

# Education Funding

Jake Vela & Julia Warth  
January 23, 2016



LEAGUE OF  
**EDUCATION**  
**VOTERS**™

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



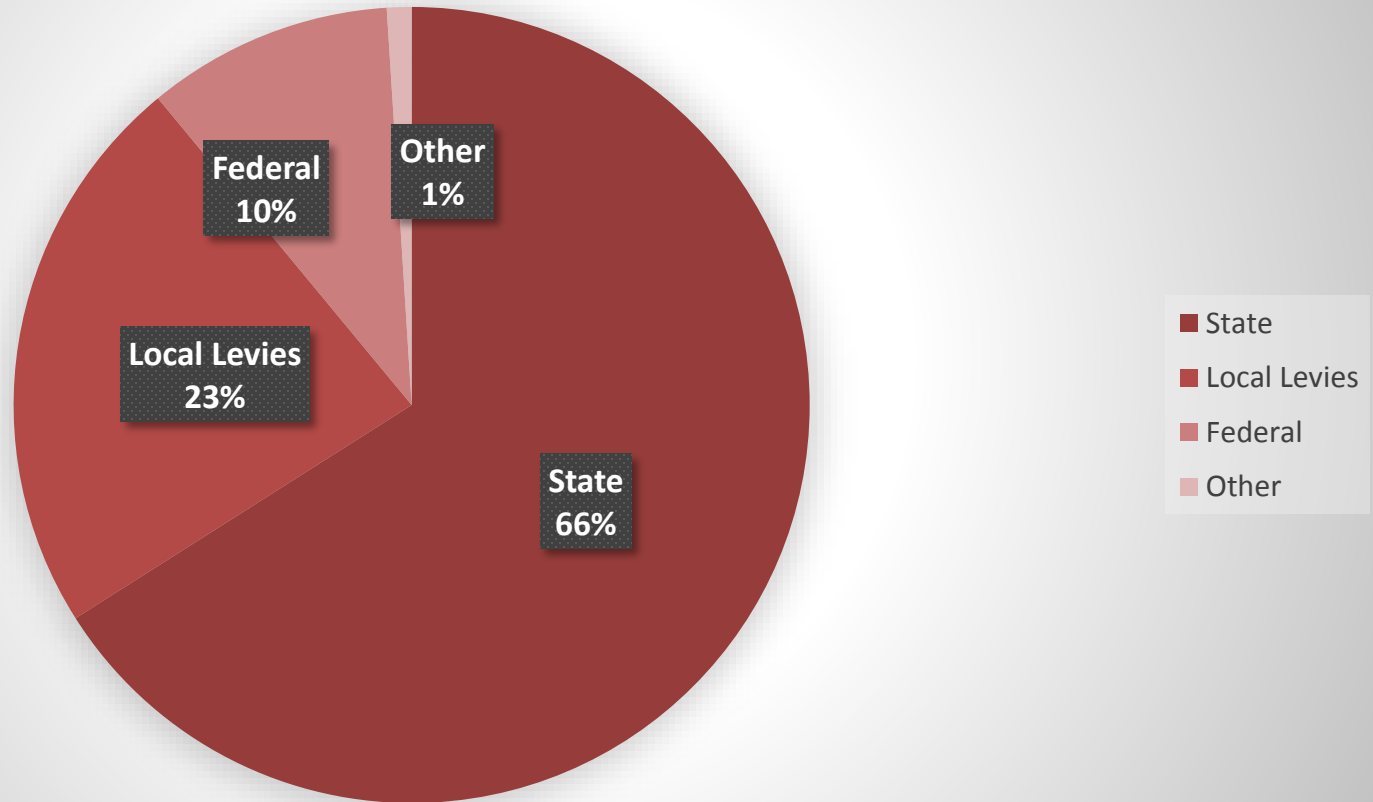
# Education Funding

- Goal: Understanding the link between student need and educational resources
  - What drives money from the state and federal level to school districts?
  - Are students who need more getting more—is it enough?
  - How is the money being spent in districts?



# Where does the Money Come From?

Sources of Education Funding





# Education Funding

1. Federal Education Funding
2. State Education Funding
3. Support for High-need Students

# Federal Income Guidelines for School Lunch Program



## Annual Income Eligibility Guidelines

Household Size	Reduced Price Meals	Free meals
1	\$21,775	\$15,301
2	\$29,471	\$20,709
3	\$37,167	\$26,117
4	\$44,863	\$31,525
5	\$52,559	\$36,933
6	\$60,255	\$42,341
7	\$67,951	\$47,749



# Federal Categorical Funding

- Support for low-income students (Title I)
  - \$230 million
- Preparing, Training, and recruiting high quality teachers and principals (Title II)
  - \$38 million
- Limited English Proficient students (Title III)
  - \$17 million
- Support for special education services (IDEA)
  - \$225 million



# Education Funding

1. Federal Education Funding
2. State Education Funding
3. Support for High-need Students





# How Schools are Funded by the State

- **Prototypical School Model**
  - Funds at certain student to staff ratios based on grade level
- **Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs**
  - Pays for day-to-day operations and educational materials
- **Transportation**
  - Gets students to and from school
- **Categorical Funding**
  - Provides additional support for ELL, Special Education, and low-income Students



# Staff Mix Factor

- Staff mix is computed by taking into account the level of education and years of teaching experience of a classroom teacher
- The staff mix factor is used to determine how much money a district receives from the state to hire their teachers
- Staff mix is also used to determine how much funding a district receives for categorical programs



# Education Funding

1. Federal Education Funding
2. State Education Funding
3. Support for High-need Students



# How are special education, ELL, and learning assistance programs funded?

- The state provides an additional allocation per special education student, for up to 12.7% of district enrollment
  - The additional amount is 93% of the per student basic education allocation
- For ELL and LAP, the funding level is determined using two factors
  - Eligible student enrollment
  - Staff mix factor of a district
    - This means that the characteristics of the adults in the district, not student need, drive how much funding a district receives



# How Do Districts Direct LAP & Title I Funds?

- **Learning Assistance Program (LAP)**
  - Districts must prioritize K-4 literacy
    - Not every LAP student will get LAP funds
  - Other acceptable uses
    - Addressing disruptive behavior in the classroom
    - Extended learning time
    - Tutoring
    - Professional development
    - Partnership with community based organizations
- **Title I**
  - Highest poverty schools get priority
    - Not every Title I student will get Title I funds



# How Do Districts Direct Funds to ELL & Special Education Students?

- **English Language Learners**
  - All ELL students must receive services
  - Funds from the state based on the number of teachers needed to teach the number of students for 4.8 hours a week with a class size of 15 in each district
  - Districts determine how ELL services are delivered
- **Special Education**
  - All Special Education students must receive services
  - Services will depend on student's Individualized Learning Plan (IEP)



# How much do students need to meet their educational goals?

- Research indicates that a funding enhancement over basic education funding is needed to help students reach state educational goals
  - Low-Income Students
    - Need an enhancement of 25–35%
    - State & federal sources provide an additional 16% (8% federal, 8% state)
  - English Language Learners
    - Need an enhancement of 23–32%
    - State & federal sources provide an additional 18% (2% federal, 16% state)

# Who is teaching students with greater academic needs?



- Even though funds are directed to district based on hiring certificated teachers, over **50%** of students in **Special education, limited English,** and **learning assistance programs** are taught by paraeducators.





## Questions to ponder

- How are the dollars in your district being distributed and what are they buying?
- Are students who need additional support getting it?

# Equality



# Equity



# QUESTIONS?

