

Eliminate 15% Special Education Enrollment Cap

Special education funding is capped at 15% of students enrolled per school district. Although the Washington Legislature raised the enrollment cap in 2023, more than 100 districts still exceed the 15% enrollment cap. Every student in need must have fully funded educational support. **We are asking the Legislature to:**

- ✓ Eliminate the 15% special education enrollment cap
- ✓ Require any increases in special education funding go directly to students
- ✓ Improve accountability and transparency metrics for special education program outcomes

Abolish Isolation and Restrict Restraint Against Children with Disabilities

Restraining and/or isolating students in crisis is a harmful and unnecessary practice. Restraint and isolation of students disproportionately impacts BIPOC, at-risk and students with disabilities. Restraint and isolation are intended to be used in emergency situations only but they're often a form of punishment or retribution. **We are asking the Legislature to:**

- ✓ Support legislation to end isolation and restrict the restraint of students
- ✓ Require improved reporting and data collection to prevent biased targeting of students
- ✓ Require professional development for teachers and school employees managing students in crisis

Fund the Construction of the Multicultural Village

ODMF is partnering with Mercy Housing, Sound Transit, The City of Kent, Local and state officials to build an inclusive, affordable, and accessible housing development in Kent, WA. The Multicultural village will house 200 individuals and families with 40 units reserved for people with disabilities. **We are asking the Legislature to:**

- ✓ Provide \$22 million dollars in capital funds, necessary for non-residential construction costs, to complete this \$134 million-dollar project.

End Homelessness and Housing Insecurity

Affordable housing developments are urgently needed across Washington state. Funding via new housing levies, real estate excise taxes and re-evaluating current tax funds distributions is urgently needed to better support housing development. **We are asking the Legislature to:**

- ✓ Support the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) bill (HB1628).
- ✓ Support new housing levies to fund housing development
- ✓ Simplify access to Housing Trust Fund to expediate housing development

Support Compensation for Family Caregivers from the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA).

Parents of children with disabilities are often unpaid caregivers, foregoing paid employment. Families from diverse backgrounds often do not have access to caregivers who are culturally competent or capable of communicating in their preferred language. Currently, only parents of adults with disabilities and extended family members can be paid caregivers. **We are asking the Legislature to:**

- ✓ Allow parents of minor children to receive caregivers' compensation from the DDA
- ✓ Fund education and outreach efforts to diverse communities to increase the caregiving workforce