

WSA Guiding Principles

- WSA opposes continuation of the trend that encourages increased debt as a necessary element of achieving a certificate or degree in higher education.
- WSA supports a tuition policy that is affordable, stable, and predictable. The best form of financial aid is low tuition. Any increase in tuition must be accompanied by proportional increases in financial aid. Undergraduate tuition-setting authority should remain with the Legislature.
- WSA opposes any increase in tuition that is not accompanied by a proportional increase in state general fund support.
- WSA supports policies that reduce the financial burden of textbooks and other costs of education.
- WSA supports full funding of the State Need Grant for all eligible students and increased funding for additional grants and scholarships.
- WSA supports policies that ease student transfers from community and technical colleges to state public universities, including Direct Transfer Agreements, a statewide system of course equivalencies, enhanced information systems to guide transfer students, and improved systems of acceptance of associates' degrees.
- WSA supports state funding of Washington universities and colleges at a level necessary to sustain the high quality of all programs and courses of study. Further, WSA supports academic opportunities that offer students flexibility, choice, and potential for personal and community development.
- WSA supports equal and flexible degree and certificate programs, including increased utilization and funding of Running Start, that will allow accelerated graduation to better meet student needs.
- WSA supports improved funding for certificates and degrees that meet workforce demands.
- WSA supports the creation of and funding for support services, including mentoring, advising, and program support for students in interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, consortium and concurrent degree programs.
- WSA supports additional legislative and administrative attention to student wellness, including improved availability and quality of health care services, with specific attention to mental health services.
- WSA supports more expedient access to emerging technologies, enhanced campus safety programs, and increased access to and funding for public transit. Students must be included in all aspects of the decision-making process affecting instruction, auxiliary programs, and campus life.
- WSA supports state-funded child care for children of students, which is essential for equal access to higher education.

- WSA supports funding of higher education capital projects.
- WSA supports improved comprehensive efforts to recruit, retain, and support underrepresented students, faculty, and staff. Diversity within curricula, advising programs and extracurricular programs must support such efforts.
- WSA supports policies and programs that enable public university and college students to obtain a world-class education.
- WSA opposes any efforts to limit the civil rights of students, faculty and staff.
- WSA supports student membership on governing boards of higher education institutions.