

F IS FOR FUNDING

The state of public education funding in Washington

THE GREATER *good* CAMPAIGN

WASHINGTON'S PUBLIC EDUCATION IS AT A CROSSROADS

Washington is spending almost half the state's budget in education, yet relying — illegally — on property taxes to fund basic education, which creates further inequity in quality education and opportunity.

22.8% of students won't graduate high school this year (2015 OSPI report).

Only **39%** of graduates are ready for college or a career (2015 ACT report).

We're not just failing, we're failing our children. Something has to change.

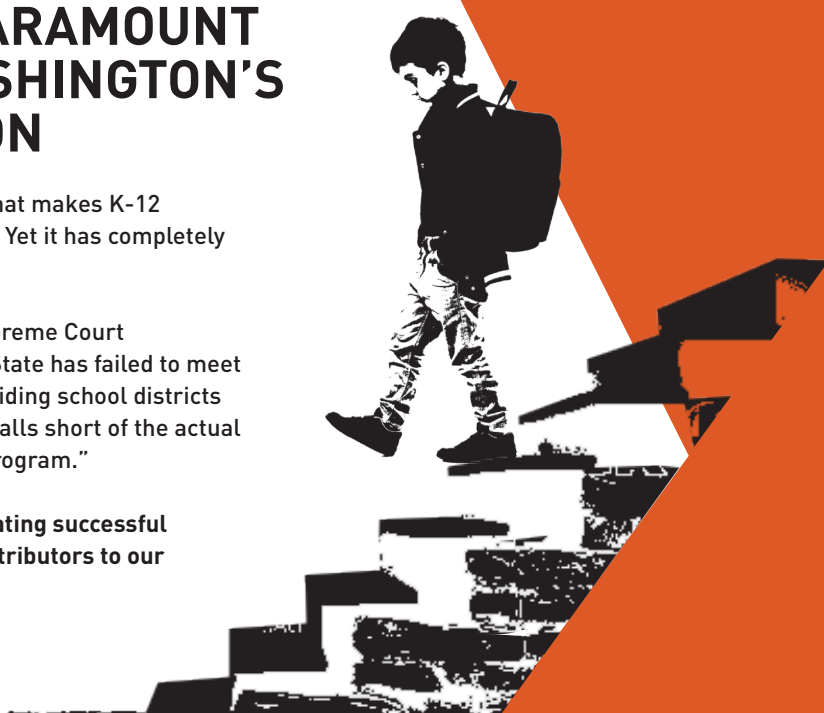


THE ONLY 'PARAMOUNT DUTY' IN WASHINGTON'S CONSTITUTION

Washington is the only state that makes K-12 education its **paramount duty**. Yet it has completely failed in this duty.

In 2012, Washington State Supreme Court unanimously ruled that "The State has failed to meet its duty ... by consistently providing school districts with a level of resources that falls short of the actual costs of the basic education program."

Basic education is vital to creating successful students, employees, and contributors to our community and economy.



ZIP CODE SHOULD NOT DETERMINE EDUCATION QUALITY

Reliance on local levies to fund basic education has resulted in inequity across Washington state in teacher salaries, school supplies, programming and, ultimately, student success.

Levies come from property taxes. Some districts don't have a single levy, while others have up to 38 percent in additional funding. Those districts have drastically different opportunities for students.

The solution must result in fair, quality education for all students in all 295 districts across the state.



WE'RE USING LEVIES ALL WRONG

Local levies (education taxes) were intended to fund "extras" — programming not covered under basic education. Instead, they've been used to fill the gap left by the state, paying for things like textbooks and the cost of keeping schools open. The result is inequity that's hurting our students.

WASHINGTON CAN DO BETTER

The state constitution does not guarantee outcomes. But our kids' futures require them. Fully funding basic education is just the beginning. Washington also needs to fulfill its promise to prepare our students for graduation, for college and for the workforce.

We have a deadline.

Washington has until 2018 to fully fund basic education. The state needs to take action now to give our kids the best chance for success.

- LEVY REFORM
- MORE FUNDING
- TRANSPARENCY
- ACCOUNTABILITY
- MEASURABLE RESULTS



WASHINGTON NEEDS YOUR VOICE

TAKE ACTION Voice your support for full funding of basic education in Washington state.

Email Governor Jay Inslee and tell him why you think this issue is important.
<https://fortress.wa.gov/es/governor>

Find your district and school board. Contact the superintendent about your school district's budget.
k12.wa.us/maps/sdmainmap.aspx

Ask a question about the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction's plan to fund basic education.
surveygizmo.com/s3/1996055/Ask-OSPI

Find your legislator. Tell your representatives it's time to make public education funding a priority.
app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder

Speak out at a public school board meeting about items in the proposed education budget, or email or call your local school board.
sbe.wa.gov/

Join Washington's Paramount Duty, a grassroots group of concerned citizens demanding that Washington state's elected officials fulfill the state's paramount duty now.
facebook.com/groups/ParamountDuty

LEARN MORE

The Seattle Times' Education Lab coverage
seattletimes.com/education-lab

The Seattle Times' Greater Good Campaign coverage
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