



Keeping our Promise to All Children.

- American Assn. of University Women-Wa.
- Arlington Education Assn.
- Arlington School District
- Auburn Education Assn.
- Auburn School District
- Bainbridge Island Education Assn.
- Bainbridge Island School District
- Bellevue Education Assn.
- Bellevue School District
- Bellingham Education Assn.
- Bellingham School District
- Chimacum Education Assn.
- Chimacum Independent Assn.
- Chimacum School District
- Clover Park Education Assn.
- Clover Park School District
- Disability Rights Washington
- Edmonds Education Assn.
- Edmonds School District
- El Centro de la Raza
- Equitable Opportunity Caucus
- Federal Way Education Assn.
- Federal Way School District
- Highline Education Assn.
- Highline School District
- Japanese American Citizens League
- Kelso Education Assn.
- Kelso School District
- Kent Education Assn.
- Kent School District
- Lakewood Education Assn.
- Lakewood School District
- League of Women Voters of Wa.
- Lutheran Public Policy Council
- Marysville Education Assn.
- Marysville School District
- Minority Executive Directors Coalition
- North Kitsap Education Assn.
- North Kitsap School District
- Northshore Education Assn.
- Northshore School District
- Olympia Education Assn.
- Olympia School District
- Omak Education Assn.
- Omak School District
- Orcas Island Education Assn.
- Orcas Island School District
- Pasco Assn. of Educators
- Pasco School District
- Peninsula Education Assn.
- Peninsula School District
- Pierce County Black Collective
- Puyallup Education Assn.
- Puyallup School District
- San Juan Island Education Assn.
- San Juan Island School District
- Seattle Breakfast Group
- Seattle Education Assn.
- Seattle School District
- Shoreline Education Assn.
- Shoreline School District
- Snohomish Education Assn.
- Snohomish School District
- South Kitsap Education Assn.
- South Kitsap School District
- Special Education Coalition (WSSEC)
- Spokane Education Assn.
- Spokane School District
- Tahoma Education Assn.
- Tahoma School District
- Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle
- Vancouver Education Assn.
- Vancouver School District
- Vietnamese Friendship Association
- Washington Education Assn.
- Washington State PTA
- Yakima Education Assn.
- Yakima School District

"It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders..."

Article IX, Section 1, Washington State Constitution

June 1, 2010

Superintendent
District
Address1
Address2
City, State Zip

BdPresident
District
Address1
Address2
City, State Zip

Dear Greeting1,

Earlier this year, a landmark court ruling set in motion what could be the most dramatic improvements in K-12 education funding in Washington's history. Every student, every school, every district – including yours – stands to gain as a result of the *McCleary vs. State* case brought by the Network for Excellence in Washington Schools. In addition to confirming what we've all known for decades – State funding falls far short of what is needed to educate our kids – *McCleary* also held that:

- "Paramount" means the State must amply fund the education mandated by Article IX, Section 1 of the State Constitution before the State funds anything else.
- "Ample" means State funding must be more than just adequate.
- "All" means every child, not just those who are easy to teach.
- "Education" means the knowledge and skills in our State's academic standards – not programs and funding formulas in State statutes.
- It is unconstitutional to force districts to rely on levies, bonds or other non-State funds to pay for basics like facilities, technology, textbooks or transportation.

This year's Legislature appropriated \$950,000 to appeal the *McCleary* ruling to the Washington Supreme Court. That's why we need your help. We are asking you to join with the 32 school districts already in the NEWS coalition and make a one-time financial contribution to help defeat the State's appeal. Despite the squeeze caused by ongoing State underfunding, school districts who have joined NEWS contributed an average of \$1.95 per student toward our Superior Court victory. We are asking you to invest in the future of your schools, community and state by considering a similar \$1.95 per student contribution. Every dollar counts.

We are at the crossroads of real change in school funding. Upholding *McCleary* will mean no more unfunded State promises. We will have the power of a State Supreme Court mandate behind us. Please help us preserve the *McCleary* ruling by joining this important endeavor. You are welcome to contact me if you have questions at 360-385-3922, ext. 222; 253-765-7043; or news@waschoolexcellence.org.

Sincerely,

Mike Blair, President
Network for Excellence in Washington Schools
Superintendent, Chimacum School District

Enclosures: Summary of McCleary; draft School Board Resolution