



OPEN DOORS
for multicultural families
disability | community | opportunity

2024 Legislative Session Review

Agenda



2024 Legislative
Priorities



Advocacy
Activities



Challenges &
Obstacles



Language Access:
Change in Action



Future Work



Our Next Steps

Legislative Priorities 2024 (1/2)



Eliminate the 15% Special Education Enrollment Cap

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



End Isolation and Restrict Restraint against Students

- End isolation and restrict the use of restraint tactics
- Improve reporting and data collection to prevent biased targeting of students
- Require professional development for teachers and school employees managing students in crisis



Fund the Multicultural Village

- Provide \$10 million dollars in capital funding for the Multicultural Village

Legislative Priorities 2024 (2/2)



Compensation for Parental Caregivers

- Allow parents of minor children to be paid by the DDA
- Fund education and outreach efforts to diverse communities to increase the caregiving workforce



Continue Expanding Language Access

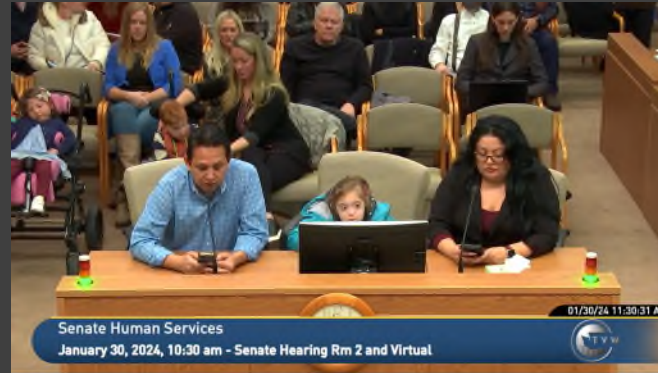
- Require public schools to provide access to credentialed translators.
- Standardize IEP/504 plan documents across every district and translate those documents into requested languages.



End Homelessness and Housing Insecurity

- Support new housing levies to fund housing development
- Simplify access to Housing Trust Fund to expediate housing development

Advocates in Action!



Challenges



Educating legislators and the public about the issues



Finding the money to pay for new programs and services



Overcoming the Opposition to Change...

PASSED

Bill #	Title	Description
<u>HB 1541</u>	Establishing the nothing about us without us act.	Implements certain membership requirements for statutory entities, defined as any multimember task force, work group, or advisory committee, that is: (1) temporary; (2) established by statute; (3) established for the specific purpose of examining a particular issue that directly and tangibly affects a particular underrepresented populations.
<u>HB 2180</u>	Increasing the special education enrollment funding cap (16%)	This bill is a financial compromise, raising the cap from 15% to 16% which alleviates some of the funding challenges that a full cap removal would present. The complete removal of the cap is needed, but any increase is a net positive.
<u>SB 5883</u>	Concerning the burden of proof for special education due process hearings.	Provides that a school district has the burden of proof when it is a party to a special education due process hearing. Creates an exception to this burden of proof requirement in circumstances when a parent seeks reimbursement for a unilateral parental placement.
<u>SB 5852</u>	Concerning special education safety net awards.	Simplifies and streamlines the safety net award process to limit staffing needs and expediate awards to accommodate smaller districts.

FAILED

Bill #	Title	Description
HB 1479	Concerning restraint or isolation of students in public schools and educational programs.	Prevents the isolation of students in confined spaces in public schools for K-5th students. Restricts the use of restraint tactics by school employees against students. Improves training and data collection practices on restraint and isolation.
HB 2184	Authorizing payment for parental caregivers	Allows natural, adoptive and stepparents to be compensated as caregivers for their minor children

Legislative Wins

HB 1541 : Nothing About Us Without Us

Requires people from underrepresented groups be included on any temporary task force, work group or advisory committee investigating an issue that impacts underrepresented populations.

HB 2180: Increasing Special Ed. Enrollment Cap

Increase the percentage of students within a school district who are eligible for special education support funding from 15% to 16%.

SB 5883: Shifting Burden of Proof in Due Process

Any school district refusing to provide a student with requested special education support services will be responsible for proving to a judge that those services aren't necessary.

Budget Provisos



\$5 million for
Multicultural Village



\$250,000 for Intersectional
DD Conference

Language Access: Change in Action

HISTORY OF LANGUAGE ACCESS

Federal Legislation

1964

Civil Rights Act

Prohibited discrimination based on national origin

1975

Voting Rights Act of 1965

Amended: Election information available in multiple languages

1968

Bilingual Education Act

Funded bilingual education programs in public schools

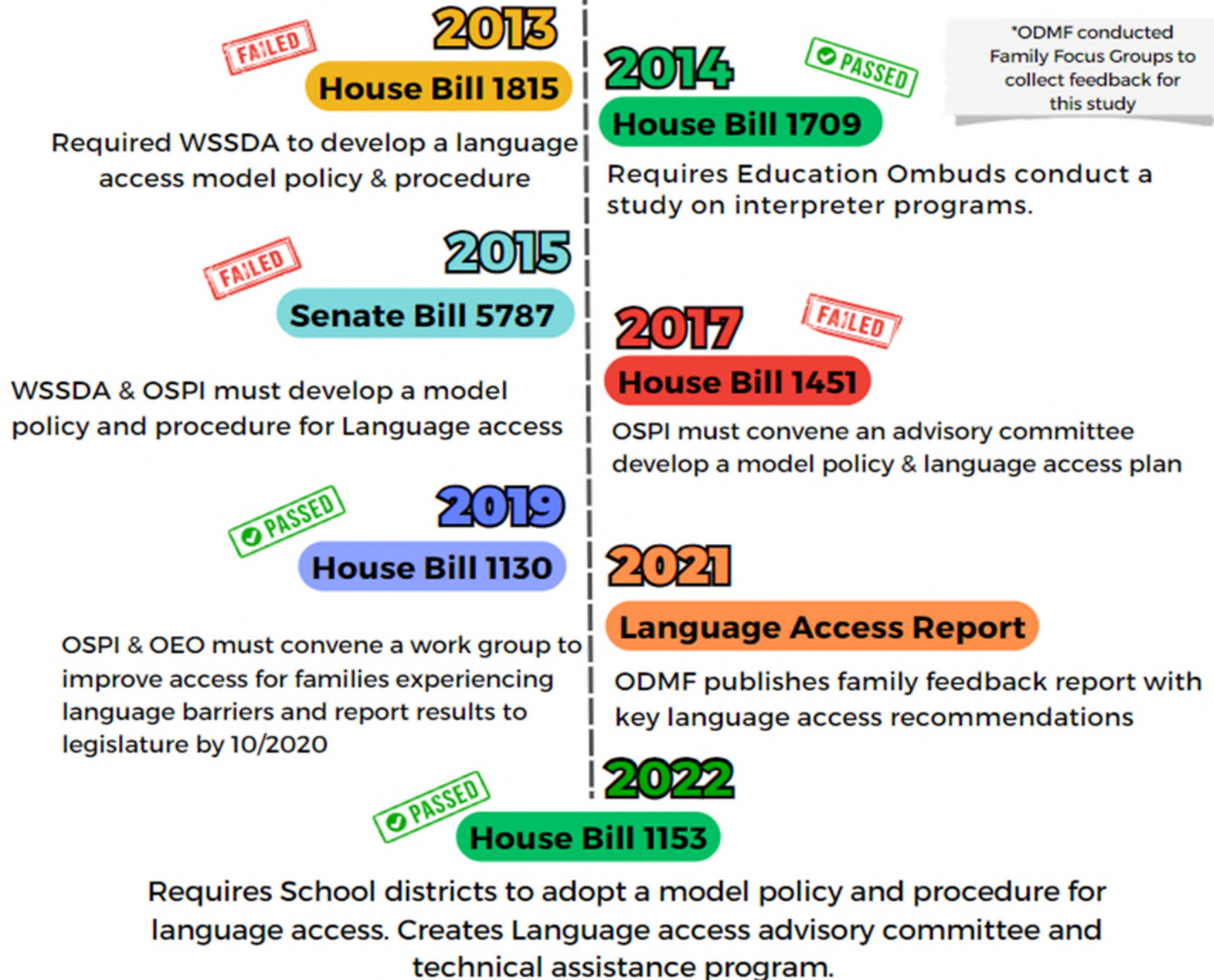
2000

Executive Order 13166

Required federal agencies to implement language access plans

Language Access: Change in Action

Washington State



Future Work



Restraint and
Isolation



Compensation for
Parental Caregivers



Eliminating the
Special Education
Enrollment Cap

Next Steps...

