

## Voters' Guide Information

During the 2025 Washington State PTA (WSPTA) Annual Meeting, voting delegates will consider eight (8) amendments to the *Washington State PTA Uniform Bylaws* and one (1) amended resolution. To be considered, motions to amend the proposed bylaw amendments must use a motion form and be pre-submitted by **1:00pm on Saturday, May 3rd**. Motions to amend the shaded sections of the resolved clauses of the proposed amended resolution must be in writing on a motion form and will be taken from the floor during the general session at which it is considered.

## Proposed Bylaw Amendments

The *Washington State PTA Uniform Bylaws* are the rules adopted by members of Washington State PTA for the operation of WSPTA, local PTAs, and councils. They provide an outline of our basic purposes, a structure for the governance of the association, and a description of the rights and responsibilities of membership. Amendments to the *Washington State PTA Uniform Bylaws* are effective on July 1st after the annual meeting at which they were adopted.

[Bylaw Amendment 1](#) – Updates to Executive Director Language

[Bylaw Amendment 2](#) – Allow WSPTA Directors the Choice to Provide Oversight to Committees

[Bylaw Amendment 3](#) – Add Language Regarding Committees to Field Service Director Duties

[Bylaw Amendment 4](#) – Updates to Qualifications to be Considered for WSPTA Director Positions (Advocacy, FACE, Leadership, Membership, and Programs)

[Bylaw Amendment 5](#) – Update to Qualifications to be Considered for Field Service Director Positions

[Bylaw Amendment 6](#) – Require Local PTAs & Council Appointed Officers & Appointed Nominating Committee Members to Meet Qualifications to be Elected

[Bylaw Amendment 7](#) – Requirement of Notice for Registration Fee for Annual Meeting

[Bylaw Amendment 8](#) – Requirement of Notice for Registration Fee for Legislative Assembly

## Proposed Resolution Amendment

Resolutions are a long-term part of our legislative platform that guides state and local advocacy work for WSPTA and its local PTAs and councils. New and amended resolutions may be submitted for consideration twice per year; see the [Submissions webpage](#) for more details. The 2025 Annual Meeting delegates will consider adopting proposed amendments to one existing resolution.

The only parts of the amended resolution that will be open for further amendment and debate are the parts in **shaded boxes**. While they are not voted on by the delegates, the resolutions committee has provided the whereas clauses as they will appear or would be amended to give delegates additional information to inform their vote. If a resolved clause of a resolution is amended by delegates, the resolutions committee will edit the whereas clause(s) as necessary.

Amended resolutions are added to our platform immediately after the annual meeting.

[#1 Proposed Amended Resolution](#) – 11.29 School Nutrition, Breakfast and Lunch Policies

## Proposed Amendments to the *WSPTA Uniform Bylaws* [\[back to top\]](#)

Changes are shown as a ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions and as **bold/underlined font** for additions.

To be considered, motions to amend the proposed bylaws amendments must use a motion form and be pre-submitted by **1:00pm on Saturday, May 3rd.**

<b>Bylaw Amendment #1</b>	
WSPTA Board of Directors Recommendation	ADOPT
# of Parts	Proposed bylaw amendment #1 is in five parts. Together these parts form a complete proposal; a single vote should be taken on all parts. The rationale for all parts follows amendment 1.5.
<b>Bylaw Amendment #1.1</b>	
Bylaws Article, Section, and page #	Article 2 Basic Policies, Subsection J <i>WSPTA Uniform Bylaws</i> (effective July 1, 2024) Page 4
Proposed Amendment 1.1	J. Use of the WSPTA logo and/or service mark shall be limited to the official business of WSPTA and its constituent organizations. No individual or outside interest shall be allowed to use the WSPTA logo or service mark without authorization from the WSPTA <del>executive director or president</del> <b><u>in consultation with the executive committee.</u></b>
If adopted, will read	J. Use of the WSPTA logo and/or service mark shall be limited to the official business of WSPTA and its constituent organizations. No individual or outside interest shall be allowed to use the WSPTA logo or service mark without authorization from the WSPTA president in consultation with the executive committee.
<b>Bylaw Amendment #1.2</b>	
Bylaws Article, Section, and page #	Article 7 Washington State PTA, Section 6 Board of directors – WSPTA, Subsection E, Bullet points #3 & #4 <i>WSPTA Uniform Bylaws</i> (effective July 1, 2024) Page 17
Proposed Amendment 1.2	<del>3. Shall hire and evaluate the performance of the executive director</del> <b><u>WSPTA staff as directed in <i>WSPTA Policy</i>.</u></b> <del>4. Is authorized to terminate the service of the executive director under conditions specified by the executive director’s contract and with a three fourths vote of the members of the board of directors.</del> <del>5.</del> <b><u>4.</u></b> May remove from office any member of the board of directors by a two-thirds vote of the members of the board of directors. <del>6.</del> <b><u>5.</u></b> May revoke a local PTA or council charter if the local PTA or council violates the <i>WSPTA Uniform Bylaws</i> , ethics, policies, or principles of PTA.
If adopted, will read	3. Shall hire WSPTA staff as directed in <i>WSPTA Policy</i> . 4. May remove from office any member of the board of directors by a two-thirds vote of the members of the board of directors. 5. May revoke a local PTA or council charter if the local PTA or council violates the <i>WSPTA Uniform Bylaws</i> , ethics, policies, or principles of PTA
<b>Bylaw Amendment #1.3</b>	
Bylaws Article, Section, and page #	Article 8 WSPTA Executive Director <i>WSPTA Uniform Bylaws</i> (effective July 1, 2024) Page 17

Proposed Amendment 1.3	<del>The WSPTA executive director shall be hired by the WSPTA board of directors. The WSPTA executive director shall perform those duties set forth in the employee contract and WSPTA policies. The performance of the executive director shall be evaluated by the board of directors. The board of directors is authorized to terminate the service of the executive director under conditions specified by the executive director's contract and with a three-fourths vote of the members of the board of directors.</del>
If adopted, will read	N/A – Section will be deleted
<b>Bylaw Amendment #1.4</b>	
Bylaws Article, Section, and page #	Article 9 WSPTA Legislative Assembly, Section 1 Meeting – Legislative assembly, Subsection C <i>WSPTA Uniform Bylaws</i> (effective July 1, 2024) Page 18
Proposed Amendment 1.4	<del>C. Only those publications approved by the WSPTA president, or executive director in</del> <b>consultation with the executive committee</b> , shall be displayed, distributed, or offered for sale at the legislative assembly.
If adopted, will read	C. Only those publications approved by the WSPTA president, in consultation with the executive committee, shall be displayed, distributed, or offered for sale at the legislative assembly.
<b>Bylaw Amendment #1.5</b>	
Bylaws Article, Section, and page #	Article 10 WSPTA Annual Meeting, Section 1 Meeting – annual meeting, Subsection D <i>WSPTA Uniform Bylaws</i> (effective July 1, 2024) Page 19
Proposed Amendment 1.5	<del>D. Only items approved by the WSPTA president, or executive director</del> <b>in consultation with the executive committee</b> , shall be displayed, distributed, or offered for sale at the annual meeting. This includes paper and digital publications.
If adopted, will read	D. Only items approved by the WSPTA president, in consultation with the executive committee, shall be displayed, distributed, or offered for sale at the annual meeting. This includes paper and digital publications.
Rationale	These proposed bylaw amendments update the <i>WSPTA Uniform Bylaws</i> by removing the requirement for the WSPTA board of directors to hire an Executive Director while leaving it as an option they may choose. It also removes a few other mentions of an Executive Director throughout the bylaws.
Group(s) Affected if adopted	WSPTA
<b>Bylaw Amendment #2</b>	<b>Allow WSPTA Directors the Choice to Provide Oversight to Committees</b>
WSPTA Board of Directors Recommendation	ADOPT
# of Parts	One part
Bylaws Article, Section, and page #	Article 7 Washington State PTA, Section 4 Duties of officers – WSPTA, Subsection F <i>WSPTA Uniform Bylaws</i> (effective July 1, 2024) Page 16
Proposed Amendment	F. STATE DIRECTORS Each of the following WSPTA state directors shall <del>chair the</del> <b>provide oversight for their</b> respective committees <del>and help develop, review, update and coordinate committee resources and activities</del> <b>may serve as the chair:</b> 1. Advocacy director 2. Family and community engagement director 3. Leadership director

	4. Membership director 5. Program director
If adopted, will read	F. STATE DIRECTORS Each of the following WSPTA state directors shall provide oversight for their respective committees and may serve as the chair: 1. Advocacy director 2. Family and community engagement director 3. Leadership director 4. Membership director 5. Program director
Rationale	This proposed bylaw amendment would allow a state director the choice to provide oversight for their respective committees or to chair their committees themselves.
Group(s) Affected if adopted	WSPTA
<b>Bylaw Amendment #3</b>	<b>Add Language Regarding Committees to Field Service Director Duties</b>
WSPTA Board of Directors Recommendation	ADOPT
# of Parts	One Part
Bylaws Article, Section, and page #	Article 7 Washington State PTA, Section 4 Duties of Officers – WSPTA, subsection E <i>WSPTA Uniform Bylaws</i> (effective July 1, 2024) – An update to Subsection E to add “Field Service Director” was approved at the May 2024 annual meeting. The Field Service Directors are new positions that will not be in place until after the election at the 2025 Annual Meeting. Thus, this subsection will be updated in July 2025.
Proposed Amendment	E. FIELD SERVICE DIRECTORS The WSPTA field service directors shall: <b>1. Provide oversight and may serve as chair of their respective committee.</b> <del>12.</del> Represent the members in their assigned regions to the WSPTA board of directors. <del>23.</del> Support the work of the region directors and region service committees in their areas. <del>34.</del> Appoint region directors in their areas with approval of the executive committee. <del>45.</del> Approve appointments of region service committee members in their areas. <del>56.</del> Perform other duties as delegated by the president.
If adopted, will read	E. FIELD SERVICE DIRECTORS The WSPTA field service directors shall: 1. Provide oversight and may serve as chair of their respective committee. 2. Represent the members in their assigned regions to the WSPTA board of directors. 3. Support the work of the region directors and region service committees in their areas. 4. Appoint region directors in their areas with approval of the executive committee. 5. Approve appointments of region service committee members in their areas. 6. Perform other duties as delegated by the president.
Rationale	This proposed bylaw amendment would allow the Field Service Directors the choice to provide oversight or to chair the Field Service committee.
Group(s) Affected if adopted	WSPTA

Bylaw Amendment #4	Updates to Qualifications to be Considered for WSPTA Director Positions (Advocacy, FACE, Leadership, Membership, and Programs)
WSPTA Board of Directors Recommendation	ADOPT
# of Parts	One Part
Bylaws Article, Section, and page #	Article 7 Washington State PTA, Section 3 Officers and their election – WSPTA, Subsection E, bullet points #4 - #8 <i>WSPTA Uniform Bylaws</i> (effective July 1, 2024) Page 14 - 15
Proposed Amendment	<p>4. For the office of advocacy director, before taking office a member shall have served on the WSPTA board of directors for at least one year, or on the WSPTA advocacy committee for at least one year, or as a <b>member of a</b> local PTA or council <del>advocacy or legislative chair</del> <b>board of directors</b> for at least two separate years.</p> <p>5. For the office of family and community engagement director, before taking office a member shall have served on the WSPTA board of directors for at least one year, or on the WSPTA family and community engagement committee for at least one year, or as a <b>member of a</b> local PTA or council <del>family and community engagement chair</del> <b>board of directors</b> for at least two separate years.</p> <p>6. For the office of leadership director, before taking office a member shall have served on the WSPTA board of directors for at least one year, or on the WSPTA leadership committee for at least one year, or as a <b>member of a</b> local PTA or council <del>officer</del> <b>board of directors</b> for at least two separate years.</p> <p>7. For the office of membership director, before taking office a member shall have served on the WSPTA board of directors for at least one year, or on the WSPTA membership committee for at least one year, or as a <b>member of a</b> local PTA or council <del>officer</del> <b>board of directors</b> for at least two separate years.</p> <p>8. For the office of program director, before taking office a member shall have served on the WSPTA board of directors for at least one year, or on the WSPTA program committee for at least one year, or as a <b>member of a</b> local PTA or council <del>officer</del> <b>board of directors</b> for at least two separate years.</p>
If adopted, will read	<p>4. For the office of advocacy director, before taking office a member shall have served on the WSPTA board of directors for at least one year, or on the WSPTA advocacy committee for at least one year, or as a member of a local PTA or council board of directors for at least two separate years.</p> <p>5. For the office of family and community engagement director, before taking office a member shall have served on the WSPTA board of directors for at least one year, or on the WSPTA family and community engagement committee for at least one year, or as a member of a local PTA or council board of directors for at least two separate years.</p> <p>6. For the office of leadership director, before taking office a member shall have served on the WSPTA board of directors for at least one year, or on the WSPTA leadership committee for at least one year, or as a member of a local PTA or council board of directors for at least two separate years.</p> <p>7. For the office of membership director, before taking office a member shall have served on the WSPTA board of directors for at least one year, or on the WSPTA membership committee for at least one year, or as a member of a local PTA or council board of directors for at least two separate years.</p> <p>8. For the office of program director, before taking office a member shall have served on the WSPTA board of directors for at least one year, or on the WSPTA program committee</p>

	for at least one year, or as a member of a local PTA or council board of directors for at least two separate years.
Rationale	This proposed bylaw amendment aligns the qualifications for consideration for all five state director positions. The goal is to open more paths to leadership by extending the options to qualify to be considered for a WSPTA director position.
Group(s) Affected if adopted	WSPTA
<b>Bylaw Amendment #5</b>	<b>Update to Qualifications to be Considered for Field Service Director Positions</b>
WSPTA Board of Directors Recommendation	ADOPT
# of Parts	One part
Bylaws Article, Section, and page #	Article 7 Washington State PTA, Section 3 Officers and their election – WSPTA, Subsection E, bullet point #3 <i>WSPTA Uniform Bylaws</i> (effective July 1, 2024) - An update to Subsection E to add “Field Service Director” was approved at the May 2024 annual meeting. The Field Service Directors are new positions that will not be in place until after the election at the 2025 Annual Meeting. Thus, this subsection will be updated in July 2025.
Proposed Amendment	3. For the office of field service director, a member shall reside within Washington state and before taking office shall have served on the WSPTA board of directors for at least one year, or as a region director for at least one year, or as a council <del>president</del> <b>officer</b> for two years, or on a region service committee for two years. The two field service directors shall reside in different WSPTA regions.
If adopted, will read	3. For the office of field service director, a member shall reside within Washington state and before taking office shall have served on the WSPTA board of directors for at least one year, or as a region director for at least one year, or as a council officer for two years, or on a region service committee for two years. The two field service directors shall reside in different WSPTA regions.
Rationale	This proposed bylaw amendment updates the qualifications for consideration for the Field Service Director positions. The goal is to open more paths to leadership by extending the options to qualify to be considered for a WSPTA Field Service Director position.
Group(s) Affected if adopted	WSPTA
<b>Bylaw Amendment #6</b>	<b>Require Local PTAs &amp; Council Appointed Officers &amp; Appointed Nominating Committee Members to Meet Qualifications to be Elected</b>
WSPTA Board of Directors Recommendation	ADOPT
# of Parts	Proposed bylaw amendment #6 is in two parts. Together these parts form a complete proposal; a single vote should be taken on all parts. The rationale for all parts follows amendment 6.2.
<b>Bylaw Amendment #6.1</b>	
Bylaws Article, Section, and page #	Article 5 Local PTAs and Councils, Section 6 Officers and their election – local PTA and council, Subsection I <i>WSPTA Uniform Bylaws</i> (effective July 1, 2024) Page 10



Proposed Amendment 6.1	I. If a vacancy occurs in a local PTA or council office, the executive committee may appoint a member to fill the vacancy until the next membership meeting <b><u>provided that at the time of appointment, the member meets the requirements to be elected to that position</u></b> . At the next membership meeting nominations shall be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee. The election shall be by ballot vote. A majority vote is necessary to elect. The election may be by voice vote if only one candidate is nominated for an office. The newly elected officer shall immediately assume the duties of the office.
If adopted, will read	I. If a vacancy occurs in a local PTA or council office, the executive committee may appoint a member to fill the vacancy until the next membership meeting provided that at the time of appointment, the member meets the requirements to be elected to that position. At the next membership meeting nominations shall be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee. The election shall be by ballot vote. A majority vote is necessary to elect. The election may be by voice vote if only one candidate is nominated for an office. The newly elected officer shall immediately assume the duties of the office.
<b>Bylaw Amendment #6.2</b>	
Bylaws Article, Section, and page #	Article 5 Local PTAs and Councils, Section 5 Nominating Committee – local PTA and council, Subsection A <i>WSPTA Uniform Bylaws (effective July 1, 2024) Page 9</i>
Proposed Amendment 6.2	A. A local PTA or council nominating committee of three members shall be elected by ballot at least 30 days preceding the election of officers. The candidates may be declared elected if only three or fewer candidates are nominated. If there are four or more candidates, a plurality vote shall elect. If a vacancy on the nominating committee occurs, the board of directors of the local PTA or council may appoint a replacement <b><u>provided that at the time of appointment, the member meets the nominating committee member eligibility requirements</u></b> . The local PTA or council nominating committee is discharged from service after the officers are declared elected.
If adopted, will read	A. A local PTA or council nominating committee of three members shall be elected by ballot at least 30 days preceding the election of officers. The candidates may be declared elected if only three or fewer candidates are nominated. If there are four or more candidates, a plurality vote shall elect. If a vacancy on the nominating committee occurs, the board of directors of the local PTA or council may appoint a replacement provided that at the time of appointment, the member meets the nominating committee member eligibility requirements. The local PTA or council nominating committee is discharged from service after the officers are declared elected.
Rationale	These proposed bylaw amendments clarify that a member who is <i>appointed</i> to an elected position or to a nominating committee within a local PTA or council, must meet the qualifications for being <i>elected</i> to that position.
Group(s) Affected if adopted	Local PTAs and Councils
<b>Bylaw Amendment #7</b>	<b>Requirement of Notice for Registration Fee for Annual Meeting</b>
WSPTA Board of Directors Recommendation	ADOPT
# of Parts	One part
Bylaws Article, Section, and page #	Article 10 WSPTA Annual Meeting, Section 1 Meeting – annual meeting, Subsection B <i>WSPTA Uniform Bylaws (effective July 1, 2024) Page 19</i>

Proposed Amendment	B. The date, place, and registration fee for the annual meeting shall be determined by the WSPTA board of directors <b>and be communicated to local PTAs and councils as soon as possible with the goal of having the information in the next scheduled communications after the event details are finalized.</b>
If adopted, will read	B. The date, place, and registration fee for the annual meeting shall be determined by the WSPTA board of directors and be communicated to local PTAs and councils as soon as possible with the goal of having the information in the next scheduled communications after the details are finalized.
Rationale	This proposed bylaw amendment would require the WSPTA board of directors to communicate the date, place and registration fee for the annual meeting as soon as it is determined. This focus on expediting communication would give local PTAs and councils additional time to plan for budget changes when there is an increase to the registration fee, inform their members of the event, and select their delegates.
Group(s) Affected if adopted	WSPTA
<b>Bylaw Amendment #8</b>	<b>Requirement of Notice for Registration Fee for Legislative Assembly</b>
WSPTA Board of Directors Recommendation	ADOPT
# of Parts	One part
Bylaws Article, Section, and page #	Article 9 Legislative Assembly, Section 1 Meeting – legislative assembly, Subsection B <i>WSPTA Uniform Bylaws</i> (effective July 1, 2024) Pages 18
Proposed Amendment	A. An annual legislative assembly shall be held for the purpose of determining legislative priorities of WSPTA, educating and mobilizing advocates, and advancing WSPTA’s legislative program. B. The date, place, and registration fee for the legislative assembly shall be determined by the WSPTA board of directors <b>and be communicated to local PTAs and councils as soon as possible with the goal of having the information in the next scheduled communications after the event details are finalized.</b> C. Written or electronic notice of the place, date, and time of the legislative assembly shall be sent to all WSPTA members at least ten days but not more than 60 days in advance of the legislative assembly. D. Only those publications approved by the WSPTA president or executive director shall be displayed, distributed, or offered for sale at the legislative assembly.
If adopted, will read	A. An annual legislative assembly shall be held for the purpose of determining legislative priorities of WSPTA, educating and mobilizing advocates, and advancing WSPTA’s legislative program. B. The date, place, and registration fee for the legislative assembly shall be determined by the WSPTA board of directors and be communicated to local PTAs and councils as soon as possible with the goal of having the information in the next scheduled communications after the details are finalized. C. Written or electronic notice of the place, date, and time of the legislative assembly shall be sent to all WSPTA members at least ten days but not more than 60 days in advance of the legislative assembly. D. Only those publications approved by the WSPTA president or executive director shall be displayed, distributed, or offered for sale at the legislative assembly.



Rationale	<p>This proposed bylaw amendment would require the WSPTA board of directors to communicate the date, place and registration fee for legislative assembly as soon as it is determined. This focus on expediting communication would give local PTAs and councils additional time to plan for budget changes when there is an increase to the registration fee, inform their members of the event, and select their delegates.</p> <p>The inclusion of a separate bullet point regarding the notice of the place, date, and time of the event is required by non-profit law and makes this section consistent with the formatting of the bylaws section regarding the annual meeting.</p>
Group(s) Affected if adopted	WSPTA

## Proposed Resolution Amendment [\[back to top\]](#)

Changes are shown as a ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions and as **bold/underlined font** for additions.

The only parts of the resolution that will be open for amendment and debate are the parts in **shaded boxes**. While they are not voted on by the delegates, the resolutions committee has provided the whereas clauses as they will appear or would be amended to give delegates additional information to inform their vote. If a resolved clause of a resolution is amended by delegates, the resolutions committee will edit the whereas clause(s) as necessary.

Motions to amend the shaded sections of the resolved clauses of the proposed amended resolution must be in writing on a motion form and will be taken from the floor during the general session at which it is considered.

<b>Resolution #1 (Amended)</b>	<b>11.29 School Nutrition, Breakfast and Lunch Policies</b>
WSPTA Board of Directors Recommendation	ADOPT
Title	<b>11.29 School Nutrition, Breakfast and Lunch Policies</b>
Whereas Clauses	<p><b>Whereas</b>, nutrition is a cornerstone to the health, well-being, development, and academic achievement of children and youth; and</p> <p><b><u>Whereas, 1 in 6 households with children in Washington face food insecurity and struggle to buy enough food for their families; and</u></b></p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, children and youth facing food insecurity are at increased risk of falling behind their peers academically and socially; food insecurity is linked to lower reading and mathematics test scores and increased behavioral issues, <b><u>creating equity issues that contribute to opportunity and achievement gaps</u></b>; and</p>

	<p><b>Whereas</b>, children in Washington state that participate in the Breakfast after the Bell program experience reduced disruptive behavior, reduced instances of absence and tardies, and increased academic achievement; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, the need to promote healthy eating habits and food choices has intensified with the national epidemic of obesity, and consumption of nutrient-dense foods correlates with the amount of time children and youth have to eat; and</p> <p><b><u>Whereas, studies by the United States Department of Agriculture measured that students who eat school lunches are more likely to consume milk, fruits, and vegetables than students who ate meals from home or other places; and</u></b></p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the United States Department of Agriculture recommend that schools ensure sufficient time for students to receive and consume a meal, with at least ten minutes for eating breakfast and twenty minutes for eating lunch after being seated; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, scheduling recess before lunch and promoting a positive school lunch environment lead to increased healthy food choices and consumption, and decreased food waste and discipline referrals; and</p> <p><b>Whereas</b>, Washington state law, known as the Hunger-Free Students’ Bill of Rights, says, “School personnel, school district personnel, and volunteers are prohibited from taking any action that would publicly identify a student who cannot pay for a school meal or for meals previously served to the student, including requiring the student to wear an identifying marker or serving the student an alternative meal” and <b><u>this</u></b> should apply to all students; <b><u>and</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Whereas, Universal Free Meal programs decrease stigma and increase student participation in school meal programs; decrease school districts’ resources expended on tracking and collecting meal debts and reduce negative interactions between families and schools.</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Therefore, be it</b></p>
Resolved Clauses	<p><b>Resolved</b>, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils will advocate for <b><u>funding and</u></b> policies at all levels regarding school nutrition, <b><u>breakfast</u></b> and lunch policies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand equitable access to school meals, including Breakfast After the Bell, <b><u>with the goal of providing Universal Free Meals for all students</u></b></li> <li>• Include measurable goals and standards regarding child nutrition to include an emphasis in meeting or exceeding the national time standard of 20 seated lunch minutes and implementation of recess before lunch for elementary students; and be it further</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved</b>, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for the high-nutritional quality of meals served and other food available in schools (such as vending machines, student stores, student fundraising projects, and classroom snacks) to ensure the best nutrition for our state’s children and youth, and foster good habits that will contribute to a lifetime of good nutrition</li> <li>• Encourage meal providers to review meals in consultation with a nutrition professional, and stakeholders for feasibility of farm to school and/or organic ingredient meal planning</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage development of nutritionally complete and palatable components that include whole grains and fresh fruits and vegetables as well as limit the use of excessive additives and preservatives; and be it further</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved</b>, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils work with districts and school staff to develop best practices for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mealtime hygiene and nutrition habits</li> <li>• Respectful and supportive mealtime environments, including the elimination of silent lunch periods</li> <li>• A minimum of the national standard of 20 seated lunch minutes - in addition to the time required for the acquisition of meals; and be it further</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved</b>, that Washington State PTA and its local PTAs and councils will advocate for the removal of meal debt policies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• shame or humiliate students <del>or</del></li> <li>• prevent <del>children</del> <b>students</b> from receiving and consuming a full meal equivalent to their peers</li> <li>• <b><u>withhold diplomas, graduation experiences, or other privileges extended to their peers</u></b></li> <li>• <b><u>result in punitive financial or other consequences for students or families</u></b></li> </ul>
<p>Persuasive Statement</p>	<p>During the pandemic, our country recognized the importance of providing free meals to all students. However, beginning with the 2022-23 school year, universal free school meal provisions ended, and school districts nationwide reverted to their regular operations.</p> <p>It is widely accepted that access to nutritious, well-balanced meals benefits students’ physical health AND enhances their academic performance. Although free meals are available to students whose families qualify due to income, many more families struggle to afford food.</p> <p>When school meals are not free, districts spend valuable time and resources on administration of free and reduced meal programs and tracking and collecting school meal debt. Of school meal programs that must now charge students for meals following the end of pandemic waivers, 92.8% of schools report challenges with unpaid meal debt.</p> <p>In their 2023-2025 Operating Budget, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) requested state funding to supplement federal meal reimbursement dollars so all of Washington’s students have access to free meals at school. In the 2024 Legislative Session, House Bill 2058, which would have provided universal free school meals in Washington, was approved by the House Education Committee in a 14-0 vote.</p> <p>By supporting universal free meals at school, WSPTA can help ensure healthy nutrition for children, eliminate stigma and school meal debt, decrease administrative backlogs at schools, and support legislation that is already promoted by OSPI.</p>