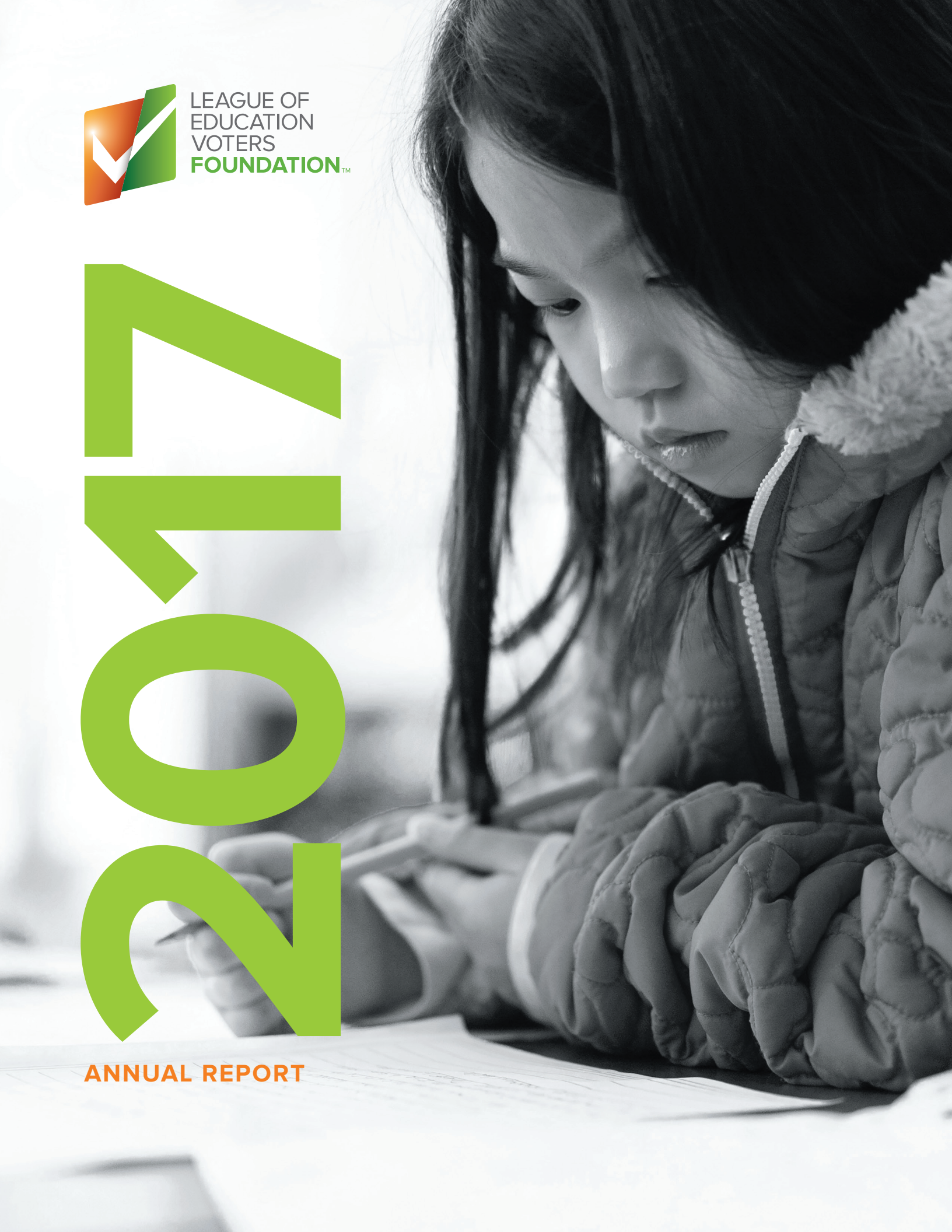




LEAGUE OF
EDUCATION
VOTERS
FOUNDATION™

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM OUR CEO



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your support of the League of Education Voters Foundation. And thank you for your tireless work to improve outcomes for Washington's students. We can't do this work without you – and Washington's students need us more than ever.

We are very fortunate to live in a state that leads the national trends on economic opportunity, job growth and creation, and a commitment to college access. We are also different in the way that we fund education. This past year, League of Education Voters worked to help the state make good on its current obligations for teacher pay while also making down payments on necessary student supports, opportunities, and interventions. Salaries alone won't change outcomes for kids, but they are a recognition of the hard and important work that teachers do.

Moving forward, we will continue to research best practices in student supports that leverage better outcomes, connect the practice of educating with the policies that govern education, and make investments that put kids first – investments like access to high quality early childhood education. We must build more equity into a system that often has little of it for low income kids, students of color, special education students, and homeless and foster youth.

We want to build more opportunity for rigorous academics so that our kids leave high school ready for college and the pursuit of a career – but we must ensure that everyone believes that each child can learn in order to close the achievement gap. And we must be more targeted and strategic in our education investments so that they are structured, differentiated, and equitable.

We keep fighting. And with you on our team, we will continue to build on big wins for kids.

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Chris Korsmo'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large initial 'C'.

Chris Korsmo, CEO

LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



Greetings,

Thank you for your support of the League of Education Voters Foundation in 2017! Your voice, your courage and steadfast commitment brings us closer to ensuring that every student has an equal opportunity for success from early learning through college and career.

I am pleased to share how we put your investments to work in 2017. As you will see, the board of directors and staff executed activities in support of increasing investments to close the opportunity gap, providing educators with much needed supports for students, and improving post-secondary degree and certificate completion. With the passing of House Bill 2242 (commonly known as the *McCleary* solution), our state will be closer to fulfilling its constitutional duty to fully fund K-12 basic education. Our work, however, is not nearly complete. We are committed to tracking how these funds are spent and continuing to advocate for improvements necessary to bring better outcomes for every student, especially those who need the most support.

In this report, you will also see the direct impact LEV Foundation is making in communities across Washington. Whether that be shining a light on best practices for school climate, educating parents on key issues, or training student advocates like Maite Cruz, who is in this report's group photo of Tri-Cities students brought to Olympia. Maite spoke at our recent Spring Luncheon, and I was inspired by her words and actions: "LEV is helping us in this fight for our lives and we need your help, too. When you support LEV, you are supporting young people like me. I am the future and I want to make it a good one for each and every one of us. If you don't believe in us, who will?"

Thank you for listening to and amplifying voices like Maite's. Together, we are leading the charge for public school students and families in Washington. Thank you!

A stylized, handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Betsy".

Betsy Johnson, Chair, LEV Foundation and League of Education Voters Board of Directors

OUR STRATEGIES

Increase investment while using existing funds more effectively to accelerate achievement and close gaps.



We asked for a long-term, sustainable education funding solution to the Supreme Court's *McCleary* decision, meant to address the 2007 lawsuit *McCleary v. State of Washington*. The *McCleary* lawsuit was largely based on the inadequacy of state funding for basic education and the inequities across districts resulting from disproportionate use and allocation of local levy money.

In 2017, the legislature increased K-12 funding by \$7.3 billion over the next four years. During 2017 - 2021, the state property tax will assume the cost of teacher salaries and other costs associated with educating a child in the classroom, and local levies will be limited to enrichment programs such as after-school sports, zero-hour band programs, or coach salaries, and reduced to a cap of

\$1.50 per \$1000 of property value or \$2500 per student. For school districts eligible for Local Effort Assistance (LEA), their combined local levy revenues and LEA funding are capped at \$1,500 per student.

In the Supreme Court's 2016 order, justices noted that the K-12 funding had to be regular and dependable in addressing K-3 class size reduction and teacher compensation. There is strong evidence to suggest this plan does that.

We asked for an increase in programs and funding targeted toward students who need it most, providing both academic and non-academic supports for students to improve outcomes and make progress in closing the opportunity and achievement gaps.

In 2017, the legislature increased overall funding by approximately \$500 million over the next four years for programs that close achievement gaps, such as the Learning Assistance Program (LAP), Transitional Bilingual Instruction Program (TBIP), and Special Education. Other student programs such as Highly Capable and Career Technical Education (CTE) also received additional funding.

We worked with our coalition partners in the Early Learning Action Alliance (ELAA) to ask

for additional funding to increase access and participation in high-quality early learning programs across the state.

In 2017, the legislature made significant progress towards the coalition's goal by adding \$25 million

to serve 1800 more children in 2017-2018, and allocated \$12 million toward increasing the reimbursement rate for providers by 6 percent.

A new Department of Children, Youth and Families has been created to consolidate and coordinate early learning with other social services.

WHAT'S NEXT: *League of Education Voters Foundation analyzes the 2017 funding solution and creates recommendations to further remove inequities in the education system, and direct resources to students who need them most, first.*

Build a highly-effective, diverse and well-compensated instructional workforce that can meet each student's needs.



We asked for a system that attracts, retains, and supports qualified and effective educators, which include teachers, paraeducators, and principals, while addressing needs for equitable access to quality instruction.

In 2017, the legislature increased beginning teacher salary to at least \$40,000, moved the cost of hiring K-12 staff to the state, provided

more resources for mentoring and professional development, removed the staff mix formula that created statewide funding inequities, added 3 regional salary enhancement levels that will increase base salary by 6%, 12%, or 18% based on school district housing values, and allowed local districts to provide salary enhancements to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), special education, and bilingual education teachers and staff associates.

We deepened our relationship with the University of Washington College of Education and researched methods for recruiting and supporting educators of color, as well as effective mentorship programs for new teachers.

We continued to bring together education professors and faculty from Whitworth University,



Gonzaga University, Spokane Falls Community College, and Eastern Washington University to discuss best practices for supporting new teachers, culturally-competent teaching methods, and trauma-informed instruction.

We continued our ongoing partnership with the Center for Strengthening the Teaching Profession (CSTP) and created new relationships with regional and state Teachers of the Year to gather timely information about the conditions of teaching in schools across Washington.

WHAT'S NEXT: *League of Education Voters Foundation advocates for school staff statewide to be trained in addressing trauma and supporting social emotional learning, and for every student to have access to mental health services.*

Improve equitable access to, and supports for, degree and certificate completion.



We asked for additional funding to serve all students eligible for the State Need Grant, resulting in 23,000 additional scholarships.

In 2017, the legislature partially met the request by allocating \$12 million to fund 875 more students, increasing State Need Grant award amounts at nonprofit private four-year universities to equal the University of Washington award amount, continuing to fully fund the College Bound Scholarship, and offering a \$15 million Opportunity Scholarship state match.

WHAT'S NEXT: *League of Education Voters Foundation continues to work toward full funding of the State Need Grant, develops strategies to support students in completing postsecondary credentials, and works to expand eligibility of the College Bound Scholarship to include Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients and other select Immigration statuses.*

IMPACT: STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Students in the State Capitol



*By Ruvine Jiménez, Community Organizer,
Pasco Field Office*

Since our vision is that every student in Washington state has access to an excellent public education that provides the opportunity for success, I searched for student groups who were not only working on their education, but also working on improving their community. This led me to A.L.A.S. - Ambassadors of Lake View Achieving Success, The Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Pageant, Somos Educational Institute, Tiera Vida, and the Boys & Girls Club of Benton and Franklin County.

When I want to know how our work will directly impact students, I turn to them – the students whom the advocacy will affect. I show them the data, ask them about their experiences, ask for their thoughts about the matter, and ask them if they will voice their thoughts, experiences, and beliefs to the people who make education policy decisions.

That is how students from A.L.A.S., Miss Juneteenth Pageant, Somos, and students mentored by a para-professional championed in Olympia for our Campaign for Student Success in April 2017. When asked to describe their view of a quality, equitable education, here were a few of their responses:

“Instead of making us take electives, they should make us take classes that we are going to need later in life to be career-ready and go out to the community as a helpful person”

— Pasco School District Student

“No matter what difference we have between communities, we should have all students passing tests” — Pasco School District Student

“Every student getting the resources they need” — Pasco School District Student

“That we are properly funded and in a perfect world teachers and admins and stuff wouldn’t care so much about money”

— Richland School District Student

We had four scheduled appointments with senators, a Capitol tour, and drop-in meetings at two other senators' offices. While we were not able to meet with all the senators because some were voting on bills, we were able to meet

with their legislative assistants. Every senator and legislative assistant was impressed by the effectiveness of the students' advocacy – and the students could not believe how young the legislative assistants were.

Lifting Student Voice on the Future of Education



*By Sandra Jarrard,
Spokane Regional Field Director*

In 2017, the Spokane region embarked on a journey to find Eastern Washington's vision for what education could be. League of Education Voters convened four community forums with over 200 teachers, students, community, and business leaders. As a community, the decision was made to work together to create an education system where all students feel that they belong.

Students requested that the education system allow for more self-directed learning, where students plan, build, and execute projects based on their fields of interest. They said that all students should be able to learn in a way that best suits their learning style. They would like their schools to allow them to experiment and

fail, which students said helps them learn. And students would like the education system to support the idea that students themselves can change schools.

The Education Vision project organically transformed to become a component of other partnerships where the community continues to bring students together, with students leading the charge and focusing on what they believe is important to students.

In May of 2018, students organized and led (RE)Imagine, an event that brought students from across the Spokane region together to showcase student work and keynote presentations provided by students on the reality of their education. These students continue to plan student-inspired events to shape the future of education in Washington state.

LEV EDUCATION ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT



Sameth Mell is an active leader with the Coalition of Immigrants, Refugees & Communities of Color (CIRCC), serving on the leadership and advocacy

committees. He works for the Mount Baker Housing Association as the Outreach & Resident Services Manager, helping South Seattle residents access needed services and programs, and helping them to engage in their community. He is also responsible for connecting the agency at large to community based organizations and public officials, and works on legislative materials. He is a community activist extraordinaire on behalf of the Cambodian community and many social justice issues that the community faces.

Sameth supported our Campaign for Student Success (C4SS) by adopting its three principles of funding and fairness, talent, and accountability as part of CIRCC's advocacy agenda for 2017, along with other priorities that focus on housing development for communities in South Seattle, opposition to building a new youth jail, and ending fines for formerly incarcerated people

that often prevent them from being able to support themselves.

To grow policymaker awareness of our Campaign for Student Success, Sameth scheduled C4SS group meetings with Seattle City Council members and seven state legislators. Each time, C4SS had thoughtful conversations about the priorities on our advocacy agenda, and C4SS asked the policymaker to sign onto the Campaign for Student Success.

Sameth was born in a refugee camp in Thailand after his parents fled the Khmer Rouge genocide in Cambodia. After his father died in the camp, his mother signed up to relocate him and his three siblings to the United States in 1985. In his teen years, he began working on identity politics, recognizing racism and oppression, and addressing more of that as he grew older. Sameth says, "I saw organizing as a way to effect change and create equity for my community members."

He appreciates League of Education Voters because all the issues he works on intersect. His overall plan is create spaces where people can live, celebrate their cultures, and have access to quality education. After all, Sameth says, "We have along Rainier the most ethnically diverse neighborhood in the country."

"I saw organizing as a way to effect change and create equity for my community members."

—*Sameth Mell*



LEV EDUCATION DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Gaurab Bansal has been a donor and supporter of LEV Foundation for nearly a decade. Gaurab's commitment to public education is rooted in his

years teaching elementary and middle school in Houston. After moving to Seattle in 2004, Gaurab sought to contribute to public school students and systems outside the classroom. "Every time I read an article about education funding or policy change, LEV was at the forefront. LEV was pushing hard in Washington – amplifying youth and other citizen voices, raising awareness of the importance of school funding, and advocating for common sense policies and high expectations for all students. LEV has nurtured an education advocacy ecosystem that didn't exist when I moved to Washington. I am proud to have supported LEV in its holistic efforts on behalf of Washington's youth."

Gaurab served on the board of directors until being tapped to work for President Obama starting in 2011. Gaurab worked on a presidential campaign, in a federal agency, and most recently as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy

Cabinet Secretary during the final two years of President Obama's second term in office.

Gaurab has now returned to Washington state and continues to support LEV as a citizen member. Reflecting on his work in the other Washington, and his civic engagement in Washington state, Gaurab notes a core tension we experience today. While we have made progress as a state and country, the opportunity gap in Washington state persists. Our current public discourse often resists full acknowledgement of the history that created imperfect systems. There is still so much to be done to "ensure that every child, regardless of zip code, can walk into a safe, nurturing environment and be provided the tools necessary to achieve their full potential."

He believes that LEV is working to deliver on this aspiration because equity is increasingly at the heart of its mission, organizing, and advocacy. Gaurab will continue to support LEV because he believes that while improving education is hard, now is not the time to give up. Young people do not get any do-overs. "To paraphrase a value I first heard articulated by civic icons in Washington state, and which I have experienced throughout my life, we are all better off when all of our kids are better off."

"Every time I read an article about education funding or policy change, LEV was at the forefront . . . I am proud to have supported LEV in it's holistic efforts on behalf of Washington's youth."

—Gaurab Bansal

ABOUT LEAGUE OF EDUCATION VOTERS FOUNDATION

League of Education Voters Foundation (LEV Foundation) is a 501(c)3 charitable organization that provides strategic, accurate, and timely information about research-driven education policies and practices to citizens, educators, policymakers, and the media. We partner with community-based organizations to educate parents and community members about how they can improve public education systems in their communities and across the state.

Our programs include coalition building, grassroots organizing, training, policy research, and analysis. We work to improve opportunities for every public school student in the state, and especially, students and families who are systemically underserved and disproportionately affected by failing systems.

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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2017

TOTAL ALL FUNDS

2017

EARNED REVENUE

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----|-----------|
| Foundation & nonprofit grants | \$ | 1,293,951 |
| Individual contributions | | 293,380 |
| Corporate contributions | | 45,905 |
| Events, net of expenses | | 99,939 |
| Other | | 34,917 |

Total Earned Revenue **\$ 1,768,092**

EXPENSES

| | | |
|------------------------|----|-----------|
| Management and general | \$ | 231,549 |
| Fundraising | | 318,281 |
| Direct program | | 1,917,708 |
| South Shore School | | 870,451 |

Total Expenses **\$ 3,337,989**

TOTAL CHANGE TO RESERVES* **\$ (1,569,897)**

BALANCE SHEET

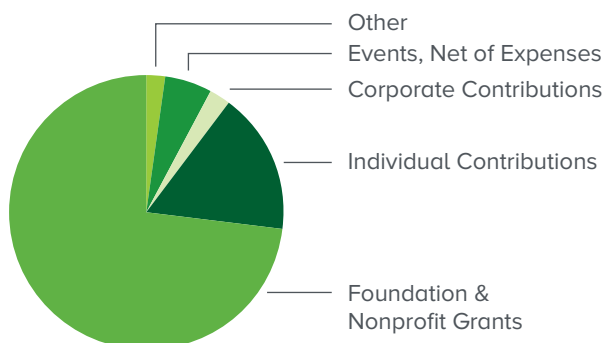
| | | |
|-------------------|----|-----------|
| Total assets | \$ | 1,700,697 |
| Total liabilities | | 258,005 |

Net Assets **\$ 1,442,692**

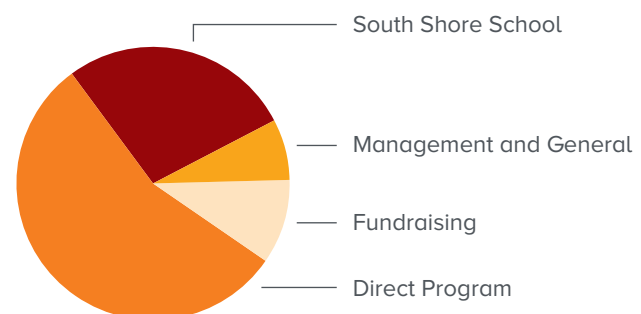
LIQUIDITY

| | | |
|-------------------------|----|-----------|
| Cash & investments | \$ | 1,273,964 |
| Unrestricted net assets | \$ | 1,135,085 |
| Board operating reserve | \$ | 300,043 |

FOUNDATION INCOME



FOUNDATION EXPENSES



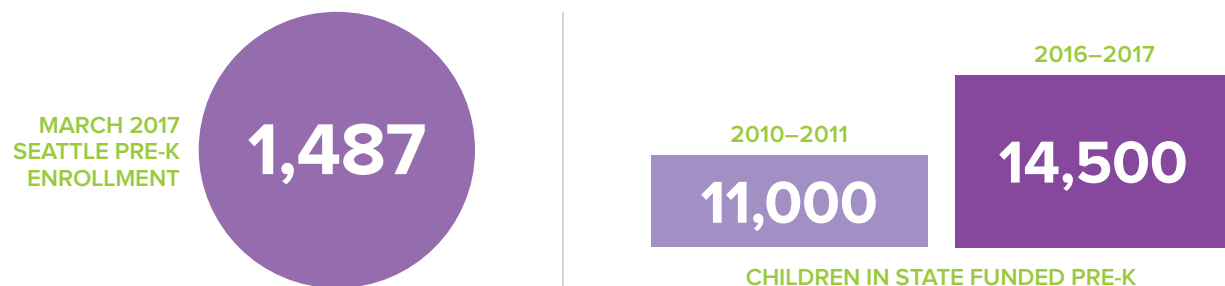
*Funds received as part of a 2-year grant – released from temporary restriction in 2017

OUR IMPACT: A HISTORY

- 2000** ● Founders of League of Education Voters work to pass Initiative 728, which brings nearly \$500 per pupil into every school across Washington state.
- 2001** ● **League of Education Voters Founded**

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- 2011** ● League of Education Voters work at South Shore PreK-8 led to Seattle's citywide preschool program.
- 2013** ● League of Education Voters helped pass House Bill 1723, which expanded the state Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP) and the use of the Washington Inventory of Kindergarten Readiness (WAKids) for 14,500 low-income children to attend high-quality preschool.
- 2015** ● League of Education Voters helped pass the Early Start Act (House Bill 1491), which increased access to high-quality ECEAP early learning for 1,600 children and dramatically increased the quality and viability of our childcare system.



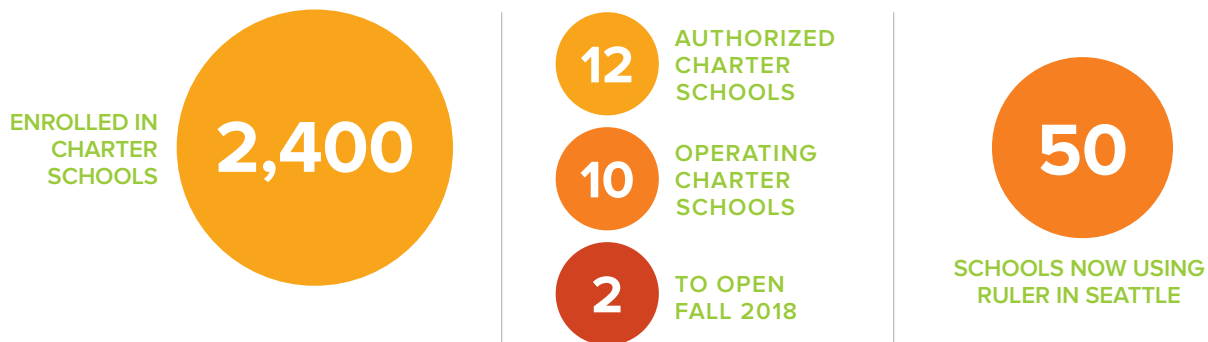
K-12 FUNDING

- 2007** ● League of Education Voters helped pass House Joint Resolution 4204, an initiative that amended the state constitution to allow a simple majority of voters to authorize local school district levies. \$9.8 billion in local school district funding would not have passed as of February 2018 without this bill. This includes maintenance and operations, transportation, and capital (predominately tech) levies.
 - 2009** ● League of Education Voters led the advocacy to pass House Bills 2261 and 2776, which defined basic education. These are the laws on which the Washington Supreme Court's McCleary education funding decision was based.
 - 2010** ● League of Education Voters was the lead plaintiff in the successful effort to overturn Initiative 1053, the initiative requiring two-thirds legislative approval to raise revenue or close tax loopholes.
 - 2017** ● League of Education Voters led advocacy efforts through the Campaign for Student Success to drive \$7.3 billion of state money into our education system to address the Washington Supreme Court's 2012 McCleary ruling.
-

LEV Foundation and League of Education Voters work hand in hand to accomplish 17 years of impact for Washington students

STUDENT SUPPORTS

- 2012** ● League of Education Voters was the key driver in passing Initiative 1240, which created Washington's charter public school system.
- 2016** ● League of Education Voters led advocacy efforts in the Senate to help pass the Opportunity Gap Bill (House Bill 1541), in which students will no longer be suspended or expelled for discretionary offenses, and better statewide data on student demographics will ensure that the system is working to keep all students on track and in school.
- League of Education Voters helped pass Senate Bill 6194, which saved Washington's charter public schools. The new charter public school law increases accountability while still allowing flexibility and innovation to address student needs.
- 2017** ● League of Education Voters work at South Shore PreK-8 led to Multi-Tiered System of Supports [MTSS] teams in every Seattle school, and growing adoption of the RULER social-emotional literacy curriculum developed by Yale University's Center for Emotional Intelligence.
- MTSS in Seattle Public Schools Year One [2016-17] Highlights: Developed an MTSS Team in every school that meets regularly to review data and make decisions; continued Positive Behavior Supports and Interventions in more than 45 schools.



POST SECONDARY

- 2007** ● League of Education Voters helped pass and protect the College Bound Scholarship to provide state financial aid to low-income students who may not consider college a possibility due to the cost.
- 2014** ● League of Education Voters helped pass the REAL Hope Act (Senate Bill 6523, our state's version of the Dream Act), allowing qualified undocumented students to apply for federal student aid and participate in the State Need Grant. An additional \$5 million was apportioned for 2014-2015 to serve newly eligible Dreamers.



CHILDREN/LIFE SKILLS

RJ's way of doing things is causing lots of grief, especially in math class.

Too many of his assignments are missing and incomplete. RJ blames Norma "the booger picker" and Rodney "the alphabet burper" for distracting him during class. But with a little guidance from his parents and his teacher, RJ learns how to ask for help and stay on task. By learning how to do things the right way the first time, RJ discovers he no longer has to do his work over and over and over again.

I Just Want to Do It My Way is the fifth book in the *Read Me I Can't Read* series by Julia Cook. Included in the book are tips for parents, teachers, and kids on how to help children stay on task and ask for help.

Julia never fails to give us language and tips to help our kids experience success. *I Just Want to Do It My Way* and the character of RJ allows our kids to relate to and reflect. RJ's situation gives important strategies and hope to parents and teachers. RJ's situation gives important strategies and hope to parents and teachers. RJ's situation gives important strategies and hope to parents and teachers. This book is another tool to help our kids learn that finishing their work feels great. Make any situation positive if they try!

Julia Cook, Educator, The Cleveland School of Atlanta



JULIA COOK, a former educator and school counselor, has written many books for children and teachers, including the popular page-turners *I Just Don't Like the Sound of No!*, *Making Friends*, *It's an Art!* and *The Worst Day of My Life EVER!* Her activity guides for teachers offer classroom-tested fun to reinforce the life lessons shared in her storybooks. Among her many awards, Julia has received the Association for Educational Publishers Distinguished Achievement Award, and her books have been honored by The National Parenting Center and Mom's Choice Awards.

KELSEY DE WEERD is a graphic artist and illustrator in Los Angeles.

BOYS TOWN Press

Boys Town, NE 68010 BoysTownPress.org



ABOUT LEAGUE OF EDUCATION VOTERS

Founded in 2001, League of Education Voters (LEV) is a non-partisan 501(c)4 organization that partners with parents, students, and civic leaders to advocate for a high-quality public education system in Washington state. League of Education Voters works statewide to improve public education from early learning through higher education, and to ensure ample, equitable, and stable funding.

Our vision is that every student in Washington state has access to an excellent public education that provides the opportunity for success. To achieve this vision, League of Education Voters engages in the political process by lobbying for and organizing others to lobby for legislation and policies that support an education system that provides every student with a high-quality, fully-funded, and equitable education that prepares them to reach their full potential and to contribute to our democracy and our economy.

Working on behalf of students, League of Education Voters has successfully led the charge on many of the landmark funding and policy decisions helping to improve the education landscape in Washington.

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