

wasa Hotline

STAY CURRENT:  

From the Executive Director



Bill Keim
WASA Executive Director

If there was uncertainty prior to September 11 as to whether the 2015 Legislative Session would be pivotal in the outcome of the *McCleary* case, the Supreme Court’s order on that date should have resolved any doubt. The Court found the Legislature in contempt of court but withheld any sanctions until after the 2015 Session. The Legislature was directed to submit on the day after the session ends “a complete plan for fully implementing its program of basic education for each school year between now and the 2017–18 school year.”

This development makes the upcoming session a high-stakes affair for both the Legislature and the students in our state. Given this reality, it makes sense that WASA’s draft legislative platform is focused on resolving the issues that underlie the *McCleary* case. On October 26, the WASA Board will take action on the platform, which has been approved by the WASA Legislation and Finance Committee. It includes three related components:

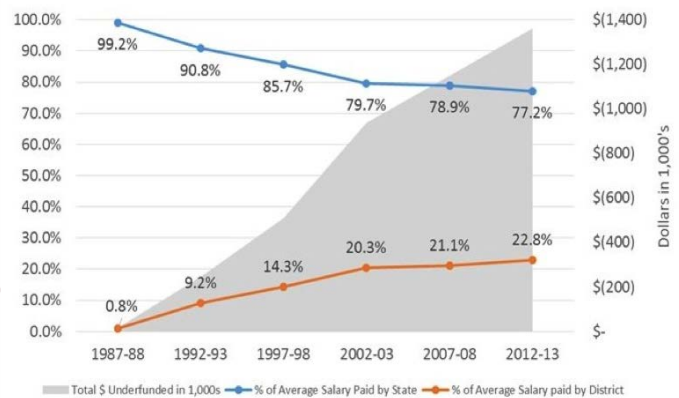
- Comply With the Paramount Duty
- Expand Available State Revenues
- Ensure Competitive Public School Employee Compensation

While it appears there is little debate among educational leaders about the first item, some have questioned the inclusion of the second and/or third items. The Legislation and Finance Committee feels that all three points are integral to addressing the issues identified by the Court in the *McCleary* case.

The chart in Figure 1 demonstrates one aspect of why it is critical to address compensation. There has been consistent erosion of the state’s role in funding staff salaries during the past 25 years. As of 2012–13, local districts were funding on average nearly 23 percent of those costs, which the Supreme Court has clearly stated are the State’s responsibility. In many districts, that percent is much higher.

While the total amount of \$1.4 million isn’t that large in the overall scale of K–12 spending, it creates a tremendous burden on local levies to fund those ongoing and growing costs. In fact, many school districts will face serious budget problems in covering those costs if the lower class sizes called out in both HB 2261 and Initiative 1351 are implemented.

Figure 1 Percent of Salaries Paid by State and Local District



Source: OSPI 9/14
Note: Data before 1997-98 from historical WA Public School Organization and Financing publications. From 1997-98 forward, Base Allocation from Apportionment Report 1191Sum and District Salaries from S275 Personnel summary report Table 7. Note: Salaries are for all programs and do not include benefits.

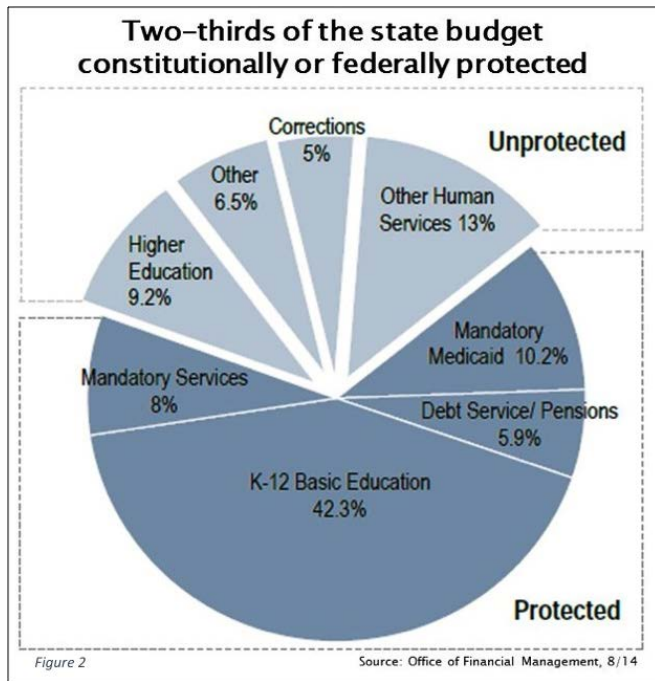
The data in Figure 1 just addresses the source of revenue for current salary levels, but Washington’s current teacher salaries have also become much less competitive. The Compensation Technical Working Group, which was created by HB 2261 to study and make recommendations on this issue, submitted their report to the Legislature in 2012. Thus far, there hasn’t even been a legislative hearing to consider their recommendations, which included an increase of \$2.2 billion per year to provide state-funded, market-rate salaries.

Most of the cost estimates related to a *McCleary* solution do not address this issue. As a result, most of them are in the range of \$2 billion per year or \$4 billion per biennium short of the true cost of ample funding for basic education. When those costs are included,

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there is no credible plan that could provide the necessary, reliable funding that doesn't include new revenue.



The chart in Figure 2 above from the Office of Financial Management helps explain why that is the case. Our biennial budget is about \$32.8 billion or just over \$16 billion per year. Since two-thirds of that amount is protected, only \$5.4 billion could theoretically help cover the *McCleary* solution.

The total cost of *McCleary* implementation was estimated at \$6.6 billion per year by the Compensation Technical Working Group and at \$6.7 billion by OSPI. Those are the only cost estimates that address the state's role in funding salaries.

Even if those estimates are reduced by 20 percent, the unprotected parts of state government would need to be ELIMINATED, not just reduced to cover those costs. Any suggestion, therefore, that we can cut our way to full K-12 funding simply isn't credible. Suggestions to dedicate future revenue growth face similar problems given the scale of the hole our Legislature has dug over the past 30 years.

The next six months will be a critical time in the history of our state. A resolution to the issues underlying the *McCleary* case will require clear-headed, courageous leadership in the Legislature, and an informed public that expects a reasonable solution from their leaders. WASA members have an important role to play in both of those arenas to help educate folks about what full funding of basic education really means.

Public Education Works

It's time to take control of the message on public education and spread the truth about the great work our schools are doing in our communities, our state, and our nation. Public education is under attack by those who seek to privatize our nation's school systems. We hear all too often that the system is broken, yet the research shows that students in public schools outperform those in both private and charter schools when compared with similar demographics (source: University of Illinois, Stanford University, American Journal of Education).



The Public Education Works campaign is a movement to inform our citizens of the success of public schools and to highlight the powerful work of our students and staff. The campaign consists of graphic messages that can be used by local school districts for websites, local publications, billboards, bus ads, vinyl banners, bumper stickers, even ads at local movie theaters. The digital media files will be made available at no cost to districts, starting mid-October, via the WASA website, under the section "Focus on Education." Our goal is to present the public with a common message that what we are doing in public education is stronger than it has even been. Please join us in changing the conversation. Together we can spread the word that ... "Public Education Works."

Focus on Education November 2014

Is Your District Participating This Year??

Updated Focus on Education talking points and the PowerPoint presentation are available on the WASA website at www.wasa-oly.org (see "Highlights" on the WASA website home page) for districts to use as they showcase the great learning taking place in their schools. WASA staff would like to attend some of the district events, so please let us know if you would like us to participate. We also post district Focus on Education materials on our website. If you have materials to share, please send them to Marilee Jensen at mjensen@wasa-oly.org.



DAY OF CARING

WASA staff had the opportunity to participate in the 22nd Annual Day of Caring, Community to Community Event assisting with several exterior building and landscaping projects to benefit Community Youth Services (CYS) Brighter Futures Youth Center, a drop-in center and overnight shelter for homeless teens and young adults ages 18 to 24. It was a great way to spend a Friday, giving back to the community!

Professional Development Events	
For more information, visit www.wasa-oly.org/Events	
October 27–28, 2014	Washington Educators' Conference DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac
February 26–28, 2015	AASA National Conference on Education San Diego Convention Center, San Diego
March 1–2, 2015	WSSDA/WASA/WASBO Legislative Conference Red Lion Hotel, Olympia

Latest Educational Research Demonstrates Value of GrapeSEED



GrapeSEED (a new WASA Corporate Partner) is a critical listening and oral language research-based program, based on Dr. Stephen Kreshan's theories of Functional-Notional language acquisition. It was born out of more than four decades of English teaching success by American educators in Japan. The learning from the four decades of classroom teaching and the new research, facilitated by US experts, led to the GrapeSEED program.

In the last three years, GrapeSEED has been a part of multiple, evidence-based research studies. Led by Dr. Julia Smith, Oakland University, and Dr. Judith Smith, University of Michigan, the researchers have studied the effects of GrapeSEED on children in both the LEP (Limited English Proficiency) environment and traditional ESL (English as a Second Language) classrooms.

Clintondale Community Schools, just outside of the Detroit City Limits, is a school with 100 percent Free and Reduced Lunch, 98 percent African American, a very high population of homeless students, and therefore, a very high turnover of students.

Nevertheless, according to the reports by Dr. Julie Smith and Dr. Judith Smith, after just one year of GrapeSEED instruction, 97.2 percent of their kindergarten students achieved the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) Kindergarten benchmark level established by the University of Arkansas. Those results continue ... due to the high turnover of new students, 41.7 percent of the first grade students achieved the University of Arkansas benchmark on DRA text level; 100 percent of those students who had GrapeSEED in both kindergarten and first grade reached the benchmark.

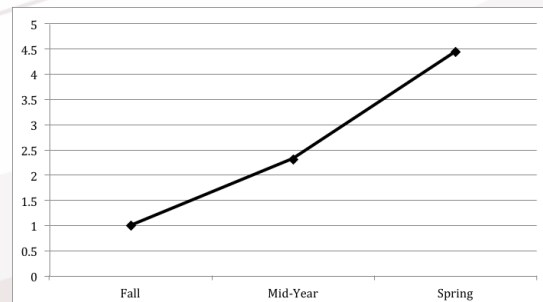
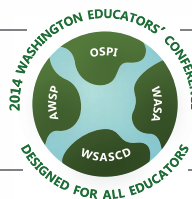


Figure 1: Kindergarten Gains in DRA Text Level Fall to Spring

Educators at GrapeSEED are excited with what all this might mean for children and schools. To request the complete reports, please visit the www.grapeseed.com website.

WASHINGTON EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE

October 27–28, 2014



Helping Educators Navigate New Heights and Challenges & Governor Inslee's Call for Graduation Attainment

DoubleTree Hotel Seattle Airport

The second annual Washington Educators' Conference, a partnership among WASA, AWSP, OSPI, and WSASCD, will be held on October 27–28, 2014, at the Seattle Airport DoubleTree Hotel.

One area of focus is on Governor Inslee's Results Washington, Goal One—World Class Education. This goal holds, as a central theme, the urgency to ensure all students graduate from high school career and postsecondary ready. A high school diploma is the minimum requirement going forward for all Washingtonians to engage in the workforce and benefit from an improving economy. The Governor recognizes that numerous school districts and school buildings have enjoyed profound success in closing the opportunity gap and increasing graduation rates for all students.

Keynote and breakout sessions at the conference will focus on exploring best practices from highly successful schools and districts, as well as community organizations, toward increasing graduation rates.

Conference registration information can be found at: www.wasa-oly.org/WEC2014

AASA NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION

San Diego Convention Center
February 26–28, 2015

To register and reserve lodging, visit <http://nce.aasa.org>. Early registration ends October 31.





WASHINGTON STATE
LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY

The 2014–15 WSLA work continues in two forms—regular Leadership Academy and the teacher-principal evaluation work—similar to this past year.

District leadership teams from within the NEWESD 101 and Capitol Region 113 regions will begin their work with the Academy. Teams from ESD 105 and Puget Sound ESD regions will continue their work into a second year. This leadership professional learning is focused on a specific problem of practice that each participating district believes fits their most critical work to improve student learning. A total of 25 districts are involved this year.

The WSLA teacher-principal evaluation professional development training on the AWSP Leadership Framework is in full swing once again. The districts that chose AWSP’s Leadership Framework must ensure that administrators who evaluate principals and/or assistant principals receive the training. During the month of October, initial training will be held in both the Seattle and Spokane area with approximately 125 participants already registered. Leadership Framework Specialists will continue to assist districts as they move into further implementation of the evaluation system.

2014–15 SIRS Salary Survey Timeline



January 5, 2015: Survey forms to be distributed to districts.

February 6, 2015: Deadline for districts to submit survey data to SIRS.

March 30, 2015: Data to be released to districts.

Districts that participated last year will receive their survey forms pre-populated with last year’s data.

Region Events—October & November

Many WASA regions conduct monthly gatherings and/or provide activity reports in conjunction with ESD meetings (not listed below).

REGION 101 Oct. 16, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.	PRESIDENT—RICK LINEHAN General Member Meeting, Lewis and Clark High School, Spokane
REGION 105 Oct. 16, 8–11:30 a.m. Nov. 13, 8–11:30 a.m.	PRESIDENT—DUANE LYONS General Member Meeting, Topic: Technology in the 21st Century, ESD 105, Yakima General Member Meeting, Topic: Mindset of Growth, ESD 105, Yakima
REGION 108 Nov. 7, 12–2 p.m.	PRESIDENT—RICK THOMPSON General Member Meeting, Topic: Roundtable With Representative Kris Lytton, ESD 189, Anacortes
REGION 110 Oct. 17, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.	PRESIDENT—MARK DAVIDSON New Administrator Welcome, Location TBD.
REGION 111 Oct. 17, 7:30–8:30 a.m.	PRESIDENT—JOHN PAGE General Member Meeting, Fife District Office, Fife
REGION 112 Nov. 7, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.	PRESIDENT—SANDRA YAGER General Member Meeting, ESD 112 Conference Center, Vancouver
REGION 113 Nov. 18, 8–9:30 a.m.	PRESIDENT—TOM OPSTAD General Member Meeting, Capital Region ESD 113 (Pac/GH/T Room), Tumwater
REGION 114 Oct. 31, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.	PRESIDENT—RICH STEWART General Member Meeting, Port Townsend
REGION 123 Nov. 5, 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m.	PRESIDENT—LANCE HAHN SEWASA Legislative Discussion, Walla Walla Country Club, Walla Walla
REGION 171 Oct. 16, 9:30 a.m.–12 p.m. Nov. 13, 9:30 a.m.–12 p.m.	PRESIDENT—LOIS DAVIES General Member Meeting, North Central ESD, Wenatchee General Member Meeting, North Central ESD, Wenatchee

Supreme Court: Legislature in Contempt

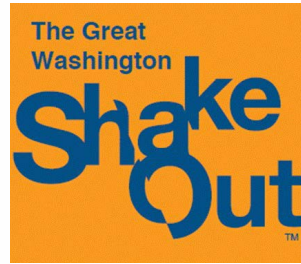
Following the 2014 Session of the Legislature, the State submitted its third compliance report required under the *McCleary v. State* education funding decision. In the report, the Legislature admitted that it failed to comply with the Supreme Court's 2012 and 2014 orders to submit "a complete plan for fully implementing its program of basic education." Instead, they provided a series of excuses why they were unable to comply.

Justices did not accept the excuses and on June 12 issued a "Show Cause" order. The State was summoned to appear before the Court to address why the State should not be held in contempt for violating the Court's orders and why, if it is found in contempt, sanctions requested by the plaintiffs (Network for Excellence in Washington Schools—NEWS) should not be granted. Briefs were filed by both parties this summer and oral arguments were heard before the Court on September 3.

On September 11, justices unanimously found the Legislature to be in contempt. The Court accepted the State's promise that the Legislature would comply in the upcoming 2015 Session and, therefore, delayed issuing any sanctions. The Court, however, put the Legislature on notice by bluntly stating if the Legislature fails to comply with the Court's orders by the end of the 2015 Session, thus purging the contempt, "the Court will reconvene to impose sanctions and other remedial measures as necessary." If there was any doubt before, it is more than clear now that basic education and compliance with *McCleary* will be the main focus when legislators reconvene in January.

All *McCleary* filings, including the contempt ruling, are available on the Supreme Court's *McCleary* site at: <http://1.usa.gov/1iYjVdC>. The historic 45-minute "Show Cause" hearing before the Supreme Court is archived on TVW's website (www.tvw.org) at: <http://bit.ly/1n2ilGe>.

The Great Washington ShakeOut



On Thursday, October 16, students will practice their Drop, Cover, and Hold (Earthquake drill) during the Great Washington ShakeOut scheduled at 10:16 a.m. The Great Washington ShakeOut is being organized by a number of state agencies, including the Washington Military Emergency Management

Division, the Washington State Seismic Safety Commission, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and the Washington State Emergency Management Association.

To participate, schools and school districts need to register at: <http://www.shakeout.org/washington/register/>

Are You Connected with WASA?



Be sure to follow us on Facebook or Twitter?

Bill's Blog

Check out Executive Director Bill Keim's latest post at: <http://billsblog-wasa.weebly.com>. Bill's Blog features association news, updates, and education success stories.

SAVE THE DATE

The WASA Superintendents Component meeting held in conjunction with the WSSDA 2014 Annual Conference in Spokane is scheduled for November 21 from 8–9:45 a.m. Please mark your calendar.

WASA's 2014–15 Goals And Action Steps

WASA's 2014–15 Goals and Action Steps were determined at the annual WASA Leaders Workshop last April by members of the WASA Board, region presidents and presidents-elect, and WASA committee chairs.

GOAL 1

OFFERING GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERS—LEADERSHIP

Identify and develop knowledgeable and effective leaders who champion academic success for all children by enhancing safe, efficient, purposeful systems that yield powerful instruction and learning.

Action A: Identify and deliver ongoing professional development in support of educational leadership at every opportunity.

Action B: Continue Washington State Leadership Academy training as funding allows, promoting district leadership teams for systems-level improvement and principal evaluation.

Action C: Promote engaged leadership with education associations, agencies, and WASA regions benefitting from shared knowledge, understandings, and interests.

GOAL 2

BUILDING INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS—TRUST

Develop trust by building positive relationships focused on communication and collaboration.

Action A: Ensure and promote an understanding among public and political leaders that educators are experts in their professions.

Action B: Create urgency and avenues for collaborative action among WASA members.

Action C: Facilitate collaboration among the 295 diverse district school leaders and WASA partners to forge a unified voice on the value of quality public education.

GOAL 3

PROMOTING COMMUNITY AND LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION—ADVOCACY

Champion professional educator expertise and the fundamental role of public educators in the preservation of our democracy.

Action A: Promote education policy and statute based on the expertise of professional educators and on the research of actual education practice and results.

Action B: Hold the Legislature accountable for delivering on the state's "paramount duty" to provide ample funding for all K–12 children, consistent with the Supreme Court's *McCleary* ruling and defined by HB 2261.

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