

Word Template for ACHS DD Legislative Committee – 3/29/24

Legislative Steering Committee

WSAC 2025-26 Legislative Agenda Proposal Submission

Developing, proposing, and passing legislation is difficult, time-consuming, and often requires extensive preparation and research. WSAC legislative advocacy efforts are largely directed by the priorities defined in WSAC’s Legislative Agenda (LA). The Legislative Steering Committee (LSC) is responsible for developing a recommendation for WSAC’s LA before each new biennial legislative session begins. Proposing legislative priority ideas to be considered by the LSC is the first step in WSAC’s LA development process. The instructions in this form will assist you in submitting your proposals for the WSAC 2025-26 Legislative Agenda.

Proposal submission due date:
April 19, 2024

Who is eligible to submit proposals:
LSC members, WSAC Affiliates, and WSAC Policy Staff

Section 2: Proposal Information:

1. Proposal Name (100 character limit)

Insert a phrase or sentence that briefly and accurately describes your proposal. Your proposal name should be specific and include the action and the outcome. For instance, say you wanted to propose a priority to improve broadband access. Rather than just naming your proposal “broadband” or even “enhancing broadband,” a name like “enhancing broadband access, affordability, and reliability in unserved and underserved areas in counties” would be more appropriate.

[Increase special education funding for infants & toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities](#)

Character limit – 100/100

2. Need Statement (500 character limit)

Insert a concise statement of the existing problem, why the proposal is needed, why change is essential, how the proposal will solve the problem, and who will benefit.

The Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program that provides special education (SE) services to young children is disproportionately underfunded. State SE funding for ages 0-3 is currently separated from multipliers for all other ages. The 2023 Legislative Session increased the SE multipliers for 3–5-year olds & K-12, but not the ESIT multiplier. As a result, providers statewide cannot afford to recruit and retain qualified staff, putting equitable services to families in jeopardy.

Character limit – 497/500

3. Proposal Description (1500 character limit)

Insert a broader description of what your proposal seeks to accomplish and how. While you should strive to be concise, you can include several paragraphs in this field. Your description should include specific strategy recommendations and pertinent information important to an accurate analysis of the proposal, such as how counties and/or residents will benefit, why the change being requested is important, what will happen if the proposal is accomplished, and what will happen if it is not. Other pertinent information in your description may include why you believe WSAC is the right organization to lead the proposal, what needs to be done to prepare for the proposal, what it will take to accomplish it, whether there is a compelling and relatable story or reason for the proposal, and how would it best be accomplished (policy or fiscal). Finally, whether your proposal is likely a single-year issue or a multiple-session effort.

The state's funding allocation for special education for a program for children with disabilities uses an "excess cost formula". This formula multiplies a school district's basic education allocation by an excess cost multiplier. ESIT's multiplier was historically paralleled with increases made to the K-12 multipliers when ESIT's special education funding was held at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. When ESIT's special education funding moved to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), the multiplier increases connected to school districts were separated. This means there are no increases made to ESIT's multiplier when such adjustments are made to other excess cost multipliers for special education funding.

ESIT is experiencing funding gaps across counties around the state. Raising the special education formula excess cost multiplier would help close funding gaps, alleviate provider strain, support staff recruitment and retention, and allow ESIT agencies to better fund equitably based, culturally relevant services.

ESIT services are extremely expensive due to the mandatory nature of serving families individually in their home or community, yet special education funding is

not being fully realized for this age group. Connecting ESIT multiplier increases to when they are made to other special education multipliers will eliminate the need for ESIT to request separate incremental adjustments.

Character limit – 1451/1500

4. Is this proposal an urban, rural, or all-county priority?

Insert your opinion as to whether this issue is most likely to be a priority for larger, more populous counties (urban); smaller, less populous counties (rural); or all counties (all-county).

All-county priority (statewide)

5. How the proposal meets LSC's adopted submission criteria

- Insert your explanation for how the proposal meets the following submission criteria adopted by the LSC: a. Must be limited to county government operations, services, costs, revenues, or legislative or executive authority; b. Must benefit multiple counties; and c. Must not directly harm any counties.

The proposal will enhance the ESIT service system and will increase access to services in all counties. It will not directly harm any counties.

6. WSAC Policy Statements and Core Principles supporting this proposal

WSAC's Statement of Policy and Core Principles

Insert the core principles or policy statements from WSAC's Statement of Policy and Core Principles that support this proposal. WSAC's Statement of Policy and Core Principles is a living document adopted by the members that outlines the core principles that form the foundation for WSAC policy positions and specific policy positions within several subject areas important to county government responsibilities, operations, and services.

Agents of the state? Provide Sufficient State-Shared Revenue? Presenting a Unified Front.

7. Likely supporters

Include a list of who will likely support this proposal and why. This may include legislators, other government organizations (cities, special purpose districts, state agencies, tribes, etc.), citizen groups, non-profit associations, unions, other stakeholder groups, etc.

Who?

Commented [BW1]: - Add percentage of kiddos who had early intervention services and exited no longer needing therapy? Confirm statewide stat: 33-38%?

- How much \$ can early intervention save the taxpayer in the long run?

- Legislators: Reps. Senn, Couture, Taylor, Stonier, Pollet, Callan, Rule, Goodman, & Kloba—sponsored HB 1676 that included this priority in 2022-23
- Department of Children, Youth, and Families
- ECDAW
- Early Support for Infants and Toddlers Agencies

Why?

8. Likely opposers

Include a list of who will likely oppose this support and why (if any). This may include legislators, other government organizations (cities, special purpose districts, state agencies, tribes, etc.), citizen groups, non-profit associations, unions, other stakeholder groups, etc.

Who?

Why?

9. Other

Include any additional information you believe is relevant to the proposal and deserves consideration that you did not already include. Please be as concise as possible.

• What to expect next:

Staff will review all proposals submitted and combine the same or similar proposals into one submission. Combined proposals will include the names of all submitters.

Staff will also further analyze each proposal and provide a recommendation to the LSC for whether the proposal should receive further consideration by the committee as a legislative priority during the 2025-26 legislative session. LSC members will make the final decision.

LSC members will receive a final report of all proposals received before the LSC retreat.