

Handout to WSPTA's Presentation "Crisis In Ed Funding"



March 2008



What Can You Do About It?

Thank you for-

- **Learning** more about the funding of K-12 public education
- **Understanding** how the under funding of Basic Ed has pervasive effects on our children's opportunities
- **Becoming more attentive** to all education funding issues
- **Speaking up and speaking out** – share your new knowledge with everyone
- **Taking action** – to be aware, to ask questions, to be active, and to give more -- to participate in the solutions!

Who Advocates? People do -

- Individuals
- Local Units
- Councils
- Coalitions

Where To Advocate?

Within your own normal circles –

- your friends and peers
- your school and PTA groups
- your school board
- your district administration
- your unions
- your local govts and agencies
- WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS
 - House Representatives
 - Senator

Steps To Take Now

- Become informed": Go to www.wastatepta.org - Click on "Legislation"
- Enroll at above in PTA's Action Alerts: You'll receive PTA emails in the legislative session for requested action on an issue.
- Read at above the PTA's Weekly "Grassroots Connection" weekly during legislative session, and the Bill Status Summary

Educate Others

- Present this PowerPoint to your PTA, or invite an Ed Funding PTA speaker to your next PTA meeting

Lend Your Support

- Write or email your Leg. District Reps. & Sen.
- **Go to www.leg.wa.gov** - Click on "Find Your Legislator"
- Write letters to the editors at newspapers,
- *Vote! Vote! Vote! Vote! Vote! Vote!*
- **Support WSPTA**
 - Appoint a Leg. Chair for your PTA unit,
 - Send the LC or any member to PTA's Oct. Legislative Assembly

Web Links to More Info and Data Sources

Resources from the Washington State PTA:

- WSPTA Legislation Web site –
www.wastatepta.org/programs/Legislation/legintro.htm

Sources for data specific to your school district / bldg.:

- Your School District website:
- Your School District's Budget Plan 2008
- Your School District's Foundation :
- WA Legislature: 2007 Citizen's Guide to K-12 Finance
www1.leg.wa.gov/documents/Senate/SCS/WM/SwmWebsite/Publications/2007/K12Guide2007.pdf
- WA OSPI: Home Page: www.k12.wa.us/
- WA OSPI: Data & Reports:
www.k12.wa.us/DataAdmin/default.aspx
- WA OSPI: District Report Cards:
<http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/summary.aspx?schoold=1&reportLevel=State&orgLinkId=1&yrs=>
- WA OSPI: Compare your District or School:
<http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/SideBySide.aspx?schoold=116&OrgTypeId=3&reportLevel=District&orgLinkId=116>
- * WA Basic Ed Finance Task Force:
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Joint/Committees/BEF/>
- WA Learns: www.washingtonlearns.wa.gov/
- WA State Tax Overview:
http://dor.wa.gov/docs/reports/WA_Tax_System_11_17_2004.pdf
- WA State Tax Statistics: <http://dor.wa.gov/content/statistics/>

View Presentations:

- Washington Association of School Administrators - *Generations of Progress* Presentation Toolkit:
www.wasa-oly.org/progress/index.htm
- "Do You Know" series available on YouTube:
Do You Know #1
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHWTLa8WecI>
Do You Know #2
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65wE6yFYgP8&feature=related>
Do You Know #3
http://www.youtube.com:80/watch?v=P7J_ereCiTo

Presenter's Contact Info

Outline of WSPTA's Ed Funding PowerPoint Slides

1a. Funding for K-12 Education has Declined

- General Fund Pie – State Funding is Biggest Share of K-12 \$Pie
- Washington State Ranks 42nd overall in per pupil funding
- Washington State Below the National Average
- Negative Effects of Inflation on funding
- Two expert studies: state funding is inadequate to ensure all students meet state standards.

1b. K-12 Costs have Increased

- Populations of high-need, high-cost students is increasing
- State and Federal laws require all students to meet state standards

2. Insufficient K-12 Funds Affect All Students

- State requirement that districts present a balanced budget every year
- Washington Learn Researchers: more resources needed for all students in state to achieve state academic standards. Given budget cuts already made, some districts face a steep climb.
- Lack of Resources Linked to Low Math WASL Scores
- Schools struggle to prepare students for the workforce and postsecondary education.
- Workforce Readiness Suffers – too few students taking Career & Technical Ed (CTE) Courses
- Most High School Graduates not ready for college
- Many high schools have low rankings in UW admit decisions
- College remediation rates are high and costly
- Leaky education pipeline: Of the 100 Washington state students who enter high school, only 16 receive an Associates or Bachelors Degree within 6 years of graduating from high school.
- Bottom Line: Our Children's Opportunities & Financial Security Are at Stake: Learn to Earn Graph

3. Some School Districts are Worse Off

- Background: Map of 295 school districts in Washington state
- PTA's study: 17 Districts have REALLY LOW funding per pupil
- PTA's Study: Ranking of all 65 School Districts with below average funding

4. We Have a Legal Right to a Fully-Funded Basic Education

- NEWS Lawsuit
- Why focus on Basic Education: Basic Ed Is Biggest Piece of \$Pie. Definition of Basic Ed
- State Constitution and Court Orders regarding Basic Ed
- State Legislature: Basic Ed Act of 1978 and Ed Reform Act of 1993
- Despite changes in education, legislature has not revised funding formulas

5. Many Problems in State Funding

- Inequities in state salary schedule gave rise to differences among districts
- Not enough funding for student needs: example is students from poverty
- Poverty adversely affects academic performance: as poverty increases, WASL math scores decline
- Not enough funding for facility needs: state reimbursement rates don't keep up with increasing utility costs – at the expense of a district's ability to buy instructional supplies such as textbooks.
- Not enough staff for school: For a typical elementary school of 500 in Washington state, research recommends 44 instructional staff, but state only provides 26.
- Districts hire more staff than allocated by state. Districts pay for extra staff with local funds. When state increases pay/benefits of state-funded staff, districts must pay for similar raise for extra staff.

6. What Can You Do About the Crisis?

- Advocate for the redefinition and full funding of basic education
- Governor's appointed Joint Task Force on Basic Education to redefine basic ed and develop funding formulas for it.
- State Legislature is moving in right direction: Summary of 2007-09 K-12 budget, but more still needs to be done.
- Steps to Take Now: Become informed (on your district); educate others; vote, write/email legislators
- Sources and References: Full citations on "How To Present" pamphlet

Pamphlet Appendices

- Appendix I: WSPTA's Position on Education Funding
- Appendix II: Washington State Graduation Requirements and Minimum Requirements for College
- Appendix III: How Does Your High School Rank in the University of WA's Admission Decision