



## Statement on passage of levy cliff bill, ESB 5023

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- This issue has been a top priority for school directors. Every district needs a smooth transition between local levy funding and state funding for basic education obligations for the coming school year.
- The action taken by the Senate and House to adopt ESB 5023 is an excellent step to reassure school districts as they prepare budgets for the 2017-18 school year. It will help districts keep current staffing levels and program offerings for next year.
- The additional provisions added by the Senate are ones that were anticipated. We are still working on clarifying understanding about how they will be implemented, but we believe they are doable.
- Passage of the bill does not take the pressure off of finding a long-term solution to basic education funding. In fact, school districts can now fully engage in the budget discussions underway in the Legislature, without the distraction of the levy cliff looming.
- We are heartened by the clear commitment by both parties in the House and Senate to now begin talking and coming together. The passage of ESB 5023 demonstrates progress and we are eager for the focus to now be on bringing all sides together on K-12 education funding.