



**AESD** ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICTS

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

The Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD) Network, comprised of Washington's nine Educational Service Districts (ESDs), provide student and educator services focused on learning. This year, our legislative goal is sustaining the AESD Network's student support systems.

# 2024 Legislative Platform



## SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Washington's students continue to struggle with heightened stress levels, anxiety, and social isolation. Too many students are uninsured or underinsured and face barriers to seeking medical help. With licenses to provide mental health therapy, ESDs are uniquely equipped to bridge the gap between education and behavioral health. School-based behavioral health services can increase student access by co-locating services and embedding behavioral health staff in school buildings.

### Proposed Solutions

- **MAINTAIN last year's one-time expenditure** to ensure continued school-based services to more than 2,000 students in 96 schools within 68 districts.
- **EXPAND school-based services** to approximately 50 additional school districts, prioritizing services to sites farthest from existing behavioral and mental health services.
- **REMOVE barriers** for ESDs and school districts accessing Medicaid for school-based services. The current system is not structured for school settings or for providing youth and adolescent care. And under the current state Medicaid Plan, adolescent therapists aren't funded for full care.

**TOTAL REQUEST:** \$10M/year



## INTEGRATED INCLUSIONARY PRACTICES & MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT

ESD teams help school and district leadership teams support **all** students — especially those with disabilities. In 2022, 140 schools engaged with an IPP coordinator. These schools experienced a 14.08 percentage point *increase* in the number of students with disabilities spending 80% to 100% of their day in the general education setting.

### Proposed Solutions

- **RESTORE full funding.** Funding is currently scheduled to end after the 2023-24 school year.
- **EXPAND regional coaching and technical assistance** for district leaders who need support creating inclusionary systems.

**TOTAL REQUEST:** \$5.3M/year



### SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORT:

The AESD Network urges the Legislature to fully resource school districts to serve *every* student. This includes greater investments in special education; student transportation systems; and appropriate, realistic staffing levels and operational support.

# 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:



**1M+**  
K-12 students



**68K+**  
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.*

