

THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

A PREVIEW

FRANK ORDWAY | JANUARY 8, 2015



LEAGUE OF
EDUCATION
VOTERS
FOUNDATION™

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

OUR AGENDA



The League of Education Voters proposes a vision for public education that guarantees that every Washington student has the opportunity for a high-quality education from early learning through the first two years of college.

A WAY FORWARD LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2015

The League of Education Voters (LEV) proposes a vision for public education that guarantees that every Washington student has the opportunity for a high-quality education from early learning through the first two years of college.

We can and must do better for Washington's students.

In 2015, LEV will work to ensure that increases in education funding—as a result of *McCleary v. Washington* or other efforts—are ample, equitable, stable, and targeted toward evidenced-based strategies that improve access and outcomes for all students. LEV's work will prioritize the promotion and implementation of strategies that are proven to close the opportunity and achievement gaps.

EARLY LEARNING

Children in high-quality early learning programs are more prepared for kindergarten, more likely to graduate high school, healthier, more likely to be employed, and report higher income. Early learning priorities include:

Early Start Act. Increase the quality of childcare and preschool programs for low-income families in Washington through a combination of incentives and requirements. The Early Start Act creates tiered reimbursements, enhanced coaching and mentoring, and improves financial stability for early learning providers.

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). Fully fund ECEAP by the 2018 deadline and expand it in order to extend high-quality preschool to the 30,000 low-income Washington students not yet served.

K-12 EDUCATION

Teachers make the biggest school-based difference in a child's education. Effective school leadership plays a significant role in the academic

results of students building-wide. Strategic investments in K-12 teacher compensation and professional learning are necessary to close gaps and improve outcomes for all kids. K-12 education priorities include:

Compensation. Support the state taking on full responsibility for teacher pay. This will make salary increases more uniform statewide, facilitating more equitable compensation for teachers from district to district and freeing up local levy funding for supplemental program costs.

Professional development. Expand high-quality, job-aligned professional learning, team collaboration, and planning.

Increase starting teacher salaries. Changes to our state's compensation system are necessary to attract and retain high-quality educators.

Implementation fund. Ensure that systemic policy changes are implemented with fidelity and that teachers and principals receive adequate support.

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educationvoters.org





COALITIONS

We are a member of three coalitions

- Cradle through College:

<http://www.c2ccoalition.org>

- Early Learning Action Alliance:

<http://www.childrensalliance.org/our-current-work/early-learning-now/early-learning-action-alliance>

- Excellent Schools Now:

<http://excellentschoolsnow.org>



STAY IN THE KNOW

Stay up-to-date on what's happening in Olympia:

- Chris Korsmo's *Weekly Roundup*:
<http://educationvoters.org/join-our-mailing-list>
- Our education bill tracker:
<http://educationvoters.org/resources/bill-tracker/>
- Background on how the Legislature works:
<http://educationvoters.org/resources/washington-legislature-101/>
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QUESTIONS?

