

Local school district contacts:

Name: _____

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2020 WASA / WSSDA / WASBO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

DAY ON THE HILL • OLYMPIA, WA • FEBRUARY 10, 2020

HOT TOPICS

Information for Legislators



PRESENTED BY

The Washington Association of School Administrators
The Washington State School Directors' Association
and The Washington Association of School Business Officials

STAFFING ALLOCATIONS

The need for student supports in local school districts has grown exponentially since the Prototypical School Funding Model was first implemented, yet the funding ratios for most staff positions have remained the same, making those ratios outdated and unrealistic.

WASA/WSSDA/WASBO request the Legislature **begin phasing in updated staffing ratios to achieve more realistic state-funded** staffing levels by adopting the Staffing Enrichment Workgroup recommendations—and SB 6615/HB 2897 to implement those recommendations. At the minimum, we strongly urge the Legislature to provide a “down payment” in the 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget to begin a phase-in process in the 2020–21 school year.

EDUCATION INVESTMENTS

School districts have experienced major changes to K–12 financing in recent years, significantly impacting both state and local funding related to: educator salary allocations; local levies and Local Effort Assistance (LEA); collective bargaining and supplemental contracts; accountability and transparency; and health benefits. While the Legislature has attempted to adequately fund schools based on an outdated prototypical school model, the increases have not gone far enough.

WASA/WSSDA/WASBO urge the Legislature to **provide sufficient funding for special education** (between \$300–\$400 million) to eliminate the current underfunding, thereby relieving school districts from using local levy dollars for this basic education obligation and **fund the full cost of providing health benefits for all eligible school employees** as the SEBB program is implemented. If the state cannot afford the full cost of providing benefits to all eligible employees, the next collective bargaining agreement should be ratified so that school districts do not need to use local levy funds for this underfunded mandate.

TEACHER DUTIES & EXPECTATIONS

It is recognized that our teachers are highly trained professionals performing complex, full time work, compressed in the traditional 180-day school calendar and they should be fairly paid for that work. In fact, through hard bargaining the last two years, teachers across the state have received significant raises—providing them with professional, competitive, market-level salaries they have sought. Even with these historic raises, however, teachers continue to bargain for additional pay for additional work, when those additional requirements are not “extra,” but actually a part of a professional teacher’s duties.

WASA/WSSDA/WASBO urge the Legislature to **clearly define the minimum professional duties and expectations for teachers in statute** and not leave this to collective bargaining. The definition we seek must explicitly state the professional responsibilities, time, and effort required to provide the state’s program of basic education exceeds the required number of instructional hours and includes such things as: preparing, planning, and coordinating instruction; collaborating with other teachers or staff; meeting with parents; and evaluating student learning. Supplemental contracts would still be allowed; however, additional compensation would have to be tied to defined extra time or responsibilities that are uniquely associated with a specific assignment above and beyond the tasks of all other teachers.