

Washington Educator Compensation History

Prologue: Statewide, local levies are funding 23% of educator compensation. This is compounded by the addition of K-3 ratios, ADK and 24 credits – which adds 100s of teachers at only 77% of compensation. Or looked at another way, since local taxpayers are paying the competitive salaries called for by the Supreme Court, local districts are paying for one out of every four teachers in the state allocation model.

Listed below are several important milestones which outline state responsibility for paying competitive salaries.

1978 – State pays 100% of teacher salaries

State complies with Supreme Court; pays nearly 100% of teacher salaries statewide.

State Pays 99% of Teacher Salaries;

2000 – Voters approve *annual cost of living adjustments*.

[State suspends obligation leaving districts to pick up cost]

State Pays 86%;

2007 – *McCleary* lawsuit filed

2009 Legislature declares their *“intent to provide state funding for competitive salaries and benefits.”* - ESHB 2261

State Pays 79%;

2010 – *McCleary* rules State does not meet constitutional mandate ... *“consistently underfunds actual cost of ... competent teachers ...”*

2012 - Supreme Court unanimously affirms Washington is violating its constitutional “paramount duty” to amply fund K-12 education.

State Pays 77%

2012 – Legislative Compensation Technical Work Group calls for \$1.3B in additional compensation;

2014 – Supreme Court Order – “... quality educators and administrators are at the heart of Washington’s education system ... *state funding of educator and administrative staff salaries remain unconstitutionally inadequate.*”

2015 Supreme Court notes *that in regard to “personnel costs the State had wholly failed to offer any plan for achieving constitutional compliance.”*

2016 – Legislature reaffirms *its intent “to provide State funding for competitive salaries and benefits that are sufficient to hire and retain competent certificated instructional staff ...*

Now is the time for the state to pay competitive salaries

2017 – Educational Funding Task Force fails to make required recommendations for compensation *“sufficient to hire and retain ... staff...”*

April 2017 – Legislature promises *“to provide state funding during the 2017 session for competitive staff compensation”* by April 1, 2017 OR *“extend the current state levy policy ... by April 30, 2017.”*

June 2017 – Supreme Court sets deadline for enacting a plan by end of 2017 session to fully fund basic education by September 1, 2018.