



McCleary Education Funding Taskforce Duties and Responsibilities

The Senate and House came to an agreement on how to move forward in fulfilling their constitutional responsibility to fully fund education. The Legislature delivered Senate Bill 6195 to Gov. Inslee, which he signed into law on February 29. SB 6195 is the Legislature's attempt to comply with the most recent order by the State Supreme Court in which the court found the Legislature in contempt for inadequate progress in funding basic education and complying with the McCleary decision. The Court levied a fine of \$100,000 per day on the Legislature until there is a solution.

Process going forward

- It is now up to the Court to determine if the legislature's plan constitutes adequate progress to meet the 2018 deadline to fully fund education.
 - If the Court determines the taskforce plan to be adequate, the current fine of \$100,000 a day will be stopped.
 - If the Court determines the taskforce plan to be inadequate the court may decide to impose further sanctions on the legislature to compel the legislature to act more aggressively to fully fund education.

What the legislation does:

- Create a taskforce to develop recommendations to the legislature on what steps need to be taken to meet the *McCleary* funding requirements.
 - The plan must be submitted by January 2017.
 - The plan agreed to by the taskforce is non-binding. It doesn't require the legislature to follow the agreed upon plan.
- The taskforce responsibilities include making recommendations regarding:
 - Compensation sufficient to attract and retain basic education staff
 - Whether and in what way to include local labor market adjustments in state funded compensation
 - How to address teacher shortages
 - Whether additional legislation is needed to implement K-3 class size reduction and full-day kindergarten
 - Levies and local effort assistance
 - Making recommendations on staff health benefits and collective bargaining
- Requires legislative action to be taken by the end of the 2017 legislative session to end dependence on local levies for basic education.
- Commissions a study and analysis of K-12 public school staff compensation.



What the legislation doesn't do:

- Does not commit the legislature to a policy or level of funding for education
- Does not establish new revenue sources
- Does not make changes to the levy system
- Does not increase teacher salary
- Does not make changes to policies regarding attracting or retaining teachers

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