



## Allow More Local Flexibility In Graduation Requirements

### PROBLEM

Use of the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) as a graduation requirement is inefficient, lacks individual student validity or reliability, and fails to motivate students to do their best. The SBA disrupts classroom instruction for several weeks and results arrive months later after students have moved into another grade and other classes. Proficiency scores were designed to hold schools and districts accountable at the system level, not to hold individual students accountable. Students are already over-tested, with unit and course and Advanced Placement and college admission tests.

### SOLUTION

Allow local districts to use a college admission test instead of the SBA for school accountability. Do not require a passing score on one such test for graduation when accumulating 24 credits over four years and passing multiple course tests and assignments better reflects student competence.

## NOTES



# Legislative Priorities

## 2019 Session

## Support School Facilities That Meet The Needs Of Basic Education

### PROBLEM

The legislature has funded more teachers to allow for full-day Kindergarten and lower class sizes in Kindergarten through Grade 3. Richland School District added 22 more kindergarten teachers and 75 more K – 3 teachers. This requires an additional 97 classrooms, the equivalent of three elementary schools of 65,000 square-feet each. The School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) formula for state match has not been adjusted to account for these increased space needs.

### SOLUTION

Increase the K – 3 Student Space Allocation from 90 square feet per student to 130 square feet per student.

### PROBLEM

The cost of school construction--increased labor and material costs due to economic conditions, rising wage rates, and shortages of some materials--has increased faster than the matching funds provided by the state for new schools. . Moreover, school designs must now include extra costs associated with much more capacity for technology and more safety measures. Real school construction costs today are estimated at \$300 to \$350 per square foot.

### SOLUTION

Increase the Construction Cost Allowance to more nearly approximate real school construction costs, no less than \$280 per square foot.

## Appreciation For Improvements In Education Staffing & Funding

- Full day kindergarten
- K – 3 class size reduction
- Special Education multiplier
- Career & Technical Education staffing and equipment
- Salary & wage increases of almost 30% over 3 years
- Transportation costs
- MSOC funding



# Improve Student, Staff, and School Safety

## PROBLEM

Students have been victims of crises caused by active shooters at multiple schools in many states, putting students at greater risk and raising student, staff, and family concerns. Student mental health issues affect as many as 25% of students at all grade levels, leading to suicide, drug and alcohol use, violence, and crime. Extreme and unusual student behavior has become an increasing problem for schools and classrooms while resources to maintain order have dwindled and costly requirements for discipline have expanded. Prototypical school funding formulas are inadequate in categories of nurses, mental health counselors, and school security.

## SOLUTION

Increase staffing formulas in the prototypical staffing model to allow for a school nurse, mental health counselor, and school security officer for every 500 students.

## SOLUTION

Enact legislation granting local school districts authority to seek voter approval of a School Safety and Security Levy providing resources for both facility safety improvements and staff for mental health services and school security.



# Provide Ample and Equitable State Funding While Empowering Local Districts

## PROBLEM

Wealthy districts may collect levies up to \$2,500 per student, or \$1,000 more per student than other districts. This amounts to as much as \$25,000 per classroom, This aggravates already existing inequities based on family income. Richer districts can provide more teachers, more support staff, more materials, better equipped labs, and an enriched classroom environment.

## SOLUTION

Equalize Local Effort Assistance to \$2,500 per student.

## SOLUTION

Allow districts to collect local levies at whichever is greater -- \$2,500 per student or \$1.50/\$1,000 AV.

## PROBLEM

Special education services are part of basic education and impact as much as 13% of our students. Federal and state funding has seriously lagged behind actual costs for those services. Local levies historically made up the difference but with significantly reduced levy capacity and a requirement that local levies cannot be used for basic education, resources for special education are seriously inadequate.

## SOLUTION

Increase the special ed multiplier from .9609 to no less than 1.00 immediately with further increases each biennium until all special education costs are met.



## PROBLEM

Funding formulas for wages and salaries are inadequate, inequitable, inconsistent, unsustainable, and arbitrary, leading to unsupported excess costs, unfair competition among districts, and difficult labor relations. In particular:

- A statewide average salary for all districts fails to account for differences in staff experience and education, resulting in unfunded costs for districts like Richland with a more experienced and higher educated staff.
- Average teacher salaries in Richland are now \$10,000 per teacher above the state formula revenue.
- Legislation creating regionalization wage and salary increases based on median housing costs is scheduled to decline each year starting in 2020. Yet mortgage costs and housing prices will go up. There is no reasonable rationale for decreasing regionalization once it has been allocated.
- The Legislature has used the lower Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) to increase state salary allocations each year, while telling districts to use the higher Consumer Price Index (CPI) to determine annual cost of living increases. The state is obligated to fully fund staff salaries and it must do so using one common measure.

## SOLUTION

Use a salary allocation model for funding wages and salaries that takes into account actual costs based on experience, education, cost of living changes, and regional variations.

# Richland Schools At A Glance

- |   |                                   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • 20 schools                            | Program Offerings                 | • Early Learning            |
| • 13,900 students                       | • Advanced Placement              | • English Language Learners |
| • 1,700 certificated & classified staff | • Athletics                       | • Highly Capable            |
| • \$160 million annual budget           | • Before & After School Childcare | • Instructional Technology  |
|   | • Career & Technical Education    | • Running Start             |
|   | • College In The High School      | • STEM                      |
|   |                                   | • Visual & Performing Arts  |