

An Overview of the CD

“The Crisis in Funding For Public Education: Your Child’s Future Is at Stake”

Washington State PTA (WSPTA) -- Authors: Barbara Billinghurst and Byron Shutz

The CD contains ready-to-use educational materials for informing an audience on WA State’s under funding of public education.

- **Who Presents:** Anyone.
- **Presentation Length:** Approx. 28 to 40 minutes.
- **What Is Required:** A willingness to educate others!

An outline of the PowerPoint’s slides is on the back of this sheet.

The Files for the PowerPoint Presentation, and Support To Deliver It

The CD’s files provide all the materials you need to host a presentation, starting with a choice of one of 2 versions of the PowerPoint slideshow:

- **1a–EF Crisis Msg Narrated Show.ppt:** This PowerPoint file has a full narration that runs by itself as a “movie” – play it as-is for a fully ready-to-go presentation—*under 28 minutes*. (It’s a large file; may run best directly from a computer’s hard drive - copy it from the CD)
- **1b–EF Crisis Msg Quiet Show.ppt:** This PowerPoint version is the same slides with the verbatim text for a live presenter to narrate the slideshow – *approx. 40 minutes*.
- **2–EFC Presentation How-To Tips & Notes.doc:** This document offers numerous tips and background data plus the full text of the slideshow’s script for *1b-EF Crisis Msg Quiet Show*; several appendices elaborating the WSPTA funding positions, the current WA high school graduation requirements, and a ranking by UW of all WA high schools GPA comparisons.
- **3–EFC Audience Resources Handout.doc:** A 1-page flyer handout listing advocacy resources and sources for further information.
- **4–EFC Advertising Flyer.doc:** A simple poster/flyer to advertise the presentation
- **5–EFC Sign-In Form.doc:** A simple form to collect contact info on your attendees.
- **6–EFC Letter of Invite.doc:** A letter template you may adapt to formally invite your district Superintendent or administrators, or any local officials, to your presentation.

For a fuller description of all files, see the file “**READ ME Contents of this CD**” on the CD.

PDF files of each document are also included on the CD.

If You Have Questions or Suggestions About The Presentation Please email inquiries to the WA State PTA Legislative Director - ptalegdir@wastatepta.org. Thank You!

Outline of the 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