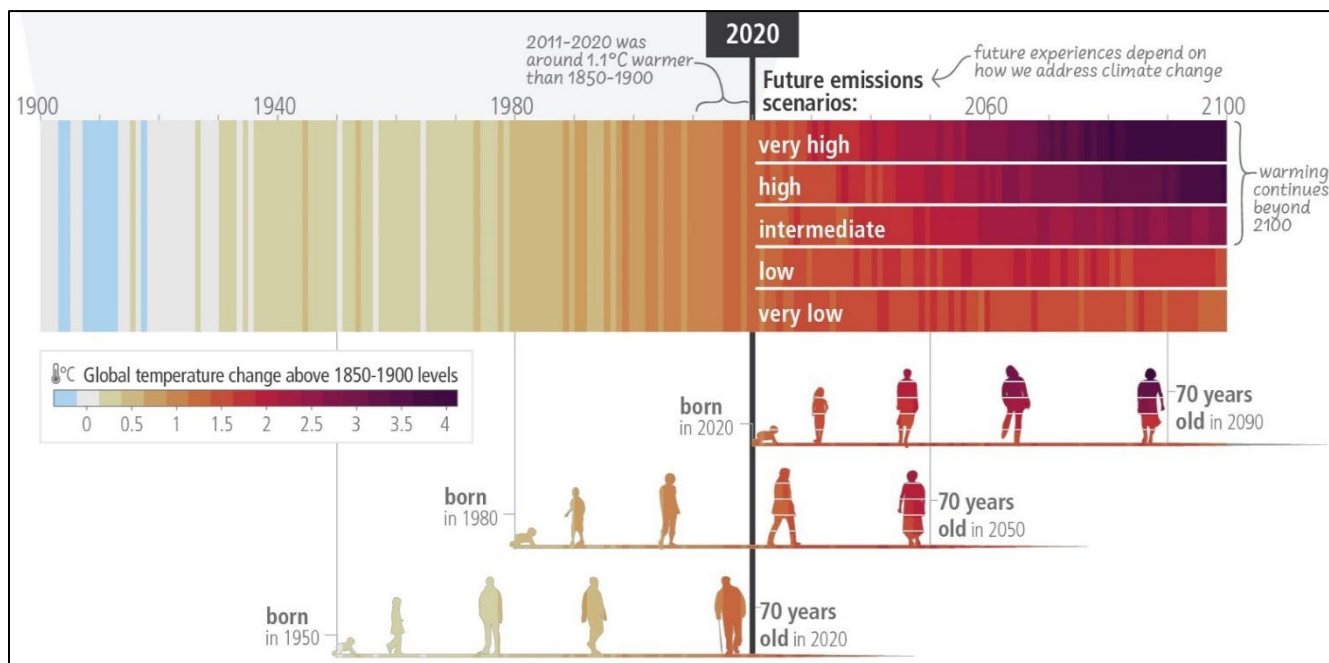


# Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Climate Change 2025-26 Legislative Priority

**WSPTA recognizes that climate change is fundamentally harming our children’s mental and physical wellbeing, learning environments, and prospects; that action is urgently needed; and that schools have a crucial role to play in reducing pollution, mitigating impacts, and equipping students to create a better future.**

## Background

- A changing world with increasingly extreme and unpredictable weather patterns harms us all. Our children, youth, and vulnerable populations will suffer the health and cost impacts the most.<sup>(1,2, Image 3)</sup>
- Without immediate action to halt and reverse greenhouse gas pollution, by roughly 2050 a “normal” year in Washington will be warmer than the hottest year during the 20th century.<sup>(4)</sup>
- 70% of US youth are worried their futures will be much worse than the present because they don’t see us taking a sustainable path forward with the necessary urgency.<sup>(5)</sup>
- Buildings and transportation are the main sources of heat-trapping pollution in our schools. Fortunately, green alternatives are cost-effective, healthier, and safer for students!
  - Asthma is the number one cause of absenteeism. Clean air and clean buses improve health and learning outcomes.<sup>(6, 7)</sup>
  - Without modern HVACs, heat and air quality conditions in schools can become dangerous.<sup>(8)</sup>
  - Efficient schools are better for budgets, plus local, state, and federal incentives can help.<sup>(9,10)</sup>



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### For More Information

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**For more information on the WSPTA advocacy program, please visit our [website](#).**

“The choices and actions implemented in this decade will have impacts now and for thousands of years.” – IPCC SR6 Synthesis Report<sup>(3)</sup>

“Climate change poses threats to human health, safety, and security, and children are uniquely vulnerable to these threats. Given this knowledge, failure to take prompt, substantive action would be an act of injustice to all children.” – American Academy of Pediatrics<sup>(1)</sup>

"We need the knowledge and skills to take action to avert a crisis, and also to be able to participate and find solutions in a changing world." – Veda Nayar (Washington State middle schooler)<sup>(11)</sup>

### Proposed Solutions

Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation or policies that equitably provide funding, resources, and technical assistance to schools to:

- Reduce greenhouse gas pollution and waste
- Improve indoor air quality and resilience to climate impacts
- Meet WA Clean Buildings Performance Standards requirements
- Access local, state, and federal funding opportunities
- Educate, enable, and equip students to participate in solutions

### Citations

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3. [Figure SPM.1](#), IPCC SR6 Synthesis Report (2023)
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5. Hickman, C., et al. [“Climate anxiety in children and young people and their beliefs about government responses to climate change: a global survey”](#), *The Lancet* 5(12):E863-E873 (2021)
6. [“HVAC Choices for Student Health and Learning”](#), Rocky Mountain Institute (2023)
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11. [“Climate Change Education”](#), whitepaper by Washington State middle schooler Veda Nayar (2023)