Public Policy Agenda 2021-22
Vancouver Public Schools

We believe:

Education is vital to creating and sustaining a strong economy and supporting the knowledgeable and skilled workforce necessary to attract and retain higher wage jobs. Education provides access and opportunities for all students, creating the conditions for them to succeed in post-secondary learning, careers and life. Education is our society’s greatest investment, empowering people to thrive and lessening their reliance on social services.

Our highest legislative priorities:

1. Update unrealistic and outdated staff allocation formulas associated with the Prototypical School Funding Model. Funding should be aligned with current needs for counselors, psychologists, nurses, safety and security personnel and other essential positions.

2. Allow Washington state voters to decide if school district bond measures should be approved with a simple majority vote.

3. Pursue incremental and creative approaches toward fully funding special education.

Additionally, we advise policy-makers to:

4. Address inequities in the K-12 funding structure, including regionalization and staff experience factors.

5. Continue to invest in supporting students, throughout and after the pandemic, to address their academic, mental health and social-emotional learning needs.

6. Help communities close the technology/connectivity gap.

7. Adjust the inadequate funding formulas in the State Construction Assistance Program, which fail to recognize the true cost of construction or educational space needs.

8. Ensure that all K-12 education policies are enacted with a commitment to equity, excellence and innovation and a focus on the needs of the whole child.

9. Support local school boards in overseeing school and district improvement efforts and meeting the unique learning needs of the students they serve.

10. Provide greater flexibility of resources by limiting unfunded requirements that must be supported by local funding sources.