

As a nonprofit advocacy organization active in Washington since 2007, Stand for Children is a unique catalyst for education equity and racial justice in order to create a brighter future for us all.



To achieve our mission, Stand WA’s legislative advocacy seeks to:

- Promote policies that advance racial equity and positively impact students and families who are Black, Indigenous and people of color
- Promote proven solutions that are already working in schools and communities

LEAD AGENDA PRIORITIES

Invest in Ninth Grade Success	Eliminate Outlawed Debt
<p>9th grade is a make or break year, yet 30% of Washington’s 9th graders fall “off track” in 9th grade, putting them at risk of dropping out. By passing SB 5408 and funding the Ninth Grade Success Initiative at \$2.9m, lawmakers can dramatically improve the Ninth Grade On Track rate at 53 Washington high schools serving more than 13,000 students.</p>	<p>Juvenile courts may not accept payment for old juvenile court debt (from administrative fines and fees that have been eliminated). But the debt remains “on the books” holding back tens of thousands of Washingtonians by impacting access to credit. <u>The legislature should ensure that courts waive uncollectible debt.</u></p>

SUPPORT PRIORITIES

Stand WA seeks to amplify and lend our voice to partner and community priorities that align with our values and mission. This session, we will support bills and policies that:

- Increase the number of students with equitable access to a robust high school education and post-secondary opportunities
- Invest in community based alternatives to replace the ineffective and harmful practice of jailing children and youth
- Address and eliminate the systemic disparities that impact children and youth who are Black, Indigenous and people of color
- Elevate the leadership and voice of directly impacted youth, their families, and their communities