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December 6, 2018

Dear Congressman Griffey, Congressmen MacEwen and Senator Sheldon:

Grapeview School District is a K-8 District located in rural Mason County. The District serves 211 students with close to 50% coming from poverty. Grapeview has modernized facilities and a staff dedicated to engaging and inspiring students. The Grapeview District has been recognized for 5 years in a row as a School of Distinction.

It is the State's paramount duty to fully fund education. Unfortunately, Washington's current funding of education creates inequities between small rural districts and larger districts and marked differences in outcomes and quality of education. The prototypical school funding model drives these inequities, in part.

Small districts have the same requirements as larger districts yet perform these duties with fewer staff. Examples of this are IGrant applications and reports, required trainings for state and federal programs, and student services (special education, 504, LAP, food service, transportation). More specifically, in the last legislative session, bills were passed that require tracking of expenditures by funding source. This new requirement was added without adding new staff into the funding model to meet the requirement.

Washington's prototypical school model does not provide adequate staff to manage unfunded state mandates, lead the district, and serve students effectively. The following chart shows the prototypical school model, actual staffing at Grapeview in September of 2018, and the difference:

	Prototypical Model	Actual	Difference
Certified staff	11.884	14	-2.116
Certified admin	.871	1.5	-.629
Classified	3.089	8.064	-4.975
Classified admin	.618	1	-.382
Total	16.462	24.564	-8.102

While categorical funds are used for some of the extra positions, there is no possible way our district can operate with only staff funded by the prototypical model. As we consider the impacts of SEBB and increasing costs of Special Ed, the negative impacts are exacerbated. For staff hired above the prototypical model, Grapeview must consider the increased costs of SEBB moving forward. This will further limit our ability to fulfill our mission to our students.

Washington's Supreme Court ruled that legislators met their duty to fully fund education. Unfortunately, the formula – prototypical school model—that undergirds that decision is ultimately flawed. We encourage you to revisit the prototypical model and revise it to provide funding and staff necessary to educate all students.