



2016 Legislative Conference

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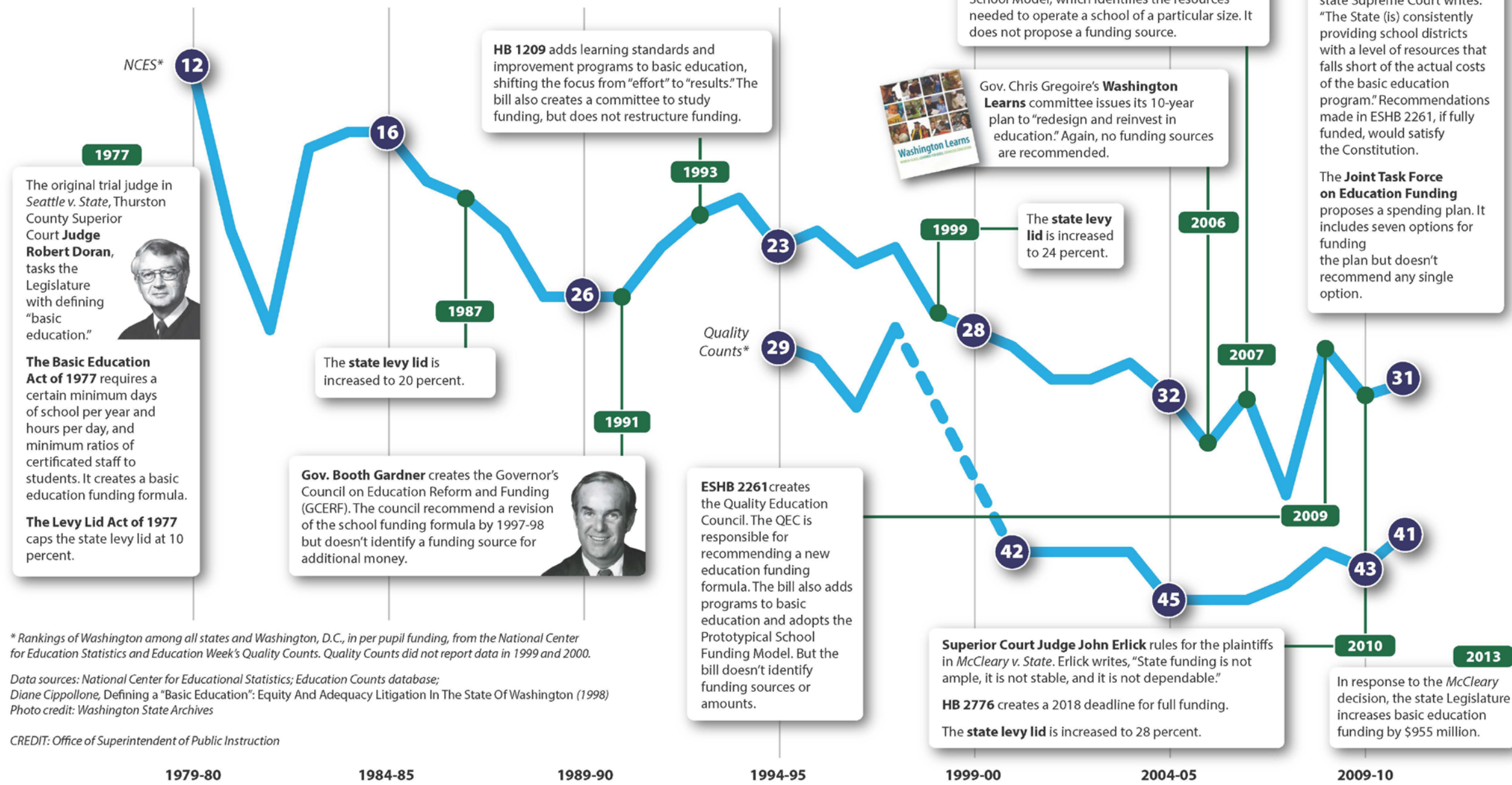
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The Big Picture

- In the four decades since the Doran decision there has been a steady erosion of funding for Washington's public schools as compared with other states.
- During that four decades the burden of funding our schools has shifted increasingly to local levies.
- All of the recent progress in reversing that trend has done little to restore Washington's former relative national position in support of its public schools.

A brief history of education funding in Washington state

Modern education funding began in 1976, when the Seattle School District sued the state. At the time, 65 districts (representing 40 percent of the student population) each recently had levies fail twice in a row. The State Supreme Court agreed with the district, ruling that the funding system in place at the time was neither ample nor stable.



* Rankings of Washington among all states and Washington, D.C., in per pupil funding, from the National Center for Education Statistics and Education Week's Quality Counts. Quality Counts did not report data in 1999 and 2000.

Data sources: National Center for Educational Statistics; Education Counts database;
Diane Cippollone, *Defining a "Basic Education": Equity And Adequacy Litigation In The State Of Washington* (1998)
Photo credit: Washington State Archives

CREDIT: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

The Big Picture

2016 Education Week Quality Counts Report

- The latest report was release in December which includes ranking of states based on 2013 funding Washington State was:
 - 40th in the nation in adjusted per pupil expenditures.
 - We spent \$2,241 less per student than the national average.
 - 44th in the nation in the percent of taxable resources spent on education.
- According to Ross Hunter (rosshunter.com, Nov. 9, 2014):
 - *“the McCleary investment gets Washington State to about the national average as of the 2013-14 school year.”*
 - If I-1351 and local compensation costs are added we would rank 13th in the nation in in absolute spending per student and lower in regional-cost-adjusted spending.

Recent History

2009 - Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2261

- Education Reform Bill that redefined the state's "Program of Basic Education" and the funding amounts and methods needed to fully support it for full implementation by 2018.
- Implemented a prototypical school model as a basis for funding, and
- Established four workgroups to develop new funding formulas:
 - Funding Formula Technical Workgroup.
 - Data Governance.
 - Levy and Local Effort Assistance Technical Work Group.
 - Compensation Technical Workgroup.

Recent History

2010 - Substitute House Bill 2776

- Adopted the prototypical schools funding model.
- Established that programs shall be fully funded by the 2018-19 school year.
- Established a new funding formula for Pupil Transportation, to begin during or before 2013.
- Created a roadmap for work groups to define the details of the funding formulas.
- Established the Quality Education Council to recommend the phase-in to the Legislature.

Recent History

WASA / WASBO Local Funding Work Group

In preparation for the 2015 Legislative session, work group established for the purpose of reviewing school district local funding issues, including “levy swap” proposals that were a focus of policymakers.

- A Review of available data demonstrated that 54% of local levy funds were used to fund compensation and additional staff units.
- Total teacher compensation varied from school district to school district.
- Because of the reliance on local levy funds for compensation, the pending levy cliff causes significant financial problems for several school districts.
- **COMPENSATION** must be funded **FIRST** – before any changes to the existing local levy structure in the state.

Recent History

2015 - Senate Bill 6130

- Specified that the legislative definition of basic education included statewide salary allocations that are competitive and market based.
- Phased in new salaries for all school staff and implemented a revised salary allocation model for teachers and other instructional certificated staff.
- Required a comparable wage analysis every four years to maintain competitive salaries.
- Established the Education Funding Council to monitor the implementation of the act, to make recommendations to avoid any unintended consequences, and recommend a different plan to meet the State's constitutional basic education obligation.

Did not Move

Recent History

2015 – Senate Bill 6130

- Would have changed the local school district levy and local effort assistance processes.
 - For calendar year 2016 through 2022, basic education enhancements provided after August 30, 2015, excluded from school district levy bases except for COLA and additional staffing units in the prototypical funding model.
 - For 2018, maximum levy authority decreased from 28% to 26%
 - Beginning in 2019, a school districts actual levy collections would be reduced by the budgeted amount of any new K-12 salary enhancements.
 - School district's levy authority would be based on a two-tier system.
 - School districts levying \$1.00 per \$1,000 assessed valuation that would receive \$1,500 or more per student would be capped at a rate of \$1.00 per \$1,000.
 - School districts that would receive less than \$1,500 per pupil would have levy rates capped at \$1.50 per \$1,000.
 - To qualify for LEA, a school district would need an approved levy rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 at which point they would be equalized to the statewide median \$/student.

Did not Move

Recent History

Common Themes from Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee Working / Listen Tour

- The state is underfunding basic education, including compensation, which causes inequities for students and school staff.
- There is currently wide disparities in compensation, the amount of professional development provided, local levy rates, and the amount of funding raised through local levies for school districts across the state.
- Competitive statewide salaries that are market-based are supported.
- Levy equalization should be maintained or increased no matter how local levies are addressed.
- Communities are supportive of local schools but want those funds used for programs that supplement not support the state program of basic education.
- There was divided opinion regarding the use of a localization factor as part of the state education compensation system.



More Information on
2016 Bills

Hot Topics

with Dan Steele and Jessica Varvus