

**LEAGUE OF
EDUCATION
VOTERS™**

A WAY FORWARD

Chris Korsmo November 20, 2014

Working to improve
public education
in Washington state
from cradle to career
with ample, equitable,
and stable funding

Some background

In 2009, Washington redefined basic education to include:

- Smaller class sizes (K-3)
- Full-day kindergarten
- Transportation
- MSOC (Materials, supplies, operating costs)

LEV advocated, unsuccessfully, for the inclusion of early learning and higher education in this definition.

The current landscape

Washington is failing to amply, equitably, and fully fund public education.

- The Washington State Supreme Court ruled in *McCleary v. Washington* that the state was violating its constitutional obligation to fully fund basic education.
- The passage of I-1351 adds additional pressure to the Legislature to find a viable funding plan for education.

McCleary funding obligations

- Full-day kindergarten: \$174M
- K-3 Class-size reduction: \$573M
- MSOC: \$428M

Total unmet obligation: 1.18B per year

Other funding obligations

Funding for the two programs below was mandated in previous legislation but has not been fully funded. The cost to fully fund both programs:

- Fully fund Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP): \$72M
- Fully fund State Need Grant: \$123M

Total unmet obligation: \$195M per year

Our vision

Washington's basic education system must:

- Put students and their learning first
- Invest in proven strategies to close gaps
- Recognize that some students need—and should get—more support to succeed
- Establish a salary and professional learning system that attracts and retains the best teachers and administrators
- Embrace rigorous, relevant learning for all
- Acknowledge the importance of involving parents and caregivers
- Guarantee that the quality of a student's education is not determined by their ZIP code

A way forward

Our vision for what a public education system in Washington could look like.

Basic education should include:

- High-quality pre-K
- Excellent K-12 instruction and leadership
- 2 years of postsecondary education

We can achieve this vision for an additional investment of \$1.45B per year (\$2.91B per biennium).

Funding this vision

There are many ways to achieve ample, equitable, and stable funding for Washington, including:

- State property tax reform
- Prioritizing education spending
- New revenue

Join us

Washington has the people, resources, and innovative spirit to create the best public education system in the world.

It's not going to be easy. But we can do it together.

We invite you to join us.

QUESTIONS?

