

2021-2022 Bryant PTSA Advocacy Round Up

From the Bryant PTSA Advocacy Committee Co-Chairs
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Over the year, the Bryant PTSA has advocated for education funding and policies to support the school. Advocacy efforts are critical ways for the school community to be engaged with decisions made at the state and local government as well as school district levels that impact schools' resources.

Bryant PTSA advocacy efforts this year have worked to:

1. support the school's operational effectiveness and academic competitiveness;
2. promote the school's recovery from the pandemic on both a social and emotional level as well as in terms of stabilizing enrollment and leadership; and
3. expand community engagement.

The PTSA in coordination with the organization's Advocacy Committee have worked to support these goals through advocacy activities on the state level promoting enrollment stabilization funding and at the local level supporting the passage of the SPS School levies. Further, over the year, the Bryant PTSA has advocated for adequate and stable school funding from SPS as well as policies that promote the school's operational effectiveness.

State level

During the Washington state legislative session this year, the organization's advocacy efforts focused primarily on enrollment stabilization funding. Since the state of Washington largely bases its school funding decisions on enrollment levels, due to pandemic-based enrollment declines throughout the district and at Bryant, we promoted efforts to fund SPS schools at pre-pandemic enrollment levels to prevent massive funding cuts and maintain services. In addition to securing some enrollment stabilization funding, the state also passed bills to improve the

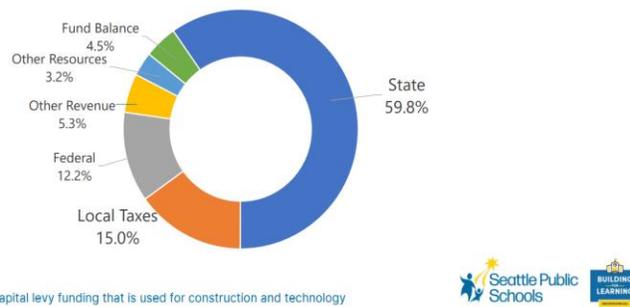
prototypical funding formula to increase the number of trained and qualified nurses, social workers, psychologists, counselors in the schools, and expanded arts education and other school programs.

The Bryant PTSA’s legislative advocacy activities included submitting written testimony in support of: enrollment stabilization bills Senate Bill (SB) 5563 and House Bill (HB) 1509; art funding SB 5878; and improving the prototypical funding formula HB 1664. We also activated the Bryant community to electronically submit their support of the bills through the state legislature’s legislation portal. Legislative advocacy activities and strategies were also coordinated with the Seattle Council PTSA and the Washington State PTA.

Local level

The Bryant PTSA officially endorsed and supported the passage of the SPS School [levies](https://www.seattleschools.org/about/levy/) (https://www.seattleschools.org/about/levy/), which were approved by the voters this February. The local initiatives are up for renewal every three years and account for 15% of SPS funding to cover gaps in federal and state education resources.

2021-22 SPS Funding by Source



In addition to the operational levy resources, the capital levy continues funding for building projects, technology projects, and academic/athletic projects throughout the district. Building projects planned for Bryant elementary through the capital levy can be found at: <https://www.seattleschools.org/about/levy/2022-capital-levy/>.

To help promote the passage of the ballot measures, the PTSA’s Advocacy Committee organized the distribution of yard signs supporting the levies as well as led a sign waving event in the neighborhood.

School district level

Over the year, the Bryant PTSA has advocated for adequate and stable school funding from SPS as well as policies that promote the school’s operational effectiveness.

Given the role that Seattle Public Schools (SPS) serves in the allocation of state education resources, due to pandemic-based enrollment declines, Bryant experienced a decrease in funding over the last few years. Funding cuts have led to cuts impacting school operations and staff, including the reduction this year to half-time of our Assistant Principal (AP). Given the critical operational, service, and program work the AP position provides, we have promoted a reconsideration of the position's funding formula through the district. To highlight the importance of the AP role to our school, we have gathered information from our teachers on the work of the position and organized a meeting with Chandra Hampson, District 3 School Board Director.

Additional advocacy work occurred during the spring following the release of the SPS proposal to alter the district's school schedule. At that time, the Bryant PTSA created and sent a survey to understand the needs of families and provide critical family engagement. The organization highlighted the survey responses in a [letter](https://www.bryantschool.org/news/letter-to-sps-fall-2022-bell-times/) (https://www.bryantschool.org/news/letter-to-sps-fall-2022-bell-times/) to the District and District School Board Director. The data also supported school administrators with follow-up conversations with the District outlining school needs. The SPS Superintendent decided a few weeks later that the two bell times would remain for the 2022-23 school year.

The organization's final district advocacy work for the year includes continued advocacy for expanded SPS resources that would promote enrollment and community engagement.

Upcoming Advocacy Efforts and Engagement Opportunities

As Bryant PTSA members continue to work together and with schools across the district to promote ample and stable funding as well as programs to improve the educational outcomes of students, we invite interested Bryant school community members to add your support and to get involved in advocacy efforts. For those interested, please contact advocacy@bryantschool.org.