

School Board Briefing/Proposed Action Report



Informational (no action required by Board) **Action Report** (Board will be required to take action)

DATE: September 29, 2015
FROM: Dr. Larry Nyland, Superintendent
LEAD STAFF: Charles Wright, Deputy Superintendent, 206-252-0168
Ken Gotsch, Assistant Superintendent Business & Finance, 206-252-0086

I. TITLE

2015-16 State Legislative Agenda

For Introduction: October 7, 2015

For Action: ~~October 21~~ November 4, 2015

II. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY

The annual Legislative Agenda is the formal statement of the District's legislative priorities from the School Board to the members of the Washington State Legislature. Because it is the District's official position, the Board must take action to approve the Agenda, per Board Policy No. 1225.

III. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

The fiscal impact of creating the Legislative Agenda is negligible; however, the Legislative Agenda itself has potential to bring revenue to the District if the Legislature implements the priorities.

The revenue source for this motion is N/A.

Expenditure: One-time Annual Other Source

IV. POLICY IMPLICATION

Per Board Policy No. 1225, Legislative & Program Advocacy, the Board is responsible for developing annual federal and state legislative agendas for the District that are consistent with the furtherance of the District's current strategic plan.

V. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the School Board adopt the 2015-16 Legislative Agenda, as attached to the Board action report.

VI. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was discussed at the October 1, 2015 Executive Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed the motion and moved to the item forward to the full Board with a recommendation for approval.

VII. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Board traditionally adopts a legislative agenda to share the District's focus and priorities for the upcoming legislative session with the Washington State Legislature. These legislative priorities were developed with consideration to the current budget outlook and the District's strategic objectives for this year. Although the Legislative Agenda is typically focused on a limited number of priorities, the formal Agenda does not limit District weigh-in on other topics.

The 2015-16 proposed legislative agenda is focused on three main areas:

1. ~~Ample Fund Regional Salaries~~ Fully Fund McCleary including Regional Salaries
2. ~~In any Levy Reform Do No Net Harm to Seattle Levies~~ Address Capacity Needs in Seattle
3. **Close opportunity gaps**

Funding is the primary focus of this Legislative Agenda because ample and appropriate funding of General Fund K-12 is the paramount duty of the State of Washington; and the District needs capital funds to meet the capacity needs brought on by enrollment growth. The purpose of this Legislative Agenda is to ensure that the Seattle delegation and the full Legislature understand the critical needs of Seattle Public Schools.

Based upon additional input from Board members, public testimony and lobbyist suggestions, the recommended 2016 state legislative agenda was modified since the October 1, 2015 Executive Committee review to include the following six changes:

- Additional final introductory bullet point of "Our goal is success for ... Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day"
- An expanded fund regional salaries phase to included "Fully fund McCleary"
- Changed second major priority to "Address Capacity Needs in Seattle" and provided specific details about capital needs for reduced class size requirements, growing enrollment, and revise school construction assistance program to adjust space formula to not penalize older districts
- Additional statement to encourage state to "fix the "levy cliff" now – 2017 is too late to avoid unnecessary RIFs"
- Additional statement to require State to "fund measures to reduce/eliminate disproportionate suspensions"
- Additional statement to "readdress use of Smarter Balance Assessment scores for high stakes purposes for next two years"

VIII. STATEMENT OF ISSUE

Approval of the Legislative Agenda will permit official communications to the delegation to make clear the District's high level priorities.

IX. ALTERNATIVES

The alternative is to not approve the Legislative Agenda. This option is not recommended because it is very important that the District take a stance on the important issues that affect Seattle Public Schools.

X. RESEARCH AND DATA SOURCES / BENCHMARKS

Legislative agendas from prior years were reviewed in developing this agenda. District staff and lobbyists worked collaboratively to ensure the highest priorities of the District are named.

XI. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Upon approval of this motion, the Legislative Agenda will be sent to the Seattle delegation in the Washington State Legislature and other key partners including the Governor's Office, Mayor's Office, and the Seattle Council Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), as well as being used during the legislative session.

XII. ATTACHMENTS

- [2015-16 Legislative Agenda \(clean- for approval\)](#)
- [2015-16 Legislative Agenda \(redline- for reference\)](#)

Seattle Public Schools Legislative Agenda – 2016



Background on Seattle Public Schools

- Equity and Excellence for Every Student is central to Seattle's Strategic Plan.
- Student proficiency and graduations are UP dramatically over the past decade.
- Our Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) Scores (grades 3-8) outperform the state.
- Suspensions are lower than the state averages.
- However, we still need help in closing the opportunity gap ... for 30% of our students.
- **Our goal is success for ... Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day**

Seattle has three priorities for this session:

- **Fully Fund McCleary including Regional Salaries**
- **Address Capacity Needs in Seattle**
- **Close opportunity gaps**

Fully Fund McCleary including Regional Salaries

- Cover the True Cost of Regional Salaries: Statewide, more than 25% of teachers' salaries come from levy funds. Please:
 - Revise and take action on the Compensation Technical Work Group report (SHB 2776)
 - Create an equitable and sustainable statewide compensation system
 - Cover the true cost of regional salaries
- In any Levy Reform Do no net harm to Seattle Levies
 - Levies support salaries, athletics, special education and unfunded state mandates
 - Fix the 'levy cliff' now – 2017 is too late to avoid unnecessary RIFs

Address Capacity Needs in Seattle

- Provide classroom seats for reduced class size teachers
- Provide classroom seats for Seattle's rapidly growing enrollment
- Seek revisions to the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP), which provides state financial assistance for qualifying major construction projects. The formula needs to be adjusted to differentiate between instructional vs. non-instructional space, benefitting those districts that have older facilities.

Close Opportunity Gaps

- Help Close Opportunity Gaps
 - Amply fund the true cost of 1080 hours/year and 24 credits
 - Fund measures to reduce / eliminate disproportionate suspensions
- Address Fair and Equitable Assessment
 - Readdress the use of SBA scores for high stakes purposes for next two years
 - Amply fund technology to implement the SBA (Smarter Balanced Assessment)
- Insure Quality Teachers in Every Classroom
 - Provide alternative routes for substitute certification
 - Amply fund professional development to implement high quality teaching

Fully fund McCleary including ample funding for: salaries; capital cost of class size reduction; and cost neutral levy reform. Keep Seattle informed regarding last minute changes in class size, compensation, or reduced levy lid may impact our children. Good teaching, fair salaries, adequate classrooms and class sizes are all needed to close opportunity gaps for our neediest learners.

Seattle Public Schools Legislative Agenda – 2016



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 - Amplify fund professional development to implement high quality teaching

Amplify Fund Regional Salaries:

- ~~Statewide, more than 25% of teachers' salaries come from levy funds.~~
- ~~Adding more teachers for class size increases local levy costs~~
- ~~Adding state COLAs increases local levy costs~~
- ~~In order to reduce levy reliance, the state must pick up the true cost of salaries~~
- ~~And create an equitable and sustainable statewide compensation system~~
- ~~Revise and take action on the Compensation Technical Work Group report (SHB 2776)~~

In any Levy Reform Do no net harm to Seattle Levies

- ~~Levies currently support salaries, athletics and unfunded state mandates~~

Close Opportunity Gaps

- ~~Support reauthorization of ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) at the Federal Level~~
- ~~Provide alternative routes for substitute certification~~
- ~~Readdress the use of SBA scores for graduation for two years~~
- ~~Amplify fund professional development to implement College and Career Standards~~
- ~~Amplify fund technology to implement the SBA (Smarter Balanced Assessment)~~
- ~~Amplify fund the true cost of 1080 hours/year and 24 credits~~

ReCap

Fully fund McCleary including ample funding for: salaries; capital cost of class size reduction; and cost neutral levy reform. Keep Seattle informed regarding last minute changes in class size, compensation, or reduced levy lid may impact our children. Good teaching, fair salaries, adequate classrooms and class sizes are all needed to close opportunity gaps for our neediest learners. **Grand Bargain**

~~As this session moves forward, please fully fund McCleary including ample funding for salaries and cost neutral levy reform. Please stay in touch with Seattle regarding how class sizes, compensation, or reduced levy lids may impact our children. Good teaching, fair salaries, adequate classrooms and class sizes are all needed to close opportunity gaps for our neediest learners.~~