



## The Washington Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

### WACTE:

28 Institutions of Higher Education Preparing Educators at 50+ locations throughout Washington State:

Antioch University  
Central Washington University  
Centralia College  
City University of Seattle  
Eastern Washington University  
Gonzaga University  
Grays Harbor College  
Heritage University  
Highline College  
Lower Columbia College  
NW Educ. Development  
Northwest University  
Pacific Lutheran University  
Pierce College  
Seattle Pacific University  
Seattle University  
Saint Martin's University  
The Evergreen State College  
University of Puget Sound  
University of WA Bothell  
University of WA Seattle  
University of WA Tacoma  
Walla Walla University  
Washington State University  
Whitworth University  
Western Governor's University  
Western WA University  
Yakima Valley College

## WACTE Priorities for the 2020 Legislative Session:

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The Mission of the Washington Association of Colleges for Teacher Education is to provide leadership on issues related to professional education, with primary focus on teacher education.

Aligned with this mission, WACTE supports:

- **An independent assessment of the Education Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA)** to determine if it is meeting its goals. The edTPA has been criticized, but not studied to see if it truly meets the goal of “teacher candidates ... demonstrat(ing) what they can and will do on the job.”

There needs to be a valid, evidence- based assessment across preparation programs that holds them accountable. Is that the edTPA? We should look deeply at that question, how edTPA operates, whether there are embedded biases or other problems with the test, and the cost-benefit return, rather than rely on anecdotal, evidence of problems.

- **Expanded Teacher Mentoring** – WACTE supports OSPI’s request for \$6m/year so that all new teachers can be mentored (currently only about 75% are mentored). This highly effective retention strategy and can help stem the attrition rate of new teachers
- **Exploration of full-year residency teaching programs** – OSPI is requesting \$60,000 to make recommendations for an apportionment system that could support teacher residency program pilots. WACTE supports the exploration and stands willing to help inform the process, should legislators fund the effort

### Related issues WACTE supports:

Readiness to learn includes good student nutrition and an environment where children can thrive. As such, WACTE supports the following initiatives likely to be before the 2020 Washington Legislature:

- Increased access to school meals
- Increased support for Educational Staff Associates through financial incentives to achieve national certifications in their fields