

# ESD 112 REGION SUPERINTENDENTS

## 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



The Coronavirus (COVID-19) has taken a tremendous toll on Washington State's economy. Our school leaders recognize the widespread reductions that our legislators will be forced to make in all areas of government in the development of the 2021-23 operating budgets. The 30 school district superintendents of the ESD 112 region appreciate the investments our elected officials have made in education and understand that it is not immune to cuts in the 2021-23 biennial sessions. That

said, the school districts we lead and represent face significant, urgent needs that require assistance to ensure students have equitable access to essential education and programming. Many of these needs are pressing. Some are a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As superintendents, we urge the 2021 Legislature to address the short-term K-12 needs outlined here, while keeping in mind the long-term K-12 needs to be addressed as the economy recovers.



### IMMEDIATE SCHOOL NEEDS:



#### 1. Stable Support

- » Reimbursement for unfunded costs associated with COVID-19, beyond what is reimbursed by federal funds such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for students and staff, food services, transportation and remote learning.
- » Prompt pass through of federal funding dedicated to schools without supplanting state funding.
- » Maintain K-12 funding and prevent mid-year budget reductions. Any budget reduction deemed essential must not create or further exacerbate funding inequalities between districts and must be tied to an expenditure mandate that is also eliminated.
- » Maintain stable support for enrollment and student transportation.
- » Provide professional development opportunities for staff which support equity and closing the opportunity gap, such as racial literacy, cultural responsiveness and stereotype threats.
- » Provide professional development for staff so that they can effectively engage students in remote learning.

#### 2. Safety

- » Support funding for staffing and materials to ensure buildings and buses are clean and sanitary.
- » Train staff in providing trauma informed instruction that is embedded in the social-emotional framework.

#### 3. Access to Learning

- » Provide equitable access to technology resources, including devices and broadband connectivity.
- » Ensure resources for the individualized needs of all students.

### LONG-TERM NEEDS:



#### 4. Update Staff Allocation Formulas

- » Staffing allocations in the Prototypical School Funding Model were funded at artificially low ratios based on an outdated and inequitable model. Since that time, the need for student supports has grown exponentially, yet most funding ratios have remained the same. For example, current ratios for the Prototypical high school requires 40,000 student FTEs to generate one FTE social worker and almost 86,000 FTEs to generate one FTE psychologist.

#### 5. Provide Consistent, Equitable and Ample Education Resources

- » Several components of the new K-12 funding structure have exacerbated inequities between districts and require revision, including: Special Education, State Salary Allocations and Experience Factors, the School Employee Benefits Board (SEBB) insurance program, and Regionalization.

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## 6. Capital Facilities

- » Recognizing that school facilities remain a fundamental education need, the Legislature invests in the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP). Unfortunately, SCAP uses outdated funding formulas that fail to recognize the true cost of educational space needs. Further it is critical that the Legislature invests in the expansion of funding for Small Rural District Modernization Grants, in order to equalize educational opportunities for students in outlying areas.
- » Many school districts have difficulty passing local requests for capital improvements. We urge the Legislature to advance a constitutional amendment authorizing school district bond issues to be approved with a simple majority vote.

# THE 30 SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON



## THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT 112 REGION SUPERINTENDENTS REPRESENT:

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

## 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

