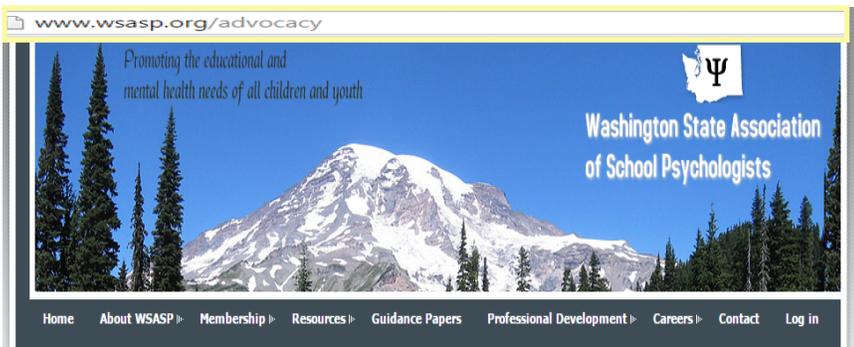


How communicate with your legislators using Our Voice on wsasp.org.



Step 1  
Go to wsasp.org/advocacy



Step 2.  
Under TAKE ACTION NOW, review the Who, What, Where, Why and How descriptions.

Step 3  
Under the Where and How descriptions you will see the word Our Voice highlighted in blue, and underlined.

Step 3.  
The Where section explains the purpose of Our Voice is to contact our legislators.

Step 4.  
The How section explains that you should address 1 bill at a time, you can use form letter provided by wsasp form , and can choose to add your own story, or you can write your own personal when you click on Our Voice.

**Upcoming events**

[WSASP 2015 Spring Lecture Series - FULL SERIES](#)  
January 30, 2015 8:29 AM • WSASP Go To Webinar

[WSASP 2015 Spring Lecture Series - MARCH 27th SESSION ONLY](#)  
March 27, 2015 8:30 AM • WSASP Go To Webinar

[WSASP 2015 Spring Lecture Series - MAY 1st SESSION ONLY](#)  
May 01, 2015 8:30 AM • WSASP Go To Webinar

**In the News**

Introducing the First Annual Gonzaga University Assessment Conference, "Diagnosis of and Interventions for Students with Learning Difficulties: CHC Cross-Battery

## Advocacy Action Center

State Advocacy | Federal Advocacy | Advocacy News | Advocacy Resources

### TAKE ACTION NOW!

**Who:** WSASP's Government and Public Relations (GPR) committee has been hard at work in Olympia, and now we need your vital contribution and active support!

**What: Advocate for your self, your field, and kids!** Contact your representatives TODAY about the below-mentioned important issues! Your representatives value your opinion as a constituent, and the more of us they hear from, the louder our collective voice! Below are 8 bills we are tracking now. A brief summary is provided and each bill is linked, allowing you to review the contents of the actual bill.

**When:** The legislature is in session, and will likely be in session through June. As bills cycle through the process and move to a vote from the entire legislative body, we will alert you to action through our member email system. When the time is right for each bill, the **Form Letter** link will be activated, and you will get an email reminder to take action!

**Where:** Thanks to Our Voice, you will only have to send the message once to get to all three representatives based on your home address.

**Why:** With more letters of support and phone calls from all stakeholders and professionals in school psychology and allied fields, more the legislators in the House and Senate will be informed and can realize the wide range of importance these issues represent.

**How:** The GPR has provided **form letters** (see below) for each bill of interest to WSASP. You can use these form letter exactly, add personal stories or comments, or write an original letter to submit to your legislators. Once your letter is ready, using Our Voice, you can send it to all your representatives. We ask that you send one letter for each bill, as this is how representatives prefer communication, and it keeps our message clear. On Our Voice, paste the letter into the space provided and provide your personal identifying information (this links your letter to your area representatives) and send!

WSASP's Governmental & Public Relations Committee (GPR) has been reviewing pertinent bills and updating them as they move through the legislative process.

**Step 5**  
 Scroll down the page until you come to the section boldly labeled **Current Bills and Form Letters**.  
 There is a description of the bills the GPR committee is currently tracking through the Washington State House of Representatives and Senators

Below is information on each important bill we are currently tracking.

There are eight bills currently and more on the way! Please be advised that sending a letter for each bill will take only 1-5 minutes of your time, so please take the time to respond to as many if these bills as you can!

We thank you in making a difference!

**Current Bills & Form Letters**

**SB 5688/HB 1760** Being referred to as the "Social Emotional Learning (SEL) bill", this is a bill that focuses on providing students with skills that promote mental health and well-being and increase academic performance, via the establishment of SEL benchmarks and standards for K-12 education.

[Senate Bill](#) [House Bill](#) [Form Letter](#)

**HB 1900** Defines the role of the School Counselor, School Social Worker, and School Psychologist to emphasize that we are primary providers of mental health services in the schools. This bill speaks to the barriers to this as well, ie, caseloads.

[Bill](#) [Form Letter](#)

H-1816.4

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1760**  
 \_\_\_\_\_

State of Washington      64th Legislature      2015 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Senn, Magendanz, Orwall, Stambaugh, Ortiz-Self, Kagi, Sells, Tharinger, Reykdal, Jinkins, Muri, Goodman, Riccelli, Robinson, Pollet, McBride, and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/15.

**Step 6.**  
 By clicking on the blue highlighted word [Bill](#), you will see a will see the actual legislative bill.  
 Some Bills are similar and are going through both the House and Senate at the same time.  
 Some Bills are only in the House or Senate  
 SB means [Senate Bill](#)  
 HB means [House Bill](#)

**Step 7.**  
 Review the Bills directly for additional information.

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**Current Bills & Form Letters**

**SB 5688/HB 1760** Being referred to as the "Social Emotional Learning (SEL) bill", this is a bill that focuses on providing students with skills that promote mental health and well-being and increase academic performance, via the establishment of SEL benchmarks and standards for K-12 education.

[Senate Bill](#) [House Bill](#) [Form Letter](#)

**HB 1900** Defines the role of the School Counselor, School Social Worker, and School Psychologist to emphasize that we are primary providers of mental health services in the schools. This bill speaks to the barriers to this as well, i.e. caseloads.

[Bill](#) [Form Letter](#)

As your constituent and a school psychologist, I believe all students have the right to a free and appropriate education. In today's schools however, many children come to school without the basic self-regulation or emotional coping skills they need to function as focused, effective learners. Senate Bill 5688 and the companion House Bill 1760 recognize the critical importance of addressing the socioemotional needs of all children, and require the establishment of social and emotional education benchmarks for students in K-12 public education. Social and emotional skills play a significant role in determining how well-equipped children will be to meet academic demands and to engage fully in the learning process. I urge you to vote in support of our students by passing these important bills.

Review of over 213 research projects involving over 270,000 children aged K-12 indicates that students who received direct instruction in social emotional skills demonstrated significantly improved social and emotional skills, attitudes, behavior, and significant increases in academic achievement. Children who learn emotional regulation and distress tolerance skills are more resilient, know more appropriate strategies to handle frustration and anger, and are more likely to become involved bystanders who play an important role in promoting safe, caring and respectful school environments for all students. Yet nearly 1 in 4 of our students entering school do not have the socioemotional readiness skills they need to successfully navigate the challenges of school.

Students without coping skills and adequate social development experience higher rates of depression, aggression and anxiety, and are more likely to become involved in the criminal justice system as adults. They have more difficulty in interpersonal relationships with parents, teachers, and peers. More indirectly, they also demonstrate poorer academic performance, and higher levels of peer rejection. These factors have been linked on several occasions with school violence.

School personnel including school psychologists, school social workers, and school counselors, are working to effectively link student need and school services with community resources to provide an efficacious continuum of mental health care. These services are most effective when founded upon well-designed school-wide prevention services and structured universal interventions. SEL benchmarks for K-12 will produce the scaffolding required for schools to provide these preventative services.

Mental and emotional wellness at school must be our priority, and the time to act is now. SB 5688 and HS 1760 are an important first step in ensuring that every student receives the necessary instruction to build the skills they need to handle and manage their emotions effectively at school. Intervention is much more costly and much less effective than prevention! Years of research have established the effectiveness of social emotional learning instruction, and having developmentally appropriate social emotional learning benchmarks will begin to address these needs.

I urge you to vote yes on this important bill, and to join us in putting your support behind Washington's children.

**Step 8.**

You have several choices. You can click on the Form Letter provided.

- A. Cut and Paste into [Our Voice](#), starting with "As your constituent..."
- B. Cut and Paste into [Our Voice](#), starting with "As your constituent..." and add your own personal story to support your stance.

(Whenever a personal story can be added, gives the letter more weight. )

**Step 9:**

How to Cut and Paste:

- a. Take your cursor and click on the form letter.
- b. Click on Ctrl button and A button simultaneously.
- c. Click on Ctrl button and C button simultaneously

[www.wsasp.org/advocacy](http://www.wsasp.org/advocacy)



**Advocacy Action Center**

[State Advocacy](#) [Federal Advocacy](#) [Advocacy News](#) [Advocacy Resources](#)

**TAKE ACTION NOW!**

**How:** The GPR has provided **form letters** (see below) for each bill of interest to WSASP. You can use these form letter exactly, add personal stories or comments, or write an original letter to submit to your legislators. Once your letter is ready, using [Our Voice](#), you can send it to all your representatives. We ask that you send one letter for each bill, as this is how representatives prefer communication, and it keeps our message clear. On [Our Voice](#), paste the letter into the space provided and provide your personal identifying information (this links your letter to your area representatives) and send!

[action.washingtonea.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=9137](http://action.washingtonea.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=9137)

**Step 10**

Scroll up until you see [Our Voice](#) highlighted in blue and underlined. You will find it in the Where and How descriptions.

**Step 11:**

Click on the words [Our Voice](#), which will take you immediately to the proper website to contact your legislators.



Once clicking on Our Voice, you are taken to this page, which will give you the opportunity to inform your WA State Representative and Senator how you want him/her to vote on issues or specific senate or house bills.

## Email your state legislators about public education

Your local legislators need to hear from you! Email your two House members and your state senator and let them know what you think about the education funding proposals and classroom policies they're debating in Olympia.

Thank you!

Subject:  
Please support House Bill (or Senate Bill) |...

Your Letter:  
Delete this text and write your message! Introduce yourself to your legislators and then add your own issue and story here. Whatever it is, explain your position and why it matters to educators and students. Legislators really want to know how their decisions affect our children.

**Step 12**

In the Subject box you want to be as specific as possible, indicating clearly whether you want to support a bill or if you are against a bill.

The legislators want to know the percentage of their constituents who support or against a bill.

In the Subject box, state I support (or I am against) House Bill ...  
Make to insert the specific bill number.

**Step 13**

To cut and paste the Form Letter into Your Letter

- Take you cursor and place it in the box for Your Letter
- Click so that the cursor is now in the box for Your Letter
- Click Ctrl V, then the form letter will be pasted into the box for Your Letter.

## Email your state legislators about public education

Your local legislators need to hear from you! Email your two House members and your state senator and let them know what you think about the education funding proposals and classroom policies they're debating in Olympia.

Thank you!

Subject:  
Please support House Bill 1760 and Senate Bill 5688

Your Letter:  
As your constituent and a school psychologist, I believe all students have the right to a free and appropriate education. In today's schools however many children come to school without the basic self-regulation or emotional coping skills they need to function as focused, effective learners. Senate Bill 5688 and the companion House Bill 1760 recognize the critical importance of addressing the socio-emotional needs of all children, and require the establishment of social and emotional education benchmarks for students in K-12 public education. Social and emotional skills play a significant role in determining how well-equipped children will be to meet academic demands and to engage fully in the learning process. I urge you to vote in support of

**Step 14.**

Check to make sure the Subject line represents the bills or bill you are discussing in the following section Your Letter.

**Step 15**

In the Your Letter box you can now add a personal story or edit in any way



## Email your state legislators about public education

Your local legislators need to hear from you! Email your two House members and your state senator and let them know what you think about the education funding proposals and classroom policies they're debating in Olympia.

Thank you!

Subject:

Your Letter:

**Step 16**

Once you are satisfied that you have put the correct bill in the Subject box and that the information in Your Letter conveys your thoughts, scroll down to the personal information section.



**Step 17**

Fill out the personal information. This insures your legislators that you a legitimate constituent and a registered voter.

First Name\*

Last Name\*

Email\*

Street\*

Street 2

City\*

State/Province\*

Zip/Postal Code\*

**Step 18**

Once you have inputted your personal information, click on the Submit button.

Your Letter has now been submitted to your legislators.

Expect an email response

**Step 19**

To review any additional bills return to [wsasp.org/advocacy](http://wsasp.org/advocacy) and repeat the process.