



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS

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Dear Chairman Grimm and Members of the Basic Education Funding Task Force,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the five basic education funding proposals.

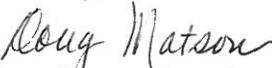
As noted in previous testimony, WASBO believes that the current system of financing education does not correlate to helping students to achieve learning standards; instead it favors the proliferation of add-on, partially funded programs which have built up, over years, like a house of cards. Further, the reliance on non-sustaining funding sources such as levies and the pressure of collective bargaining further threaten the system.

WASBO recommends that the funding task force:

1. Address the collective bargaining system and restore management and labor balance. This may be done in a variety of ways including statewide bargaining of salaries, time and benefits and updating of the continuing contract laws.
2. Select a recommendation that fully funds the educational program envisioned for children and then fully fund it as well as the infrastructure needed to maintain it.
3. Identify benchmarks to assure continued full funding over time.
4. Phase in funding for the new system and identify the priority items that must be addressed in the first biennium.
5. Adopt a system that allocates funds to school districts which enable them to respond to local differences. The allocations should be tied to identifiable educational components to that they can be easily understood and explained.
6. Refrain from adding non-basic education mandates and underfunded mandates.
7. Endorse the fact that local levies are intended to prove enhance/enriched local programs. They are not intended to replace state funding for basic education.
8. Break out NERC allocations into common sense categories and fund the true cost.
9. Tie compensation to market forces. By this we mean to recognize that the cost of attracting employees to some classified positions such as technology and finance may be greater than for other classified positions and therefore districts will need to pay greater salaries. Do not lump all classified positions together.

We appreciate the work you are doing on behalf of K12 education and the thoughtful, educated approach you have taken. Please contact us anytime if you have any questions for if we can provide you with additional information.

Sincerely,


Doug Matson, President

Linda Sebring, Legislative Affairs Committee Chair

