

2021 Legislative Priorities

To our legislators

Thank you for your continued support of learners in Washington State. We appreciate your work and acknowledge that more funding has come to districts in Washington State. There is more work to be done, and we hope to partner with you in this effort.

Following are the legislative priorities of the Yakima School District:

REINFORCE CRITICAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- » Provide the necessary supports for Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for students with disabilities.
- » Improve preparedness for early childhood and kindergarten programs predominantly for children in poverty and English learners.
- » Improve school safety by supporting services for and training to safeguard the social-emotional health of students and staff.

EXPAND ACCESS TO EQUITABLE INSTRUCTION

- » Invest in the infrastructure for broadband and the internet (to include ongoing maintenance costs) and prioritize students' digital needs.
- » Promote policies that prioritize closing the opportunity gap for persistently underserved students.
- » Review the prototypical school model funding and formula to reflect actual student and staffing needs.
- » Support flexibility for students to graduate on time by allowing waivers and multiple pathways.

SAFEGUARD STAFF AND DISTRICT RESOURCES

- » Enable districts to cover the costs of employee salaries, health care and benefits.
- » Hold the line on basic education funding, especially enrollment and transportation, and prevent mid-school year budget cuts.
- » Protect critical dollars for the delivery of equitable instruction including Local Effort Assistance (LEA).
- » Ensure districts retain levy authority while increasing flexibility for levy fund uses.
- » Offer safe harbor to districts during declared emergencies.

Recent highlights...

The pandemic has been challenging for everyone, and education has been dramatically impacted. The Yakima School District students and staff shine brightly during this time of struggle. They remind us all what it means to work hard, stay focused, and serve others.

First Open Doors student completes both GED and diploma this June

The Yakima School District Open Doors program is widely known for its GED program. A smaller number of students earn their diploma through Open Doors. This June, YSD's Alicia Garcia was the first student to do both!

[Read more ...](#)



Davis High School's Rocio Garcia wins OSPI Staff Choice Award for Art

Rocio Garcia, an 11th-grade student at Davis High School, won this year's OSPI Staff Choice Award for her pastel and chalk artwork titled "Boys Don't Cry." Rocio is a student of Davis art teacher Carole Huls, whose students have had art entries advance to OSPI's state show during three of the past four years. The Davis High School student's work depicts an older boy crying and wearing a crown of flowers on top of his head. The piece will be purchased for the ongoing display of student art at OSPI's offices in Olympia.

[Read more ...](#)



YSD's Jose Perez is Washington State Recruiter of the Year

As a child, Jose remembers his family moving in search of agricultural work in California, Oregon, and Washington. Jose is originally from Aguililla, Michoacan, Mexico. This experience helps him to connect with YSD's migrant families. [Read more ...](#)



YSD's Megan Anderson Reilly is the Regional Teacher of the Year

Megan Anderson Reilly, who has made numerous life-changing impacts for students in the classrooms of the Yakima School District's Davis High School and Washington Middle School, is the Educational Service District 105 Regional Teacher of the Year for 2020-21.

[Read more ...](#)



Yakima School District leads the state in youth meal distributions

The Yakima School District has far outpaced other districts in the state in the number of meals it has distributed. When school is in regular session, Yakima provides free breakfast and lunch to all of its 16,000 students because of a high level of need. [Read more ...](#)



To follow all of the wonderful stories about Yakima students and staff, go to www.YSD7.org/ysdstories

