

We want our levy back!

Help us send a message on *Virtual Lobby Day* Presidents' Day – February 18th!

Join WEA members from across the state as they advocate for full funding of our schools!



Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000

One call delivers your message to all three legislators.

WEA Legislative Updates & Action Alerts

Delivered to your phone: text "ourvoice" to 41411



WEA Legislative Priorities & Talking Points: <http://ourvoicewashingtonea.org>

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Senator Brad Hawkins is the ranking member on the Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee, and is also a member of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee. Rep. Mike Steele is a member of the House Education and Improving State Funding for School Construction Committees. Let our representatives in Olympia know what you need to help you and your students be successful!

Please share this information with as many people as you can and urge them to contact our legislators on February 18th. We need a high volume of messages to let them know our community expects their help and support on school funding!

Your Message

- Tell your story.
- Be respectful and professional.
- Keep it about the kids.

Our representatives are elected to work for us. They need as much information as possible to make good decisions about public education – and you happen to be the expert.

- If you decide to call the hotline, it only takes a minute to leave a message for all three of our legislators.
- The staff person on the other end of the phone is there to record your opinion. They will not mock you or argue with you.
- **Start with an introduction.** “Hi my name is _____ and I’m a constituent of Rep./Sen. _____ calling about (your concern) and I don’t/do need a reply.”
- **Have a script.** Say what you are comfortable saying. Remember, you are just calling to be counted.
- **Expect their response.** Most of the time they will just tell you they will pass on your concern.
- **Thank the staffer and hang up.**

Talking Points

We support and ask our legislators to consider . . .

- reversing the levy swap (state property taxes raised, local levies cut & capped)
(*Consider restructuring our state tax system if property taxes are a concern.*)
- restoring much-needed levy flexibility gives local voters the ability to invest in education programs that meet the unique needs of our students beyond state-funded education. Restoring levy flexibility will reduce financial uncertainty and allow districts to provide consistent ongoing support for students.
- returning to the staff mix factor (rather than an average) for funding certificated positions so staff costs and funding align and to provide greater certainty and continuity in staff hiring.
- increasing funding for the state funded staff allocation (prototypical school) model for nurses, psychologists, social workers, counselors, and school resource officers. (ex: Current state allocation is one nurse for our entire district.)
- fully funding Initiative 1351 to reduce 4-12 class size, and add counselors, nurses, paras, others. We appreciate the K-3 portion of this initiative has been funded but the other needs it was designed to address remain. Local levies enable school districts to provide support for student needs the state does not provide.
- changing our 6% regionalization factor funding to a fixed allocation model, rather than the current plan for this funding to be eliminated.
- making sure that if SEBB (School Employees Benefits Board insurance) is implemented, there is no budget impact to school districts.