

PUBLIC PUBLIC Priorities 2020 Legislative

Our mission is to inspire, educate, and prepare each student to achieve to high standards, contribute to our community, and thrive in a global society.

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Dr. lan B. Saltzman



Provide equitable and ample funding for basic education

- Fully fund special education. Increase per-student funding to meet actual cost of special education as identified by OSPI prior to the 2019 session. Based upon that projection, the current statewide shortfall is between \$250 and \$350 million.
- Improve school safety and security. Increase staffing allocations to include funding for uniformed school resource officers in secondary schools, school security staff in all schools, nurses, and behavioral health counselors.
- Fully fund the State Employees Benefits Board (SEBB). Eliminate reliance on local levies by establishing practical eligibility thresholds for part-time employees; e.g., substitutes and coaches. Remove the requirement for districts to pay benefits for employees who opt-out of coverage.
- Do not reduce established high cost-of-living regionalization factor. Hold districts harmless from a reduction in the regionalization factor. The 2018 legislature significantly increased employee compensation driving up market rate salaries. Reducing the factor will result in staff reductions.
- Reinstate a statewide salary mix factor. Reestablish the state staff mix factor to equitably fund basic education salaries based upon teacher experience. The staff mix factor was implemented to address the state Supreme Court's 1977 Doran decision.

Revise the levy formula growth factor

Modify the inflationary factor to keep pace with the rising local cost **of enrichment programs.** Increase the levy inflationary factor to keep pace with unfunded basic education costs. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) does not cover the local costs of SEBB, 24-credit graduation supports, and the increasing number of highly-impacted students with special education needs.

Fund school construction and approve simple-majority for bonds

- **Send voters a constitutional amendment.** Change the requirement to approve school district bonds. The 60 percent super-majority requirement should be changed to a simple-majority requirement.
- **Update the state's construction funding formulas.** Fund the actual cost of the schools needed to serve our students. Increase the square-foot-per-student allocation and increase the cost per-square-foot allocation to ensure the state funds the actual cost of school construction.