



2021 Legislative Priorities

North Thurston Public School Board of Directors has adopted the following legislative priorities for this legislative session. During the upcoming legislative session we urge legislators to address the following education issues:

Maintain stable K-12 funding

It is imperative that the funding structures for K-12 be maintained during COVID-19. Our district has experienced a significant drop in enrollment and our costs are going up rather than down due to the operational costs of ensuring PPE for staff and student safety.

- Revise the transportation funding formula to provide full funding for maintaining our transportation department. We are transporting students each day; however, our busses are not running at capacity due to restrictions for in-person learning from the county health department. We are limited to serving small groups of students on-site, yet the bus driver and fuel needed to operate the bus remain a fixed cost.
- Quickly pass through federal funding dedicated for schools without supplanting state funding. Do not further exacerbate our budget problems by introducing mid-year budget reductions. We are already in a financial crisis with a \$12M budget shortfall due to a significant decline in kindergarten and elementary enrollment.
- Finally, provide districts with the flexibility to use funding where there is the greatest need within the district to maintain education and related services for students.

2020-21
North Thurston Public Schools
Board of Directors

Gretchen Maliska
Board President, District 1

Graeme Sackrison
Vice President, District 4

Chuck Namit
Director, District 2

Mel Hartley
Director, District 3

Dave Newkirk
Director, District 5

Student Advisors

Natalie Scott, Timberline H.S.
Samir Amin, North Thurston H.S.
Makayla Hamlin, River Ridge H.S.





Student Success

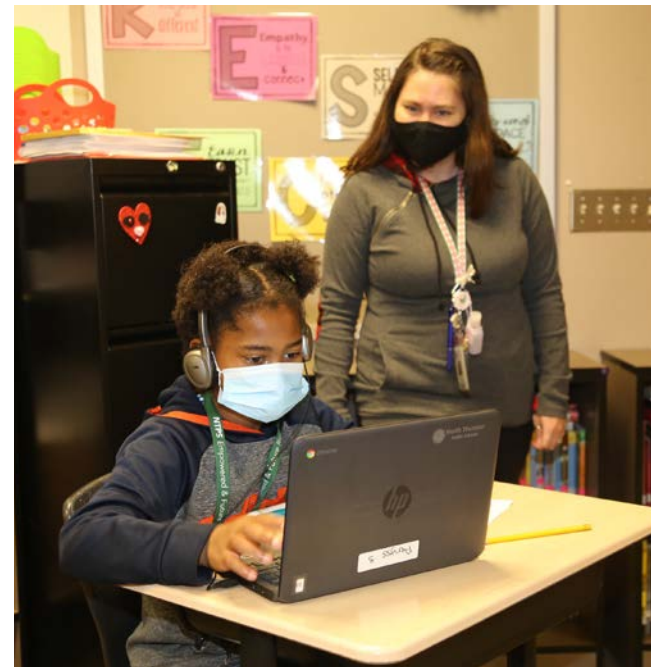
Amend Statewide requirements for the Class of 2021 due to COVID-19. COVID-19 has disrupted the K-12 in-person instructional model. Districts have adjusted to this public health crisis by offering remote learning with some in-person supports. The State has not responded quickly enough for our students, in particular our seniors. Graduation requirements for the Class of 2021 include pathway requirements that cannot be met due to the lack of opportunities for State testing as well as the restrictions on in-person instruction that impact alternative pathways. Also, give districts the flexibility to waive required credits for students in the Class of 2021, similar to the authority that was extended to districts for the Class of 2020 based on EHB 2965.

Mental Health. Our staff has identified student mental health as a significant concern, increasingly more concerning during COVID-19. Continue to support expansion of mental health services for youth and continue to support trauma-informed instruction within a social emotional framework for students.

Stable and reliable Internet Access for students. Ensure all students have access to stable and reliable Internet to participate in remote continuous learning. The funding provided by OSPI for low-income students is a start; however, Internet access must be sustained into the future.

School Capital Construction

Support OSPI's proposed School Construction Assistance Program enhancement to include increasing the square footage allocation for K-6 from 90 to 120 square feet to close the gap between state funding for school construction as compared to the actual cost of school construction. Support a simple majority for school construction bonds.



By the Numbers

13,996 students enrolled (PreKindergarten - 12th Grade)		22 Washington Achievement Awards	120 + National Board Certified Teachers
22 schools	2,005 employees	92% Graduation Rate	