



(EMERGENCY # 1) Supporting Immunization Requirement Process Legislative Committee Recommendation: Do Pass

Submitted by: West Valley & Central Valley School Districts

New Legislative Position Statement

WSSDA strongly supports the rules established under WAC 246-105 for adding to, or deleting from, the list of childhood immunizations required for child care or school entry.

Rationale

While there can be sound scientific and societal arguments for emergency additions to, or deletions from, the Washington state list of required childhood vaccinations, such actions cannot be viewed outside the political environment of the times. Emergency proclamations add to the public cynicism of the approval process, and generate skepticism of a vaccine, as well as vaccines in general. While any process leading to a vaccine requirement will be criticized by some, Washington state's established, thoughtful process is accepted by most citizens.

Guided by WAC 246-105 (Statutory authority: RCW 28A.210.140), the state's current process has created an environment in which the vast majority of Washington's 1.1 million schoolchildren are inoculated against many vaccine-preventable diseases, including polio, diphtheria, and whooping cough.

Parents or guardians may seek an exemption from immunization requirements for philosophical, religious and personal reasons. However, a philosophical or personal exemption may not be used to exempt a child from the immunization requirement for measles, mumps, or rubella.

The process for adding to the list of required immunizations is described in this Washington State Board of Health (BOH) slide deck. While it is generally a multi-year effort, the BOH has the ability to truncate the process. Under that established process, a vaccine first must be fully FDA approved.

It is then reviewed by an interdisciplinary technical advisory group (TAG) convened by the Washington State Board of Health (BOH). That review is informed by subject-matter experts who evaluate the vaccine based on nine criteria:

- Is it recommended for children by the national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP)?
- Is it effective as measured by immunogenicity and population-based prevention data in Washington State?
- Is it cost-effective from a societal perspective?
- Has experience to date show that it is safe and that any side effects are acceptable?
- Does it prevent a disease (or diseases) that causes significant morbidity and/or mortality in the population as a whole, or a subset of the population?
- Will vaccinating against the disease reduce the risk of person-to-person transmission in schools or childcare facilities?
- Is the vaccine acceptable to the medical community and general public?
- Is there a reasonable administrative burden to deliver and track the vaccine?
- Is the burden of compliance reasonable for parents or caregivers?

Once that analysis is completed, the TAG votes on a recommendation to present to the BOH. The recommendation of whether to require the vaccination may also include a recommendation on whether to prohibit exemptions for personal or philosophical reasons. At that point, the BOH considers the information and TAG recommendations and may vote to direct staff to initiate rulemaking that could lead to amending WAC 246-105.

(EMERGENCY # 2) Preserving Curricular Integrity

Legislative Committee Recommendation: Do Pass

Submitted by: Cindy Kelly, on behalf of the Government-to-Government Task Force



Emergency Legislative Position Statement

WSSDA shall oppose legislation aimed at coercing or directing school districts into providing an incomplete or misleading presentation of verifiable facts and/or a sanitized or inequitable version of history through mandated curriculum or curricular resources or sanctions.

This includes any legislation that serves to undermine Government to Government relations between tribes and school districts relating to tribal history, language and culture. Tribally developed curriculum happens through meaningful and ongoing consultation between tribes and local school districts, with permission granted by tribes under Senate Bill 5433 passed in 2015 (RCW 28A.320.170).

Rationale

Proposed Position: 6) (NEW) Curriculum Protection was proposed with good intentions, our committee is concerned about the potential conflicts between the proposed position and RCW 28A.320.170 and other current and future state and federal laws. The statewide implications would have direct negative impacts on student learning. The impacts would include local control and the on-going meaningful consultation work between school districts and local tribes as it relates to tribal history, language and culture.

Washington State has affirmed by Centennial Accord and Millennium Agreement that history, language and culture of the tribes and the imparting of that knowledge is the property of the tribes themselves and shall not be appropriated or undermined.

Rationale for 6) (NEW) Curriculum Protection - Public school teachers and students are dependent on school board members to ensure access to accurate, honest, and factual curricular texts and resources. School curricula and resources, paid for with taxpayer dollars, must be of the highest quality available. Just as we would not purchase a math curriculum that advocates $2 + 2 = 5$ or a science curriculum the says the chemical components of water are anything other than two parts hydrogen and one-part oxygen, we should advocate against any other curriculum that is less than an actual representation of fact. A fact is a thing proven to be true.



(EMERGENCY # 3) Maintain Vaccine Choice Legislative Committee Recommendation: Do Not Pass

Submitted by: Karl Kanthak, Mt. Pleasant School District (Submitted as an individual)

Emergency Legislative Position Statement

WSSDA will oppose any effort to make any of the SARS Cov2 vaccines a requirement for school attendance, or restrict or end non-medical vaccine exemptions.

Any infection control interventions implemented to any students, including but not limited to testing, masking, isolation or quarantine, or any other mitigation practices will be applied equally to all students regardless of vaccination status.

Rationale

The pandemic has placed unprecedented pressure on schools, students, and families. Constant media attention has resulted in 66% of all citizens to overestimate the risk of hospitalization after infection from 600% to over 5000%, according to Gallup Polls. This risk perception is not balanced, across the 3 major parties there is a variation in overestimating risk by 79%, 64%, & 56%.

<https://news.gallup.com/opinion/gallup/354938/adults-estimates-covid-hospitalization-risk.aspx>
This risk perception differential is driving friction between patrons, some of whom feel the response has been an overreaction, when others consider the response to be inadequate.

Should the Covid vaccine be mandated without the ability for a student to opt out without penalty or increased compliance to other measures, the mandate action could be interpreted to be a political attack on certain patrons.

The decision to leave vaccination choice to families is easily justified based on facts. In the 18 months since the start of the pandemic only 14 people of the 1.7 million age 19 and under Washington residents have had a Covid related death, less than 1/100,000. Only 4 of that 14 are age 11 and under. <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/DataDashboard>

The Covid vaccines are offered under an Emergency Use Authorization.
<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legal-regulatory-and-policyframework/emergency-use-authorization#abouteuas>

The Covid vaccine manufacturers bear no liability for any injury they cause, instead an injured party or a family survivor must apply to the Countermeasure Injury Compensation Plan.
<https://www.hrsa.gov/cicp/>

There is real, verified risk associated with the Covid vaccines for children. The only debate is severity and frequency. For example, males are presenting with idiopathic heart issues shortly after vaccination.
<https://www.aappublications.org/news/2021/06/10/covid-vaccine-myocarditis-rates-061021>

Should the school system force a family to forfeit their taxpayer funded, constitutionally guaranteed FAPE?