgetary considerations; and

**WHEREAS**, the elected school board in each community understands the educational challenges facing students in their community and are in better position to formulate the best policies to further educational growth for the students and in partnership with that community.

**WHEREAS** one-size-fits-all policies applying to all 295 diverse school districts with mandates directing expenditures without revenue provided may pose hardship; and

**WHEREAS**, decisions and advocacy made by WSSDA impacts every school district; and

**WHEREAS**, article XI Section 2 of the WSSDA bylaws lacks language to prioritize two of the most important factors in protecting the unique needs of all 295 school districts in retaining local control and opposing unfunded mandates

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Board of Directors of the \_\_\_\_\_ School District does hereby move to add language to Article XI Section 2 to protect the unique needs of each individual school district.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Article XI section 2 conclude with the following language:

“When determining WSSDA’s stance relating to advocacy and lobbying, WSSDA shall oppose any policies that infringe on local control or promote an unfunded mandate. After those determinations have been made the positions voted on at General Assembly will be applicable and/or utilized.”

Adopted this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Directors

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Directors

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

We have a total of 7 proposals below. #1-5 are amendments to existing positions & #6-7 are new positions we created.

1. Send these separately to each of your board members letting them know the General Assembly position proposal window opens next week so you'd like to get these on the agenda for discussion and possible adoption. If you don't get a response, bring it up during Board Report/Comment time at your next mtg to force it on the following agenda. Time is of the essence, we only have from March 11-April 8<sup>th</sup> to get these submitted.
2. After your board takes action, you will submit to the WSSDA proposal submission page with your school district and the date your board took action to pass on the position(s). See proposal checklist link below.

**General Assembly Info:**

<https://wssda.org/events/general-assembly/>

**Proposal Checklist:**

<https://wssda.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Platform-Revision-Proposal-Checklist.pdf>

**AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING POSITIONS:**

**#1 Existing Position:**

**Local Board Adoption of Core Instructional Materials**

WSSDA believes that policy providing for course design, selection and adoption of instructional materials is the responsibility of the local school board. Such policy shall provide for board adoption of core instructional materials. The policy will also provide opportunities for staff, parent, and citizen involvement in development and review of instructional materials and participation on district instructional materials committees.

**#1 New Amended Position:**

**Local Board Control of All Instructional Materials**

WSSDA believes that the responsibility for course design, selection and adoption of all instructional materials rests solely with the local school board. Local control will allow opportunities for staff, parent, student, and community involvement in development, review, and selection of instructional materials and participation on district instructional materials committees, that the board will adopt. Local control empowers community and parents, giving them greater influence and participation in the decision-making process, reflecting the values and needs of their respective district, and ensures each district the opportunity for experimentation, innovation, and a healthy competition for educational excellence.

## **#1 Rational:**

Strengthened position from just adoption of instructional materials to local board control of all aspects of instructional materials with explanation. This will also help when WSSDA advocates for local control during the legislative sessions.

## **#2 Existing Position:**

### **Local Control**

WSSDA believes local control is essential to public education and therefore laws, regulations and policies should be written to support the public election of local school directors and boards.

Local control:

- Provides the best and most direct form of accountability to the community, resulting in more effective programs and the most efficient use of funds;
- Allows schools to reflect the values of local communities;
- Allows directors and staff to be sensitive to local student equity issues; and
- Allows school districts the flexibility to meet local demands and the evolving needs of students with local programs and solutions.

## **#2 New Amended Position:**

### **Local Control:**

WSSDA believes local control is essential to public education. Laws, regulations, and policies should be written to support, never to limit or impede the powers of locally elected school directors and boards.

Local control:

- Provides the best and most direct form of accountability to the community, resulting in more effective programs and the most efficient use of funds;
- Allows schools to reflect the values of local communities;
- Allows directors and staff to address local student equity issues; and
- Allows school districts the flexibility to meet local demands and the evolving needs of students with local programs and solutions

## **#2 Rational:**

Strengthening our local control position.

## **#3 Existing Position:**

### **Goals**

- WSSDA's organizational culture and structure continuously improves service to school directors and their districts.
- WSSDA's premier membership development cultivates and strengthens school director leadership skills and effective governance.
- WSSDA's advocacy fosters and promotes partnerships with other education leaders and stakeholders, and initiates or enhances legislation to advance education policy.
- WSSDA leads in policy development to promote safe, secure, and respectful learning environments for each and every student.
- WSSDA expands public awareness of local school district governance and public education. WSSDA provides concise, timely information, and meets the communication needs of its members.
- WSSDA promotes innovation to address new educational trends, advances, and the future needs of students and school districts.
- WSSDA leads in advocating, modeling, and promoting equity to address the educational needs of each and every student.

### **#3 New Amended Position:**

#### **Goals:**

WSSDA's organizational culture and structure continuously improves service to school directors and their districts.

- WSSDA's premier membership development cultivates and strengthens school director leadership skills and effective governance.
- WSSDA's advocacy fosters and promotes partnerships with other education leaders and stakeholders, and initiates or enhances legislation to advance education policy.
- WSSDA advocates to preserve local control for its membership and opposes any and all legislation that infringes on local control or is an unfunded mandate.
- WSSDA expands public awareness of local school district governance and public education. WSSDA provides concise, timely information, and meets the communication needs of its members.
- WSSDA promotes innovation to address new educational trends, advances, and the future needs of students and school districts.
- WSSDA leads in advocating, modeling, and promoting equity to address the educational needs of each and every student.

### **#3 Rational:**

Adding local control to WSSDA goals is essential to the future of public education.

### **#4 Existing Position:**

#### **WSSDA Equity Statement**

Equity is foundational to the work of WSSDA. Educational equity can only exist when a student's level of opportunity and achievement cannot be predicted based on race, characteristics, or

circumstances. Therefore, we must identify and eliminate any discriminatory, practices, and prejudices within our State's public education system.

#### **#4 New Amended Position:**

##### WSSDA Equity Statement:

Equity is foundational to the work of WSSDA. Educational equality can only exist when a student's level of opportunity and achievement cannot be predicted based on personal circumstances.

#### **#4 Rational:**

The original position suggests we have discriminatory practices and prejudices in our education system, so we removed some language and replaced it with personal characteristics.

#### **#5 Existing Position:**

##### Diversity

WSSDA believes that diversity is an important and valuable part of the learning and work environments in our schools. To this end school directors should adopt and periodically review the board policies which promote and protect diversity through affirming the humanity of each person, and supporting the safety, dignity, access, belonging, and success of all present and future students, families, and staff.

#### **#5 New Amended Position:**

##### Diversity:

WSSDA believes that diversity of thought and perspectives is an important and valuable part of the learning and work environments in our schools.

#### **#5 Rational:**

Simplified position to cover all diversity of thought and removed unnecessary wording.

#### **AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING POSITIONS:**

#### **#6 New Position:**

##### Local Control Legislation

WSSDA will actively oppose any legislation that reduces local school board control.

#### **#6 Rational:**

WSSDA continues to sign in and testify as OTHER to several bills that reduce local control due to other WSSDA positions. This position will prioritize local control over all other positions.

#### **#7 New Position:**

## Unfunded Mandates

WSSDA will not support any legislation that creates an unfunded mandate.

### **#7 Rational:**

Unfunded mandates create hardships on districts, so we need a position to oppose all legislation that creates an unfunded mandate.