

WSSDA's Platform:

Revision, Overview, and the Role of Leg Reps

Recorded February 2024



Strategic **Advocacy**

Today's Meeting Goals

- Understand your role as a Leg Rep.
- Connect to others with experience.
- Know the process for submitting a proposal.
- Access resources to help you lead.

The Leg Rep Role with WSSDA's Platform

Leg Reps: WSSDA Webpage



WSSDA
100 Years of Leadership
SERVING WASHINGTON'S 1,477 ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

HOME ABOUT TRAINING & EVENTS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC ADVOCACY POLICY & LEGAL NEWSROOM LOGIN

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

Each legislative representative, representing their school district and community, has the **unique opportunity to shape advocacy efforts at the local, state, and federal levels**. As a leader on their board, they can provide other members with essential and timely communications to inform future laws and state budgets.

Legislative representatives serve as a voice for their board by representing their district's priorities, needs, and values. This starts with the relationships they have with fellow board members, school district staff, community members, local organizations, and other elected officials.

Advocacy Insights Webinar Series

At the [Advocacy Insights webinar series](#) you can learn from experts, legislators and other school board

wssda.org/legreps



Leg Rep Goals

- Encourage school directors to follow legislative developments more actively at the local level.
- Inform their boards of advocacy efforts and opportunities.
- Be able to access and navigate the position platform to support WSSDA advocacy work.
- Build relationships with local, state, and federal policy-makers regarding WSSDA's legislative positions and priorities.

WSSDA Operating & Model Policy

Support the board's engagement and participation in WSSDA's annual legislative program by:

- Reviewing WSSDA legislative proposals with their board prior to the annual General Assembly;
- Obtaining their board's support for a legislative proposal submitted to WSSDA's General Assembly and supporting that proposal at the Assembly.
- Representing their board at state legislative meetings (e.g., the General Assembly, the Olympia Legislative Conference, and any area or regional workshops).

(Cont.)

WSSDA Leg Rep Operating Policy

Staying apprised of and initiating communications regarding state and federal educational policy and legislative issues/developments by:

- Providing legislative updates periodically at their board meetings, including sharing information from WSSDA's legislative updates during the Legislative Session.
- Contacting legislators at appropriate times when legislative issues require it.

<http://go.boarddocs.com/wa/wssda/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=823NEF5F8FE0>

The Platform Revision Process

Step 1 (Feb – March)

Discuss outcomes of the Legislative Session and discuss gaps and opportunities for advocacy and potential future legislation.

- [InSession](#)
- [WSSDA Staff](#)
- [This Week in Olympia \(WASA\)](#)

Step 2 (Feb – March)

Review existing WSSDA position platform to identify your board's interests.

- [Positions Catalog](#) (search by word or topic)
- Director Area Reps on [Legislative](#) and [Resolutions Committee\(s\)](#)

Step 3 (March – April)

If there are any gaps in existing position platform, determine if your board intends to amend or submit new position proposal. Draft revision/new position and share for feedback.

- Director Area Reps on [Legislative](#) and [Resolutions Committee\(s\)](#)
- [WSSDA Staff](#)
- [Proposal Preparation](#)
- [Who Can Submit](#)

Step 4 (Feb - April)

Present the proposal at a public board meeting for board's official vote.

- [Submit online](#) between March 11th and April 8th at 5 pm.
- Receive confirmation.

Step 5 (April – May)

Respond to any follow up questions from the Resolutions and/or Legislative Committees as they review proposals in April and May.

- Director Area Reps on Legislative and Resolutions Committee(s)

Step 6 (July – Sept)

Review WSSDA legislative proposals with the board prior to the General Assembly.

- [Handbook](#)
- [Webinar Training](#)
- [General Assembly Webpage](#)
- [WSSDA Staff](#)

Step 7 (September)

Prepare to attend and vote at WSSDA's General Assembly (GA).

- Identify voting delegate(s) to vote on position proposals from Handbook.
- Attend GA September 20-21 (virtual or in-person, SeaTac)

Step 8 (September – October)

Prioritize from the updated position catalog those position most in line with your board's interests.

- [Positions Catalog](#) (search by word or topic)
- [Handbook](#)

Step 9 (October – December)

Share WSSDA Priorities with Legislators.

- [WSSDA Legislative Priorities](#)

Leg Rep Resources

What is General Assembly?

The premier opportunity to ensure your district's voice is represented in WSSDA's advocacy platform.

Definition: WSSDA Bylaws

WSSDA's bylaws are the mechanism by which WSSDA governs WSSDA.

WSSDA consists of the 1,477 locally-elected Washington state school directors.

Definition: Legislative Positions

WSSDA's Legislative Positions communicate WSSDA's viewpoint (stance) on a spectrum of state and/or federal legislative issues. They are action-oriented and articulate desired legislative outcomes on behalf of the state's public school districts.

WSSDA uses the legislative positions to help set the course for its legislative advocacy plan each year. The Legislative Committee will review new positions and make recommendations for action to be voted on during the annual General Assembly.

(Permanent Position 0.B.4 - *Adopted 2018; Amended 2019*)

Definition: Permanent Positions

WSSDA's permanent positions communicate WSSDA's foundational core principles on issues of widespread concern for students, its membership, other education organizations, and the general public. Permanent positions represent WSSDA's beliefs and values as adopted by its membership and set forth a variety of key conditions necessary for the state's public school districts to obtain success for each and every student.

WSSDA uses the permanent positions to inform its work in all areas, and to inform its advocacy work when questions arise about topics covered by permanent positions.

(Permanent Position 0.B.2 - Adopted 2018)

Strategic Advocacy

Marissa Rathbone, Director
m.rathbone@wssda.org
360-481-5842





Strategic **Advocacy**