

## 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 Billingham 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](mailto: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