

BASIC EDUCATION FINANCE JOINT TASK FORCE LEGISLATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

1. Review the definition of basic education, develop options for a new finance structure, and propose a new definition.

“review the definition of basic education and all current basic education funding formulas, develop options for a new funding structure and all necessary formulas, and propose a new definition of basic education that is realigned with the new expectations of the state's education system as established in the November 2006 final report of the Washington learns steering committee and the basic education provisions established in chapter 28A.150 RCW.”

2. Build upon prior state efforts to address K-12 finance.

“review and build upon the following: (a) Reports related to K-12 finance produced at the request of or as a result of the Washington learns study, including reports completed for or by the K-12 advisory committee;(b) High-quality studies that are available; and (c) Research and evaluation of the cost-benefits of various K-12 programs and services ...”

3. Consider legislative funding priorities: cost-effectiveness, transparency, student outcomes, and particular issues (listed below).

“The funding structure should reflect the most effective instructional strategies and service delivery models and be based on research-proven education programs and activities with demonstrated cost benefits.”

“The recommendations should provide maximum transparency of the state's educational funding system in order to better help parents, citizens, and school personnel in Washington understand how their school system is funded.”

“The funding structure should be linked to accountability for student outcomes and performance.”

“consider the following issues:

- a) Professional development for all staff;*
- b) Whether the compensation system for instructional staff shall include pay for performance, knowledge, and skills elements; regional cost-of-living elements; elements to recognize assignments that are difficult; recognition for the professional teaching level certificate in the salary allocation model; and a plan to implement the pay structure;*
- c) Voluntary all-day kindergarten;*
- d) Optimum class size, including different class sizes based on grade level and ways to reduce class size;*
- e) Focused instructional support for students and schools;*
- f) Extended school day and school year options;*
- g) Health and safety requirements;*
- h) Staffing ratios and other components needed to support career and technical education programs.”*

4. Consider issues related to equalizing school employee salary allocations among school districts.

“consider the ruling of the King County Superior Court in the matter of Federal Way School District v. The State of Washington in developing recommendations for a new basic education school finance formula. The recommendations should include proposals that directly address the issue of equity in salary allocations in the new school finance formula.”