

# Washington State Basic Ed & Funding

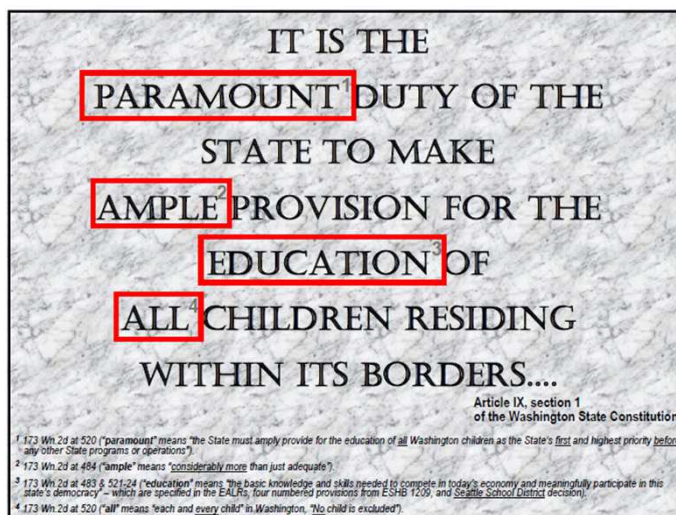
“Good news, bad news  
and who is McCleary?”

By Heidi B. Bennett  
WA State PTA Region 6 Legislative Chair  
Heidi@bennettdirect.net



April 4, 2013

## The good news – One of the Strongest State Constitutions for Education



Source: Tom Ahearne, [NEWS Presentation](#) 3/10/2013,

2

## Good News: The McCleary Lawsuit

**Plaintiff** →

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

MATHEW and STEPHANIE McCLEARY, on their own behalf and on behalf of KELSEY and CARTER McCLEARY, their two children in Washington's public schools, ROBERT

**"Article IX, section 1 confers on children in Washington a positive constitutional right to an amply funded education"**<sup>1</sup>

**The State is violating that constitutional right**<sup>2</sup>

**"This Court cannot stand on the sidelines and hope the State meets its constitutional mandate to amply fund education."**<sup>3</sup>

**"It is our responsibility to hold the State accountable to meet its constitutional duty under Article IX, section 1."**<sup>4</sup>

Appellant/Cross-Respondent.

<sup>1</sup> 173 Wn.2d at 483, 518-519.    <sup>2</sup> 173 Wn.2d at 529.    <sup>3</sup> 173 Wn.2d at 541.    <sup>4</sup> 173 Wn.2d at 546.

Source: Tom Ahearne, [NEWS Presentation](#) 3/10/2013,

3

## Good News: The McCleary Decision

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

MATHEW & STEPHANIE McCLEARY, et al., )  
Respondent/Cross-Appellant, )  
v. )  
STATE OF WASHINGTON, )

**ORDER**

Supreme Court No. 84362-7  
King County Nos. 07-2-02323-2 SEA

BY: RONALD L. BERKELEY  
12 JUL 18 PM 3:00  
FILED  
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

To end the State's violation of Washington children's constitutional rights by 2018, each State budget must:

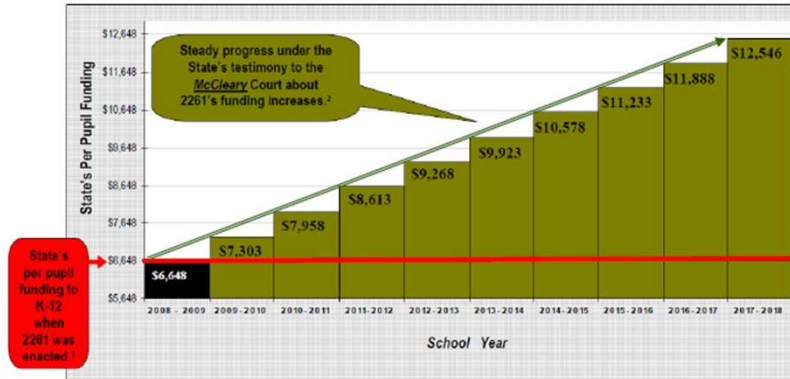
- (1) "demonstrate steady progress" implementing education funding reforms under ESHB 2261, and
- (2) "show real and measurable progress toward achieving full compliance with article IX, section 1 by 2018."

July 18, 2012 Supreme Court Order at ¶4

Source: Tom Ahearne, [NEWS Presentation](#) 3/10/2013,

4

## McCleary Decision: Steady Progress looks like this

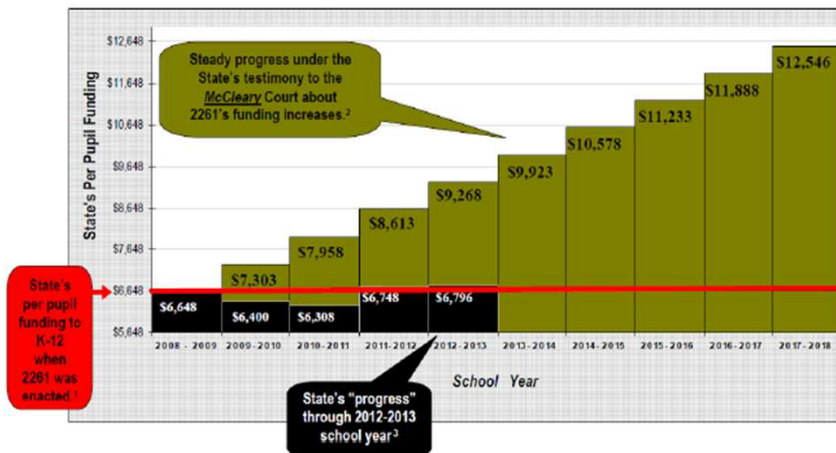


<sup>2</sup> "Steady progress" to reach \$12,546 by 2018 requires the State to increase K-12 funding an average of \$655/pupil each year from 2009/2010 to 2017/2018 ( $\$12,546 - \$6,648 = \$5,898$ ;  $\$5,898 \div 9 = \$655$ ).

Source: Tom Ahearn, [NEWS Presentation](#) 3/10/2013,

5

## McCleary Decision: Increase State funding from \$6.8B to \$12.5B by 2018



Source: Tom Ahearn, [NEWS Presentation](#) 3/10/2013,

6

## More Good News – “The Basic Ed Bills” ESHB 2261 & HB 2776

“**Redefines basic education** as the opportunity for students to graduate with a meaningful high school diploma. Prepared for college and/or a family-wage job”. Passed into law April 2009, to take effect by 2018

- Create a “**prototypical school**” funding model with appropriate staff smaller classroom size, support staff (librarians, counselors, aides, arts, vocational, administrators, etc.)
- Core 24 – This aligns high school requirements with college and employer requirements.
- Increased instructional hours -- Six periods in middle and high school.
  - Levies would pay for 7<sup>th</sup> period – the national average
- Roll-out all-day Kindergarten and reduced class size K-3
- Enhanced allocations for low income, bilingual and highly capable.
- Increased transportation, maintenance and operations costs
- **Quality Education Council (QEC) is the oversees the implementation**

7

## Proposed (Core 24) Grad. Requirements

Subject	Current WA State	Min. for 4 year College	Meaningful HS Diploma
English	3	4	4
Math	2	3*	3
Science	2	3 (2 lab)	3 (2 lab)
Social Studies	2.5	3	3 (inc .5 civics)
World Lang	0	2	2
Arts	1	1	2
Health/Fitness	2		2
Occ & Career	1		3
Electives	5.5		2
<b>Total</b>	19		24

**WA State does not currently fund sufficient High School credits to satisfy WA State College and University entrance requirements.**

## Bad News: WA State Isn't Investing in Basic Education

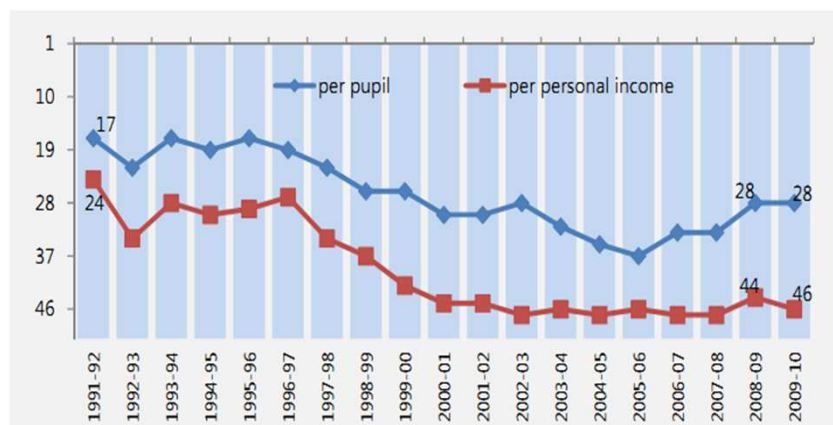
- WA State is 46<sup>th</sup> in per-pupil revenue in relation to income\*
- 20 years of declining funding support for education, from #24 in the US to #46\*
- Cuts include:
  - I-728 that provided over half a billion dollars for student achievement fund
  - Postponement of teacher cost of living adjustments (I-732)
  - 40% reduction in four year college funding
- While “per-pupil” spending has decreased, overall education budget has increased due to a variety of factors:
  - Increased number of students
  - Increased supports – ELL, SpEd, etc.
  - Increased pension and healthcare for staff

\* US Census Bureau

9

## WA State K-12 Funding

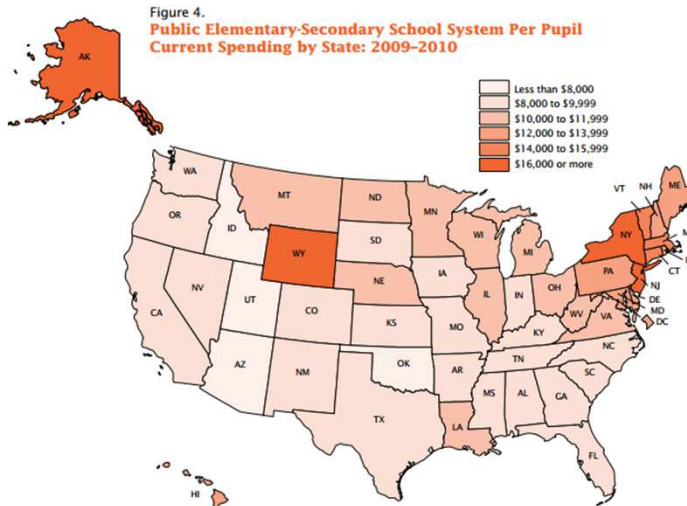
WASHINGTON'S RANK AMONG THE STATES IN K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL SPENDING



Source: US Census Bureau

WA State has decreased to #28 in per-pupil funding and #46 in per personal income -- we can afford to spend more.

## WA State Per-Pupil Finding is Low @ \$8,000 to \$9,999 (includes Federal, State and Local Levies)



Source: US Census Education Financing

11

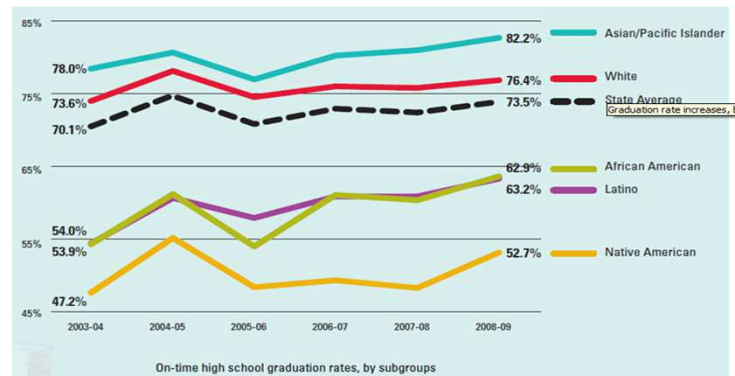
## More Unacceptable Outcomes

- **WA State Public Schools Outcomes** (OSPI Report Card)
  - By 6<sup>th</sup> grade, passing rates on MSP are too low
    - Reading: 65% pass, Math: 52% pass and Science: 34% (5<sup>th</sup> grade)
  - Only 3 out of 4 (73.5%) of students graduate in 4-years
    - National average is 78%
    - 16,000 (5%) WA State kids drop-out
  - And Only 62% of graduates enroll in higher education within 1 year of graduating (<http://erdcddata.wa.gov/>)
- **54% of WA high school graduates need remedial classes for Community College and Technical schools.**

**By 2018, 67% of Washington jobs will require some education beyond high school – we need to increase the ready rate !**

12

## Achievement Gap in WA – High School Graduation Rates



**WA is in the bottom 20 percent of states for kids entering post-high school education.**  
**For WA minority students it's even worse -- WA is one of 5 state in which the achievement gap is widening.**

13

## Act Now and HOLD our Legislators Accountable

- **Pass the “K-12 Funding Resolution” at your school**
  - At your April PTSA Board Meeting or General Meeting as for 10 minutes or more if you can.
  - Once passed, complete the form and send copies to your legislators (house & senate) by postal or email – remember to get all the districts that your school includes. Copy the Governor too.
  - Send a copy to Heidi Bennet, RLC6 Leg. Chair [heidi@bennettdirect.net](mailto:heidi@bennettdirect.net) so we can tally the number of PTAs sending resolutions
- **Sign up for WA State PTA E-action Alerts**
  - <http://capwiz.com/wastatepta/home/>
  - Fill out every action alert and send it to at least 10 friends

14

## PTA and Advocacy

- PTA is the oldest child advocacy organization in the US -- Health, Education and welfare of every child
- Founded to address child labor laws, juvenile penal system, Polio vaccines, hot lunches, literacy, education reform, special education, ELL, etc.
- PTA advocates for all kids – focuses on the issues but always candidate neutral
  - **Legislative Assembly determines WA State PTA priorities**
- **Kid Mail**; the facts, not persuasive, principal should approve it first
- **PTA Mail**: Can be persuasive if State, Council or Local unit board or general membership endorsed the issue
  - Do not use school resources; photocopier, server, etc.

15