

# ESD 112 REGION SUPERINTENDENTS

## 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



### WE GREATLY VALUE LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO MAKE INVESTMENTS IN K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION

As you know, EHB 2242 has created unintended consequences and inequities among Washington's school districts. We look forward to working together during the upcoming session to ensure equitable and sustainable funding for all school

districts. The 30 superintendents and their school boards in the ESD 112 region urge the legislature to address three priorities so we can continue to serve the best interests of all students.



### 1. FIX FUNDING INEQUITIES AMONG SCHOOL DISTRICTS

#### a. **Provide sustainable funding for small school districts**

Of the state's 295 school districts, over two-thirds have 2,000 or fewer students. Under the new funding plan, small school districts are among those most negatively impacted due to teacher longevity, large cuts to Local Effort Assistance and reduced authority to collect local funding. In several instances, levy/LEA funding per student has been cut 60-70% because districts receiving equalization are limited to \$1,500 per student.

#### **PROPOSED SOLUTIONS:**

- » In districts with less than 2,000 FTE, hold harmless and provide revenues equal to net loss due to LEA and local levy reductions.
- » Provide required minimum salary funding (for districts with net loss).
  - ✓ Estimated cost of these two solutions is \$50 million statewide.
- » Allow districts to qualify for experience revenues if:
  - ✓ They either exceed the statewide average mix or exceed the statewide average educational attainment, not both.
- » Estimated cost for all districts is \$16 million statewide. Estimated costs for districts 2,000 FTE and under is \$4.4 million statewide.

#### b. **Evaluate and correct regionalization methodology**

EBH 2242's regionalization plan forced inequities among even neighboring districts, creating teacher recruitment and retention challenges and unfairly pitting school districts against one another.

#### **PROPOSED SOLUTION:**

- » Modify the current methodologies used to calculate and apply factors for district regionalization funding.

#### c. **Support school capital facility needs**

Many school districts have difficulty passing local requests for capital improvements. We urge the Legislature to invest in construction/modernization and security-related facility costs.

#### **PROPOSED SOLUTIONS:**

- » Advance a constitutional amendment authorizing school district bond issues to be approved with a simple majority vote.
- » Update the current formula for the Construction Cost Allowance and Student Space Allocation to reflect actual construction costs and educational space needs.

### 2. FULLY FUND SPECIAL EDUCATION

The minimal increase per student in the cost multiplier in 2018-2019 does not cover the actual cost of providing services. As the state continues to underfund special education, many districts are forced to use decreasing local levy funds to backfill the gap. It will cost \$21 million to make up the special education shortfall in the 112 region.

#### **PROPOSED SOLUTIONS:**

- » Increase the multiplier for each special education student.
- » Fund the safety net with state monies to lower the threshold required to attain the funding.
- » The safety net process needs to recognize regionalization factors when providing funding to districts. Higher regionalization districts will receive a disproportionate share of a fixed amount of funding.
- » The legislature could restrict the formula so districts cannot collect more than they spend on special education.

### 3. FULLY FUND THE SEBB

In the proposed plan, the state does not fund what districts actually pay for employee health benefits, creating an unfunded mandate. While we recognize the importance of providing health benefits for all employees and their families, funding is not sufficient.

#### **PROPOSED SOLUTIONS:**

- » Fully fund employee health benefits costs for all eligible employees.
- » If unable to fully fund employer costs, adjust eligibility criteria to reduce costs and align revenues and expenditures for the SEBB.

# THE 30 SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON



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## THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT 112 REGION SUPERINTENDENTS REPRESENT:

Battle Ground  
Camas  
Castle Rock  
Centerville  
Evergreen  
Glenwood  
Green Mountain  
Hockinson  
Kalama  
Kelso  
Klickitat  
La Center  
Longview  
Lyle  
Mill A  
Mount Pleasant  
Naselle-Grays River Valley  
Ocean Beach  
Ridgefield  
Roosevelt  
Skamania  
Stevenson-Carson  
Toutle Lake  
Trout Lake  
Vancouver  
Wahkiakum  
Washington School  
for the Deaf  
Washington State  
School for the Blind  
Washougal  
White Salmon Valley  
Wishram  
Woodland

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tim Merlino, Superintendent, ESD 112 | [tim.merlino@esd112.org](mailto:tim.merlino@esd112.org) | 360.750.7500 | [www.esd112.org](http://www.esd112.org)  
Educational Service District 112 | 2500 NE 65th Avenue | Vancouver, WA 98661-6812

