

K-12 Education

Overview

During the 2025 session, Legislative Pages (students ages 14-16) had the opportunity to interview legislators from both the Majority party and the Minority party about issues of interest. In this lesson, students will learn about where the Majority Party, currently the Democrats, and the Minority Party, currently the Republicans, stand on three important policies addressed by the House Education Committee.

Essential Questions

- To what extent does the state government control what local school districts do?
- What are the different ideas presented to help students feel safe in school?
- To what extent are the Republican and Democratic parties similar in their approaches to the role of the government in the school system?

Materials Needed

- KWL Chart
- "On The Issues": Parent and Student Rights, School Safety, and Dual Credit Programs
- Viewer's Guide
- Further Research Opportunities

Activity (20 minutes)

- 1. Distribute the KWL chart to the students.
- 2. In pairs, have students fill out what they already know about policies regarding Youth Care policies in Washington, as well as what they want to know.
- 3. Watch the "On the Issues" videos, using the discussion questions to guide students in understanding the differences between the policy ideas.
- 4. In pairs, have students fill out the Learn section of the KWL chart, focusing on the similarities and differences between the Legislators' ideas.
- 5. Distribute the Further Research Opportunities handout to students who wish to investigate this issue further.