**WSSDA Positions on School Funding, Compensation, and Levy Reform**

**Purpose:** This document is meant to be a resource for WSSDA members to better understand existing WSSDA positions and details related to navigating our positions related to state funding for education, compensation, and levy reform policies.

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| **School Funding Positions (General)** |
| **7.1.12 Full Funding of Basic Education**  WSSDA shall initiate and/or support legislation that fully funds and implements all aspects of Washington’s redefined program of Basic Education as outlined in ESHB 2261 (Chapter 548, Laws of 2009). (Adopted 2012)  **7.1.2 MSOC Funding**  WSSDA shall initiate and/or support legislation and appropriations which recognize that school districts’ abilities to maintain and enhance quality educational opportunities, for all students are strengthened by ample funding for maintenance, supplies and operating costs (MSOC). WSSDA supports enhanced MSOC funding, regularly increased recognizing inflationary costs, with a required review by OSPI every four years of actual costs, as submitted by school districts. (Adopted 2005; Amended 2010, 2014 and 2015)  **7.1.25 Sustainable Revenue for Education Funding**  WSSDA shall initiate and/or support legislation to implement a comprehensive, attainable, stable and sustainable funding plan for education in Washington State. (Adopted 2014)  **7.1.19 Fiscal Notes and Unfunded Mandates**  WSSDA shall initiate and/or support requiring that all legislation mandating K-12 programs or services provide full funding for all costs, including incidental, administrative and non-employee and other related costs of the programs or services. WSSDA supports requiring identification of the local cost of compliance (fiscal notes) for any proposed state laws or administrative rules which would affect educational programs or services, as a means of avoiding unfunded mandates. Additionally, if adequate funding is not provided to school districts to comply with currently mandated programs or services, those mandates should be eliminated. (Adopted 1978; Amended 2002 and 2015) |

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| **Compensation-Related Positions** |
| **7.6.1 School Employee Salaries**  WSSDA shall initiate and/or support legislation which would require parity for all educational employee groups whenever state salary increases are provided and which would assure the state of Washington of having salaries for education personnel that would allow them to remain competitive with other states and commensurate with comparable professions. (Adopted 1988; Amended 1990)  **7.6.2 Salaries — Experience Recognition**  WSSDA shall initiate and/or support legislation that would recognize employment experience as a registered nurse, occupational therapist, physical therapist, communication disorders specialist/speech pathologist, audiologist, psychologist, social worker, counselor or career/technical education professional in a position which requires Washington state licensing, certification or a degree that is comparable to that required for Washington state teacher certification. (Adopted 2010, Amended 2013)  Compensation Technical Working Group Recommendations  WSSDA supports legislation that implements the recommendations of the Compensation Technical Working Group submitted to the Legislature in June 2012. (Introduced 2014)  Statewide Bargaining for Salaries and Healthcare - introduced in 2015 (ranked #5 by L.A.) ; amended in 2016  WSSDA supports legislation that transfers authority for bargaining basic education salaries and healthcare benefits for classified, certified, and administrative school employees from local bargaining units to the state. And that retains local authority for bargaining of all non-basic education enhancements. |

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| **Levy Authority / Levy Equalization** | **Hold Harmless During Transitions** |
| **7.1.1 Levy Equalization/Levy Lid/Grandfathered Inequities**  **(PROPOSED COMBO OF 7.1.1. & 7.1.23 BY 2016 STREAMLINING COMMITTEE)**  WSSDA shall initiate and/or support legislation which  would   * remove grandfathered inequities in K-12 education levy lids. * increase the percent of levy impacted by local effort assistance(LEA) to 20 percent.   WSSDA opposes reigning in or repealing the levy lid; however, if an increase in the levy lid were adopted by the Legislature, WSSDA supports requiring that LEA be fully funded and a commensurate increase in LEA be included.  Levy Equalization Funding and Formulas – introduced in 2015 and ranked #9 by 2015 L.A. priorities; eligible for standing in 2018  WSSDA supports maintaining or improving levy equalization for districts that receive Local Effort Assistance. Any change in the levy formula that occurs as a result of levy/compensation reform shall include an equalization factor to mitigate differences in local funding capability. That factor shall assure equity among districts at a rate equivalent to or higher than the current formula.  **Per Pupil Inflator Formula** – new proposal in 2016 from Highline  WSSDA shall initiate and/or support legislation that would require levy funding authority to be adjusted by a per pupil inflator that is equal to the actual percentage increase in state and federal funds budgeted for local school districts on a per-pupil basis. | Levy Rollbacks – ranked #41 in 2015 L.A. priorities; eligible for standing in 2016  WSSDA shall initiate and/or support legislation which would ensure that no school district loses levy authority if the district’s apportionment/budgets are decreased by the state. Districts should be held harmless for at least a two-year period.  **Hold Harmless While the State Transitions from Levy to State Funding** – new proposal in 2016 from Spokane  WSSDA shall initiate and/or support legislation which will ensure - during the State’s transition to full funding of educator compensation - no school district loses the funding necessary to maintain current compensation obligations. Levy amounts should only decrease to the extent that state has fulfilled its responsibility to fund compensation. Districts should be held harmless to ensure that total funding is maintained or enhanced at the greater of the current aggregate or per pupil amounts increased annually by the Seattle CPI. |