

**Date:** February 17, 2005  
**To:** Members of the House Subcommittee on Education Finance Structures  
**From:** Representative Kathy Haigh, Vice Chair, Subcommittee on Education Finance Structures  
**Subject:** **K-12 Cost of Living Workgroup Report**

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The K-12 Cost of Living work group met two times. I was only able to attend the second meeting. The first week the workgroup discussed the need to address this issue and agreed that the information presented to the whole subcommittee was compelling. They concluded that there is a need to focus on the issue of outcomes for student learning.

The greatest challenge would be to find both a formula to drive dollar allocations as well as identification of revenue sources that are fair, equitable, and able to be accomplished on a ongoing basis as cost of living changes over time and location. We discussed options to keep the cost of those calculations reasonable yet representative. We also felt the need to look at revenue options using state, local, or matched funding models.

The higher cost of living district representatives were participating in this work group and brought a high level of understanding of the problem in their district. In the OFM report the highest cost of living was calculated for Mercer Island at \$42,809.00 per year. The lowest cost of living was at Roosevelt at \$8,698.00 per year. I probably represent an area with a median cost of living of \$16,092. The rural districts with the very lowest cost of living were not represented well in this discussion.

The second week the committee used some trial runs on possible formula for calculations with the idea of calculating COL on a county basis and then smoothing the dollar amount with the blending of two neighboring county calculations.