WASA STABLE FUNDING COMMITTEE
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

As funding proposals emerge from the Joint Task Force, WASA will support such efforts provided they address the following guiding principles:

**Equity—Addresses the needs of each student.**

- Shall not result in a reduction of total state and local revenues to any school district.
- State funding actions shall not impair or reduce access to federal funding sources.
- If a local operational and maintenance levy system is retained, it shall include a program of levy equalization as an integral and sustainable element.
- Shall reduce disparity of resources among districts based on the needs of students.

**Adequacy—Funding that amply supports the high educational attainment expectations, legal mandates, and required processes.**

- Shall meet the legal requirement set forth in the McCleary decision to not result in a reduction in the combined total of state and local revenues to any school district as compared to the 2011–12 school year (exclusive of student or staffing changes).
- Shall show meaningful progress towards Washington State’s constitutional obligation of meeting the ample funding requirements for K–12 education.
- Recognize that salaries and benefits for educators and support staff is essential to educational quality. Recognize that current bargaining requirements have resulted in long-term commitments that must be funded during and after the transition; honor the commitments that have been made.
- Preserve the program investment integrity of resources that provide services to students.

**Flexibility—Supports educator initiatives to meet needs of students.**

- Shall ensure that any funds intended to replace local levy and LEA resources must be allocated to districts in ways that provide maximum flexibility in their use.
➢ Shall not legislatively prescribe specific uses or instill a community expectation that additional resources will be used in a certain way.

➢ Acknowledges the need to fully fund new initiatives and policy changes in addition to funding existing mandates.

➢ Encourage and support initiatives for entrepreneurial efforts in local communities that meet the unique needs of students.

**Accountability**—Builds incentives to adhere to positive educational outcomes and meet the mission of public schools.

➢ Acknowledges the depth of accountability requirements that have been added or retained during the climate of funding reductions. Fund the current accountability expectations.

➢ Identifies the added costs of existing and future accountability requirements and the effect they will have on future increases in the cost of education to the state.

➢ Holds the state accountable to fund existing legal requirements (e.g. SHB 2276 timeline), including the McCleary decision.

**Sustainability and Adaptability**—Able to modify and be funded over time.

➢ Shall be included in the legal definition of Basic Education and, thereby, not subject to changing legislative priorities or uncertain revenue sources.

**Predictability**—Allows reliable stability.

➢ Shall be allocated based upon predictable formula elements.