



Alliance of Educational Associations (AEA)

A partnership of educational organizations that provides information and acts as a positive influence on legislation to create the best possible educational system for students in Washington State. We are associations who provide leadership through K-12 support services.

MEMBERS

Washington Association of Maintenance and Operations Administrators (WAMOA)

Developing successful facility leaders through professional collaboration.

Washington School Nutrition Association (WSNA)

School nutrition professionals supporting student learning and well-being by providing healthy, nutritious meals.

AEA BOARD

DOUG VANDERLEEST
AEA Board Chair
Legislative Chair, WAMOA
Franklin Pierce School District

LEEDA BEHA
Public Policy & Legislative Co-Chair, WSNA
Bethel School District

TRAVIS BOWN
President, WAMOA
Mead School District

KAREN BROWN
President-Elect, WSNA
Franklin Pierce School District

KIM ELKINS
Public Policy & Legislative Co-Chair, WSNA
Mead School District

DEVLIN PIPLIC
Vice President, WAMOA
Northshore School District

MARINA TANAY
Past President, WAMOA
Sumner-Bonney Lake School District

WENDY WEYER
President, WSNA
Bellevue School District

DR. MITCHELL E. DENNING
AEA Consultant
7530 Fair Oaks Rd. SE, Olympia, WA 98513
360.280.1930 • medenning@comcast.net



2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Alliance of Educational Associations



2024 Legislative Priorities



A strong and stable K–12 public education system is essential to sustain and ensure the quality of life and economic stability for Washington State citizens.

Therefore, we urge the Legislature to:

🕒 **Update Staff Allocation Formulas**

AEA urges the Legislature to continue to provide funding for more realistic staffing ratios in the Prototypical School Funding Model (PSFM). The first priority must be the implementation of Phase I of the recommendations from the Staffing Enrichment Workgroup (2019) to improve staffing allocations for critically needed school principals, providing additional professional development to close achievement gaps, and adding continuous improvement coaches as an enhancement of the PSFM.

🕒 **Provide Equitable Education Resources**

The 2024 Legislature must revamp the methodology of regionalization and experience factors to ensure school districts receive more consistent and equitable resources. The current regionalization methodology of using housing costs is flawed, and the experience factors are unfair. The current calculation of these factors has exacerbated inequities, and must be improved during this session.

🕒 **Implement Universal Free Meals**

AEA is very appreciative of the 2023 Legislature's funding of qualifying K-4 low income schools. We urge the Legislature to remove barriers and increase equity by investing in universal free meals for all students. Every student regardless of income should be able to choose a healthy school breakfast and lunch as part of their learning experience. This investment would help accelerate learning and family food security, as well as reduce child hunger and poverty. It would also help eliminate stigma around school meals, and help eliminate significant meal debt.

🕒 **Fully Fund Special Education**

AEA appreciates the 2023 Legislature's funding of special education. Even with this enhancement, however, school district expenditures for special education and related services substantially exceed State special education funding. This gap requires districts to continue to use local levies to cover these excess costs, taking local funds away from support services. We urge the 2024 Legislature to fully fund the remainder of this basic education program.

🕒 **Revise and Fund Pupil Transportation**

The 2024 Legislature must fulfill its basic education obligation to revise and fund a pupil transportation formula that is more transparent, predictable and adequately funded. In the past two sessions, the Legislature has provided additional funding for excess costs to transport special passengers. Even so, under the current pupil transportation funding model (STARS), many school districts do not receive sufficient funding for student transportation, forcing district to use local levies to supplant this underfunding.

🕒 **Ensure Adequate School Facilities**

The 2024 Legislature must enhance the State's investment in the School Construction Assistance Program by updating the current, outdated funding formulas for the Construction Cost Allowance and the Student Space Allocation to ensure funding more closely reflects actual construction costs and educational space needs. Additionally, the Legislature must give Washington's citizens the opportunity to decide whether school district bond issues should be approved by a majority vote.