



March 18, 2013

Dear Members of the Washington State Legislature:

As you are aware, the Supreme Court's McCleary decision reaffirmed that the "year 2018 remains a firm deadline for full constitutional compliance," for the State to meet its paramount constitutional duty to fund K-12 public education in the State of Washington.

During the McCleary trial, the State held up ESHB 2261 as its promise that the State will fully fund K-12 public education by 2018. The court decision mandated "steady progress" every year to ensure that it crosses the ESHB 2261 goalpost by no later than 2018. That means the budget that you develop and approve this legislative session must catch up to the steady, real and measurable progress ordered by the Court. We ask you to make that progress.

We believe it is vital that the legislature make significant progress this legislative session in funding all areas called out in the McCleary case: Transportation, Full Day Kindergarten, K-3 class-size reduction and Materials, Supplies and Operating Costs (MSOCs) and we ask you to focus much of your budget on these core areas. Without increased funding in all four of these areas, school districts in Washington will continue to fall further behind in their ability to address the achievement gap by supporting their most vulnerable students. Current underfunding in these areas is forcing districts to use local resources for basic education purposes; funds approved by voters for services above and beyond state funded basic education.

As the superintendents of school districts totaling over 143,000 students, we call on you to fulfill the Court order by making real and measurable progress toward full funding of K-12 education as you enter into the next stage of preparing your budgets. We are looking to your budget to lead the way and our working with you.

We appreciate your hard work of ensuring that our children receive the education they deserve.

Respectfully,

José Banda, Seattle Public Schools

Shelley Redinger, Spokane Public Schools

Carla Santorno, Tacoma Public Schools

Susan Enfield, Highline Public Schools

Tim Mills, Bellevue School District