



# WSSDA 2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## Learning Space for Every Student

WSSDA's top priority for 2016 is support for the campaign to allow a simple majority of voters to approve school construction bonds in November general elections.

Two other things are required to make room for learning and to comply with class size reduction mandates: state support for the actual costs of school construction and changes to the Growth Management Act so districts can build schools outside of Urban Growth Areas.

## Ample and Dependable Funding

Students need stability to succeed academically. Full funding for Basic Education must be dependable, uniform across the state, and adjusted for inflation to cover costs of all mandated programs and services, such as special education.

Levy reform must include long safe-harbor periods so districts are not harmed financially during the shift away from local funding for Basic Education. Robust levy equalization is required to mitigate huge differences in local taxing capacity to assure equity for our students, wherever they live.

## Great Teachers in Every Classroom

Professional development is a critical component of Basic Education. With 96 hours of training each year, including 16 hours of cultural competency and equity education, teachers will continuously improve, sharpening their skills and learning new ways to help all students succeed.

State-bargained and state-funded salaries which recognize regional differences and the needs of hard-to-staff schools will enable all districts to attract and retain highly qualified staff.



### WSSDA GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Support success for every student
- Accountability through local governance

