2016 Legislative Conference

Alan Burke, Executive Director Washington State School Directors' Association

Bill Keim, Executive Director Washington Association of School Administrators

Nancy Moffatt, Executive Director Washington Association of School Business Officials

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 it's public schools.

A brief history of education funding in Washington state McCleary v. State of Washington is filed. Modern education funding began in 1976, when the Seattle School District sued the state. At the time, 65 districts The Basic Education Funding Task Force 2012 (representing 40 percent of the student population) each recently had levies fail twice in a row. The State Supreme (known as the Grimm Commission) recommends Court agreed with the district, ruling that the funding system in place at the time was neither ample nor stable. a new funding formula based on the Prototypical In McCleary v. State, the School Model, which identifies the resources state Supreme Court writes: needed to operate a school of a particular size. It "The State (is) consistently does not propose a funding source. providing school districts HB 1209 adds learning standards and with a level of resources that NCES* falls short of the actual costs improvement programs to basic education, shifting the focus from "effort" to "results." The of the basic education Gov. Chris Gregoire's Washington bill also creates a committee to study program." Recommendations Learns committee issues its 10-year funding, but does not restructure funding. made in ESHB 2261, if fully plan to "redesign and reinvest in funded, would satisfy education." Again, no funding sources the Constitution. 1977 are recommended. 1993 The Joint Task Force The original trial judge in on Education Funding Seattle v. State, Thurston proposes a spending plan. It **County Superior** The state levy 2006 includes seven options for 1999 Court Judge lid is increased funding Robert Doran, to 24 percent. the plan but doesn't tasks the recommend any single Legislature option. with defining 1987 "basic Quality education." Counts* 2007 The Basic Education The state levy lid is Act of 1977 requires a increased to 20 percent. certain minimum days of school per year and 1991 hours per day, and minimum ratios of certificated staff to Gov. Booth Gardner creates the Governor's students. It creates a basic ESHB 2261 creates Council on Education Reform and Funding education funding formula. the Quality Education (GCERF). The council recommend a revision 2009 Council. The OEC is The Levy Lid Act of 1977 of the school funding formula by 1997-98 responsible for caps the state levy lid at 10 but doesn't identify a funding source for 42 recommending a new percent. additional money. education funding formula. The bill also adds 45 programs to basic education and adopts the Prototypical School * Rankings of Washington among all states and Washington, D.C., in per pupil funding, from the National Center 2010 Superior Court Judge John Erlick rules for the plaintiffs for Education Statistics and Education Week's Quality Counts. Quality Counts did not report data in 1999 and 2000. Funding Model. But the 2013 in McCleary v. State. Erlick writes, "State funding is not bill doesn't identify ample, it is not stable, and it is not dependable." Data sources: National Center for Educational Statistics: Education Counts database: In response to the McCleary funding sources or Diane Cippollone, Defining a "Basic Education": Equity And Adequacy Litigation In The State Of Washington (1998) decision, the state Legislature amounts. HB 2776 creates a 2018 deadline for full funding. Photo credit: Washington State Archives increases basic education The state levy lid is increased to 28 percent. funding by \$955 million. CREDIT: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction 1979-80 1984-85 1989-90 1994-95 2004-05 2009-10 1999-00

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.

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.

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.

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.



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.



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 amoung 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 that \$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.

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