



Apollo Elementary PTA Advocacy/Legislative Chair

October 2023

Shelby Scovel

Advocacy

WSPTA is the oldest and the largest nonprofit grassroots children's advocacy association in Washington state. Together we can strengthen our voice to improve the quality of our children's health, welfare, safety, and education.

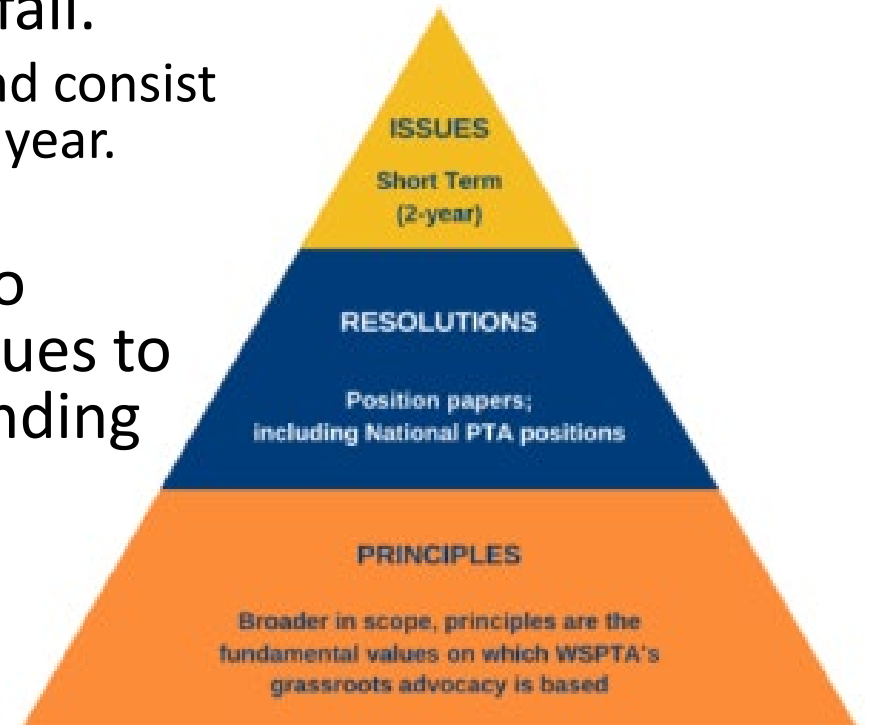
Hi! I'm Shelby Scovel



- New to Apollo this year
- 3 kiddos (5th/3rd/1st)
- Served on the Renton School Board as VP and Legislative Rep until we moved over the summer
- Started a new elementary school PTA and served as Co-President

WSPTA Legislative Platform

- A two-year platform to mirror the Washington state legislative cycle.
- In the even-numbered years, the new platform is voted on by members at the legislative assembly in the fall.
 - The top five issues become our short-term platform and consist of our priority issues when advocating throughout the year. Other issues are placed on an “also supported” list.
- During the odd-numbered years, members vote to amend current issues or to add new, emerging issues to the also supported list. Each issue has a corresponding handout located in the dropdown that can be downloaded and used when advocating.



2023-2024 WSPTA Legislative Priorities

1. Addressing the **Student Mental Health** Crisis
2. Addressing Critical Gaps in **Education Funding**
3. Preventing and Reducing **Gun Violence and Suicide**
4. Addressing Funding, Inclusion, and Supports in **Special Education**
5. Building and Maintaining Safer **School Facilities**

2023 Session – How did we do?

WSPTA Priority	Outcome
Addressing the Student Mental Health Crisis	Bills passed increasing the pool of mental health workers (residency, educational stipends, new class of supports specialists, peer support training)
Addressing Critical Gaps in Education Funding	Significant funding increase for special education: Raised cap from 13.5% to 15%, increased multiplier, increased special passengers pool
Preventing and Reducing Gun Violence and Suicide	10-day waiting period, school districts must disseminate safe storage (medications & firearms) info, ban on assault weapons, money for enforcement
Addressing Funding, Inclusion, and Supports in Special Education	See education funding above, plus money for teacher training (university)
Building and Maintaining Safer School Facilities	Seismic safety grants and continuing risk assessments

WSPTA Legislative Assembly

- October 21-22, Virtual
 - Voter's Guide [link](#)
- LEGISLATIVE ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION
 - Issue #1 Multi and Heritage Language Education for All
 - Issue #2 Preventing and Reducing Gun Violence and Suicide
- RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION
 - Resolution #1 Supporting a Diverse and Effective Education Workforce
 - Resolution #2 High-Quality Preschool to Third Grade Early Learning
 - Resolution #3 K-12 Education Funding
 - Resolution #4 Traumatic Brain Injuries
 - Resolution #5 11.31 Social Emotional Learning and Student Success
 - Resolution #6 1.8 Substance Use Disorder Education and Prevention