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Washington School Administrators Announce 2020 Legislative Priorities

*Defining teacher duties, staff allocation formulas and support for school facilities
top the list for next legislative session*

OLYMPIA— Washington school administrators will be asking the 2020 Legislature to make strategic adjustments to the state’s new funding model to provide clarity and better meet modern-day classroom needs for students.

The 2020 Legislative Platform, unveiled today by the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA), acknowledges the changes made with the state’s landmark *McCleary* decision, but seeks clarity on issues like staff allocation formulas and teacher duties.

“The Legislature has made progress in implementing a new system for funding K-12 education, including significant investments that have doubled K-12 appropriations since the Supreme Court’s *McCleary* decision. But more work remains to be done,” said Joel Aune, WASA Executive Director. “WASA’s 2020 Legislative Platform recognizes those investments, but highlights the additional priorities lawmakers must address to ensure Washington schools are meeting the needs of all students to prepare them for bright futures.”

Among the proposed priorities:

- **Update Staff Allocation Formulas:** Current school staffing ratios — and the funding for these ratios — do not reflect the need for modern-day student supports (e.g., special education, school psychologists, nurses). Updating these ratios would achieve more realistic state-funded staffing levels and ensure students receive the help they need.

- **Define Teacher Duties & Expectations:** The Legislature needs to clearly define the minimum professional duties and expectations for teachers and not leave this to collective bargaining.
- **Provide Consistent, Equitable and Ample Education Resources:** WASA urges the Legislature to revise portions of the new education funding structure, including:
 - **Special Education:** Provide additional funding for special education, backfilling a shortfall in this important piece of the K-12 budget.
 - **Salary Allocations and State Schedule:** Expand Experience Factor eligibility within the new one-size-fits-all statewide average salary allocation.
 - **School Employees’ Benefits Board (SEBB):** Fund unsustainable costs to school districts (clarifying substitutes are not benefit-eligible; eliminating school districts’ required payments for employees who opt-out of coverage).
 - **Regionalization:** Evaluate and correct regionalization factors as implemented in EHB 2242.
- **Support School Facilities:** WASA members will ask lawmakers to change school district bond issues to a simple majority vote of the people and encourage continued investments in K-12 construction by updating state funding models. WASA is also encouraging lawmakers to provide school districts that have difficulty passing bonds with capital funds to support necessary construction or modernization projects.

“These priorities reflect the values and priorities of our members in small districts and large, in rural, urban and suburban districts across Washington state,” said Krestin Bahr, WASA president and superintendent of the Eatonville School District. “We look forward to working with legislators this session and in 2021 to make the adjustments necessary to provide funding that is both sufficient to meet the needs of the students attending our schools, and equitable among districts across the entire state.”

[Visit the WASA website](#) to view the entire 2020 WASA Legislative Platform.

About the Washington Association of School Administrators

The Washington Association of School Administrators (<http://www.wasa-oly.org>) is committed to the development of quality education through professional leadership. Members benefit from a supportive community of professional leaders working to provide insightful and valuable training, support, and resources to education leaders, and to sustain a positive impact on legislative and community leaders. With more than 1,600 members, membership is open to all education administrators in central office, building management, and educational agency positions. A not-for-profit organization, WASA is funded by membership dues and association events.