



February 7, 2014

Representative xxxxxx
Washington State House of Representatives
P.O. Box xxxxxx
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Dear Representative xxxxxx:

The brochure, *The Value of Teacher Collaboration Time*, which accompanies this letter, is a collaborative effort of four Washington education associations (Association of Washington School Principals, Association of Educational Service Districts, the Washington Association of School Administrators, and the Washington State School Directors' Association). We are providing this information because of our concern about the importance of frequent opportunities for ongoing teacher professional collaboration and learning.

To be clear, there is a need for the kind of time previously provided by state funded Learning Improvement Days (LID). As important as those days are, they do not replace the need for more frequent, ongoing professional learning. According to a 2009 report, "Professional Learning in the Learning Profession," by the National Staff Development Council (now called Learning Forward), "Rigorous research suggests that sustained and intensive professional learning for teachers is related to student-achievement gains." They also state that "According to the research, these intensive professional development efforts that offered an average of 49 hours in a year boosted student achievement by approximately 21 percentile points."

The enclosed brochure highlights examples from across our state of how ongoing teacher collaboration and professional learning is essential for the success of every student. We hope you find this information useful as we all work to ensure high levels of learning for all of our students.

Sincerely,



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS
825 FIFTH AVENUE SE, OLYMPIA, WA 98501
800.859.9272 / 360.943.5717 | FAX: 360.352.2043
WWW.WASA-OLY.ORG