



AESD ASSOCIATION OF
EDUCATIONAL
SERVICE DISTRICTS

Nine ESDs. One Network.
Supporting Washington's Schools and Communities.

Unified through the **Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD) Network**, Washington's nine Educational Service Districts (ESDs) provide a nimble and aligned delivery system for essential student and educator services focused on learning, student support, and school district operations. This year our legislative focus is on sustaining and expanding the AESD Network's critical student and family support systems.

2023 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

+ STUDENT SAFETY & WELL-BEING

Students are struggling with behavioral and mental health issues. In 2019, the Legislature invested in HB 1216, which established Regional School Safety Centers across all ESDs to help with initial training and support for students and schools. Additionally, we have used one-time federal funds to provide school-based behavioral and mental health services to students who need them most.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS:

Expand and maintain student behavioral and mental health services, prioritizing small and rural districts.
+ \$24.3M/biennium (FY24: \$11.9M | FY25: \$12.4M)

Expand Regional School Safety Center capacity to enable ESDs to provide comprehensive support when more significant problems arise. ESDs would increase engagement with professional community partners like mental health providers, and courts/juvenile justice.
+ \$4.4M/biennium (\$2.2M/year)

+ EARLY LEARNING

Navigating Washington's variety of preschool options is difficult. Families need help choosing the right option for their child. ESDs understand their local communities and are committed to preparing children for kindergarten through coordinated early learning services, family engagement, community partnerships, and educator professional development.

PROPOSED SOLUTION:

Expand capacity for P-3 system navigation. Stable funding will enable ESDs to coordinate regional support for school districts and families to navigate their preschool options and engage with local early learning partners to support recruitment, enrollment, and equitable access to inclusive and integrated programs.
+ \$4.2M/biennium (\$2.1M/year)



SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORT: Special education and student transportation are fundamental for ensuring equity and access to K-12 education. Many school districts rely on local levies to address funding shortfalls. The AESD Network supports statewide efforts to fully fund **special education and inclusionary practices** and to update the state's funding model for **student transportation**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Melissa Gombosky, Legislative Liaison | melissagombosky@gmail.com or 360-878-0783

ABOUT THE AESD NETWORK

The Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD) Network is comprised of the state's nine regional Educational Service Districts. Our mission is to ensure equity and excellence in education through effective services delivered statewide — and to inspire and foster equity, opportunity, and results through meaningful support of all school districts.

Geographically closer to local schools and their district offices, the ESDs respond to local needs of school districts in their region. ESDs also serve as liaisons between the State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the State Board of Education (SBE), and the Legislature.

WE SERVE:



1,091,404
K–12 students



68,750
classroom teachers



700+
Public school districts, state
Tribal education compact schools,
charter schools, and private schools

What IS the AESD Network?

Nine ESDs. One Network.

In partnership with OSPI, the AESD provides an aligned system of statewide assistance designed to ensure equity of access to high-quality support to every Washington school district and its educators.

