



Red For Ed Legislative Priorities Put Kids and Educators First

As the 2021 General Assembly opens, advocates of public schools must come together and work to protect our local public schools.

In 2019, ISTA members organized around Red For Ed priorities from hold harmless to increased teacher pay and school funding as 20,000 advocates joined together at the Statehouse. Although COVID-19 will limit and alter how we gather to advocate, we are still raising awareness around Red For Ed and will fight during this budget-writing session.

What Are We Advocating?

During this pandemic, public schools and educators have been asked to do more than ever. The increased workloads and additional hours have created stress, burnout and anxiety for educators, pushing the state's teacher shortage to even greater limits.



We must ensure every kid has access to a great community-based public school with a caring and qualified teacher.

ISTA's Red For Ed priorities this session will work to address working conditions and improve public education funding.

ISTA will fight to:

- Ensure all modes of teaching and learning in public schools qualify for 100 percent funding for the school year

- Protect against any cuts to public education funding
- Empower teachers to bargain for their working conditions
- Provide meaningful and long-lasting teacher salary increases
- Build more funding equity by addressing the complexity index used in the funding formula
- Eliminate or reduce reliance on standardized testing by seeking a federal waiver and, at a minimum, hold schools harmless for test scores over the next two years

How Can You Be an Advocate?

Like all things the past year, advocacy at the state level will look different this year. We can't host large rallies, and access to legislative work will be limited. What can you and your local do to raise your voices?

- Lead back home actions from socially distanced grade-ins to Red For Ed car parades
- Host small, local meetings with legislators wearing masks and socially distanced
- Use your social media to highlight actions during the General Assembly
- Go virtual — use ISTA's digital advocacy platforms to email or call legislators
- Go analog — write letters or postcards to legislators — flood their mailboxes