

Hello Leaders,

With November rapidly approaching, I'm writing to share some resources that reflect a new approach for this year's Focus on Education emphasis. In the past, the resources provided by WASA have been geared toward telling a positive story about public education. This year, with the critical role the 2017 Legislative Session will play in resolving the *McCleary* decision, the WASA Board felt we should focus our resources on that issue. With this email, you will find several documents designed to help you tell your local story about the impact of *McCleary*.

Here is what is included with this email:

- 1) A Talking Points template which is designed to highlight the use of local levy funds to support basic education costs that the Court has ruled should be the state's responsibility. The directions in red font should be deleted after you have added the referenced data.
- 2) Three OSPI spreadsheets that are the source of the local data that will be added to the template. Those spreadsheet files include:
 - 2015 Levy Data
 - Levy cliff analysis_12172015
 - LevyExpenditureChartsbyDistrict2014-15

The template provides directions and cell references for locating the local data used in the Talking Points. If you're not comfortable with Excel, your business manager could probably assist with this data collection. Also, feel free to use data from your district accounting system rather than the OSPI spreadsheets. We are providing the OSPI data both for consistency and ease of access.

- 3) Two examples of completed Talking Points created with Puyallup School District's data. The one with more detail would be suitable for legislators, your board, and other audiences who would appreciate a deeper dive into the data. The shorter version may be better for patrons or others who prefer more summarized information. While there is only one template provided, the summary version can be easily created by deleting the detail bullets in the Local Levy Expenditures section.

Our belief is that if the Talking Points are widely shared with local communities by district leaders across the state, there will be much stronger support for the tough decisions legislators will need to make during the 2017 Session. In that sharing, we would encourage you to add local examples of how these costs support your students and what you might do with local levy funds if you didn't have to backfill the state's obligation to fully fund basic education.

Even if you aren't scheduling a Focus on Education event, we hope these resources might be useful for communicating about any upcoming levy elections, or for your local advocacy during the 2017 Legislative Session.

These documents will also be located within the Resources tab of the WASA website under the Focus on Education title. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or if you would like our assistance in creating a PowerPoint presentation with your data. We would love to see and post on our website other local examples of the Talking Points document.

Bill Keim
WASA Executive Director