



WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (WCSD) BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Legislative Platform for the 2021 Session

In order to serve the students, families, and community of Washoe County, the WCSD Board of Trustees is in favor of legislation that supports WCSD's strategic plan and iNVEST 2021.

Education Funding

The Board of Trustees supports K-12 funding that is optimal. The Trustees endorse:

- A level of funding that supports successful student outcomes and learning environments by funding competitive teacher and staff compensation, reasonable class sizes and caseloads, and other educational costs.
- Implementation of the Pupil Centered Funding Plan as outlined in Senate Bill 543 from the 2019 Legislative Session in an equitable fashion that reflects true regional cost differences across the state and ensures all revenue dedicated to K-12 education is used for the original intent and is not supplanted or reverted to the state.
- Reform to the property tax to ensure a more stable and predictable revenue that is matched with demand for student services.
- Statutorily extended authorization to the current rollover bond property tax rate to support on-going school renewal and revitalization.
- Elimination of any current un- or under-funded mandates and opposition to all new un- or under-funded mandates.

Student & Staff Health and Safety

- Ongoing support for necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for students and staff for the duration of the pandemic.
- Continued investment, improvement, and emphasis on mental health supports and trauma-informed practices including suicide prevention and community wrap around services.
- Additional clarity and guidance around restorative practices to include staff and victim safety as a priority.

Academic Success

Washoe County School District looks forward to sharing the work we have done around our Pathway and Portrait of a Graduate. We have seen Nevada make amazing gains in graduation rates. We know, however, that the next frontier in this work is to make sure the high school diploma is a promise to our community that our graduates are equipped academically, technically, analytically, socially, and emotionally to thrive in careers and post-secondary education. The WCSD Board of Trustees endorses:

- Extended learning opportunities to address pandemic-related learning loss like summer school, tutoring, and bridge programming for middle and high school students.



Academic Success (continued)

- Addressing equitable access to education through the use of technology and for students to access education from home.
- Develop and fund highly effective professional development to provide educators with relevant and meaningful resources to best serve remote learning students.
- Progress towards a competency-based learning model.
- Increased support for proven career and technical education pathways including work-based learning and dual credit opportunities to create a seamless post-secondary transition.
- Regional oversight and governance of the Regional Professional Development Programs and independently operating Academic Standards Council and Advisory Council on Family Engagement.
- Ensuring access to Pre-K funds are sustained either through the Pupil Centered Funding Plan or a separate source of federal and state funds that maintains at least the same number of seats in Washoe County through a formula-based process.
- Strategic review and analysis of student assessments to minimize lost instructional time while maximizing feedback for teachers and students on learning progress and gaps.

Educator Support

- Elimination of non-essential reporting or processes to maximize instructional time.
 - Support of Assembly Bill 57, the District’s legislation eliminating the requirement to prepare a Student Learning Goal until the 2023-2024 school year
- Removing antiquated barriers to licensing that would allow for a more diverse workforce and avoiding any additional licensing requirements including paraprofessionals.
- Scholarships for potential educators to receive necessary educational and licensing requirements to support building a diverse pipeline of educators.

Community Centered Approach

- Provide sufficient flexibility for the District to address student and staff needs in the way that best suits the needs within Washoe County with an emphasis on local control, context, and collaboration.
- Address the “Digital Divide” in a systemic, community-based manner to ensure every student has access to broadband and devices to support learning.