

Mary M. Knight School District

2987 W. Matlock-Brady Road
Elma, WA 98541

360.426.6767 (office)
360.427.5516 (fax)

www.marymknight.com



Dr. Ellen Perconti
Superintendent
Lisa Horsley
Principal

Shawn Donnelly
Pat Calahan
Jennifer House
Cynthia Brehmeyer
Patti McLean
Board of Directors

Mary M. Knight (MMK) is a K-12 District with one school located in Matlock, WA. MMK is 20 miles from the nearest town and serves 152 students on one site. Seventy (70) percent of MMK's students come from poverty.

It is the State's paramount duty to fully fund education, and Superintendent Reykdal states that his goal is to 'prepare every student who walks through our school doors for post-secondary aspirations, careers, and life.' He further states that he wants Washington's education system to be 'atop the national conversation in quality, outcomes and equity.' 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.

Compensation of teachers varies greatly between districts. Regionalization of salaries placed a higher value on where students live than any other factor. All MMK certified staff live outside of the District. Many of MMK's teachers will drive through a district in which the salaries range between \$5,000 and \$15,000 more per year than what the teachers are earning at MMK. Regionalization does not take into account travel, lack of suitable housing within a district, or other factors. This places MMK at a significant disadvantage when recruiting teachers resulting in a high turnover rate. This has a negative impact on MMK students and their families by degrading the quality of education they receive due in large part to the lack of consistency and continuity from year to year.

Washington's prototypical school model does not provide adequate staff to run our K-12 district. The following chart shows the prototypical school model, actual staffing at MMK in September of 2018, and the difference:

	Prototypical Model	Actual MMK	Difference
Certified staff	7.24	15.3	-8.06
Certified admin	.543	1.6	-1.057
Classified	2.338	15.66	-13.322
Total	10.121	32.56	22.439

MMK also operates an Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) that negatively impacts the prototypical school staffing provided by the State. There is no possible way our K-12 district can operate with funded staff as provided by the prototypical model. As we consider the impacts of SEBB and increasing the cost of Special Ed, the negative impacts are exacerbated. We project that MMK will be approximately \$600,000 in the red by the end of the 2019-20 school year.

While some of MMK's students have been able to go on to attend prestigious Universities such as North Dakota State and Cornell University, and others have been able to receive apprenticeships, go into the military, or straight into the workplace, they have not been able to do this without significant support from family and the community. Because of the school funding mechanism that the state currently uses, the future outcome for those MMK students who do not have the same external supports is put at significant risk.

If regionalization is to continue, we recommend that an offsetting rural school funding mechanism be provided that brings parity to the rural districts of our state.