



AESD ASSOCIATION OF
EDUCATIONAL
SERVICE DISTRICTS

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

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

2025 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 increase student access to care. State funding goes directly to school-based mental and behavioral health services for students, and critical data support and evaluation.

Proposed Solutions

- **RESTORE funding** for school-based mental and behavioral health services to approximately 67 school sites, prioritizing those farthest from existing services. The State currently funds only 18 school sites — *down from 100 last year.*
- **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, child and adolescent therapists aren't funded for full care.

TOTAL REQUEST: \$9.9M in FY 26 and \$10.1M in FY 27



STUDENT-CENTERED SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORT

While the Legislature has increased basic education funding significantly over the past decade, Special Education; Pupil Transportation; and Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC) remain severely underfunded.

www.waschoolfunding.org

Proposed Solution

- **CLOSE the gap** between what the state allocates for Special Education; Pupil Transportation; and Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs and what it actually costs school districts to provide those services.

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?



ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICTS

One ESD. One Network.
Ensuring Quality, Equity, and Excellence

Nine ESDs. One Network.

In partnership with OSPI and other statewide partners, the AESD Network 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.

Olympic ESD 114

- Superintendent: Aaron Leavell
- # of school districts: 15
- # of charter schools: 1
- # of Tribal Compact schools: 2

Puget Sound ESD 121

- Superintendent: John Welch
- # of school districts: 35
- # of charter schools: 10
- # of Tribal Compact schools: 2

Capital Region ESD 113

- Superintendent: Flip Herndon
- # of school districts: 44
- # of Tribal Compact schools: 1

ESD 112

- Superintendent: Tim Merlino
- # of school districts: 30
- # of charter schools: 1

ESD 105

- Superintendent: Shane Backlund
- # of school districts: 25
- # of Tribal Compact schools: 1

ESD 123

- Superintendent: Steve McCullough
- # of school districts: 23

Northwest ESD 189

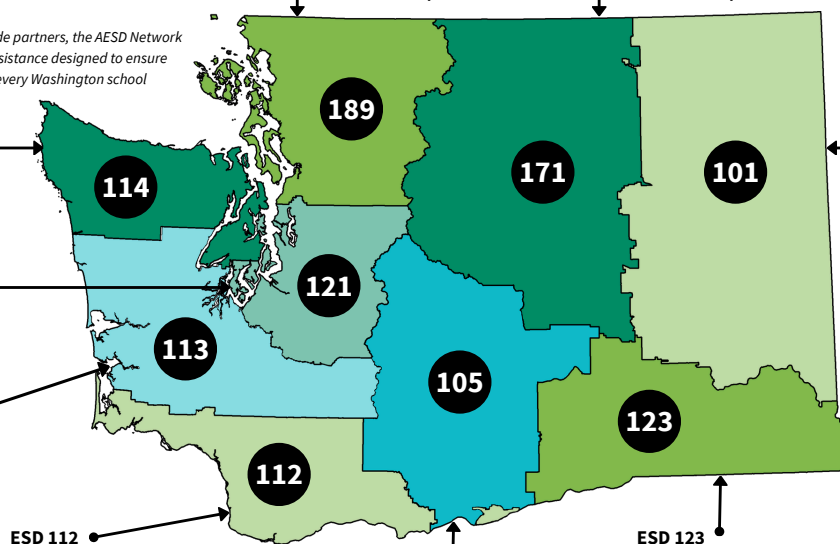
- Superintendent: Ismael Vivanco
- # of school districts: 35
- # of charter schools: 1
- # of Tribal Compact schools: 1

North Central ESD 171

- Superintendent: Michelle Price
- # of school districts: 29
- # of charter schools: 1
- # of Tribal Compact schools: 1

NorthEast Washington ESD 101

- Superintendent: Rob Roettger
- # of school districts: 59
- # of charter schools: 4



AESD Network
Executive Director
Jessica Vavrus
jvavrus@waesd.org