

Local school district contacts:

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2017
WSSDA / WASA / WASBO
Legislative Conference and Day on the Hill
February 13, Olympia, WA

Hot Topics

Information for Legislators

PRESENTED BY:
The Washington State School Directors' Association
The Washington Association of School Administrators and
The Washington Association of School Business Officials



Basic Education Funding

The 2017 Legislature must take action this year to meet its paramount duty to fully fund basic education, including basic education salaries, and end the over reliance on local levies. WSSDA/WASA/WASBO members urge the Legislature to adopt an Education Funding Plan that:

- Funds the actual cost of basic education salaries—before any reduction to levy lids or Local Effort Assistance (or “levy equalization”);
- Limits locally bargained compensation to time worked outside the program of basic education;
- Provides a careful transition that holds districts harmless, ensuring they do not lose funding as they move to a new system;
- Provides sufficient revenues to ensure that basic education (including salaries) is amply funded, as required by the constitution. Any “levy swap” proposal that does not include new funding cannot be supported;
- Maintains and updates the Prototypical School Funding Model; and
- Establishes a regular review of the new system to ensure it continues to comply with the state constitution.

Education leaders at the state, regional, and local are eager to partner with the Legislature as an ample and equitable education funding plan is navigated. It is important for policy makers to understand the implications of the plans as they evolve.

Levy Cliff

School districts are, and have been preparing for the Levy Cliff; however this has been challenging without the originally intended increase in state funding needed for compensation. The current sunset of local levy lid and Local Effort Assistance increases should be extended through 2019 to allow stability in school district budgets and allow school districts to meet their financial obligations as the Legislature addresses levy reform and transitions to fully meeting the full cost of basic education employee compensation. WSSDA/WASA/WASBO members urge the Legislature to quickly adopt legislation to protect districts from falling over the “Levy Cliff” so that we can engage as partners to support consideration of an ample and equitable education funding plan. Please support: HB 1059/SB 5023.

School Facilities

In the last two years, the Legislature has provided additional resources, on top of the “base” Capital Budget, to fund additional classrooms for all-day kindergarten and smaller class sizes in grades K-3. Unfortunately, the \$234 million (\$200 million in 2015, plus \$34 million in 2016) provided was a drop in the bucket compared to the nearly \$2.0 billion expected cost to fund an additional 5,700 classrooms. WSSDA/WASA/WASBO members thank the Legislature for prioritization of K-12 construction, which assists in providing students with the necessary school facilities to learn and at the same time grows the State’s economy by providing jobs across the state. In addition, we applaud the Legislature for its efforts to provide additional resources in the last two sessions to assist school districts in accommodating all-day kindergarten and K-3 class size reduction.

WSSDA/WASA/WASBO members urge the Legislature to support bills that address enhancing K-12 capital construction needs and funding for all districts; bills that will alleviate the challenges school districts face regarding school siting; and support moving HJR 4203/SJR 8202 and HJR 4204 forward allowing approval of school bonds by a simple majority.

