

SCHOOL DIRECTOR LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The Eastmont Board of Directors will represent the District's interests in legislative action to promote the welfare of public education in the state of Washington or will direct those interests to be represented through its executive officer, the superintendent or designee.

As a public entity, the Board must operate within the bounds of state and federal laws affecting public education. To effectively meet these responsibilities to the public and students of the District, the Board will work vigorously for the passage of new laws designed to advance the cause of effective schools and for the repeal or modification of existing laws that impede this cause. The Board also supports a legislative program that fosters the maintenance of local control in decision making and governance within the District.

To achieve these goals, the Board will periodically study, discuss, and weigh the merits of pending legislation for the purpose of establishing its official position through Board action. When established, these official positions will be the position of the Eastmont School District in the legislative process.

Board Legislative Activities

The Board will:

- A. Designate one of its members to serve as legislative representative with the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA);
- B. Develop an annual legislative program through conferences with WSSDA and the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA);
- C. Support and work for legislation that promotes the quality of education within the Eastmont School District, the region, and the state of Washington;
- D. When possible, send member(s) to the WSSDA/WASA Legislative Conference held each February;
- E. Stay informed of pending legislation and actively communicate concerns and make its position known to elected representatives at both the state and national levels by regular contact with their legislators in district, in Olympia, and in Washington D.C.;
- F. Seek adequate funding for schools and full funding for state and federally mandated programs;
- G. Discuss legislative issues, using resources such as WSSDA's Legislative Updates;
- H. Respond appropriately to requests for legislative proposals, comments on legislative proposals, and development of priority positions; and
- I. Work for the achievement of common legislative objectives with WSSDA and with other concerned groups.

Board members, individually or as members of professional organizations, will not represent positions conflicting with the District's positions on legislative matters unless it is made clear that such representation is not the official position of the District.

WSSDA Legislative Representative

The Board's WSSDA legislative representative serves as the contact person and acts as the coordinator of the Board's legislative activities. The legislative representative also serves as a Board's liaison at WSSDA's General Assembly. The legislative representative will be elected from among its members at the first regular meeting in December even-numbered years and will serve for a period of two years.

The legislative representative will:

- A. Support the Board's engagement and participation in WSSDA's annual legislative program. This includes:
 - 1. Reviewing WSSDA legislative proposals with the Board prior to WSSDA's annual General Assembly;
 - 2. When appropriate, obtaining the Board's support for a legislative proposal to be submitted to the WSSDA General Assembly and supporting that proposal at the Assembly; and
 - 3. Representing the Board at state legislative meetings (e.g., the General Assembly, the Olympia Legislative Conference, and any area or regional workshops).
- B. Stay apprised of and initiate communications regarding state and federal educational policy and legislative issues/developments by:
 - 1. Providing legislative updates periodically at board meetings and during the Legislative Session sharing information from WSSDA's legislative updates; and
 - 2. Contacting legislators at appropriate times when legislative issues require it.

Cross References:

Board Policy 1210	Annual Organizational Meeting
Board Policy 1220	Board Officers and Duties of Board Members

Legal Reference:

Chapter 28A.345 RCW Washington State School Directors' Association

Management Resources:

Policy & Legal News, October 2022
Policy & Legal News, April 2017
Policy News, August 2009