

**NEWS RELEASE****February 29, 2008****For more information:**

Mary Waggoner, 425-385-4049

**Everett school board supports fair and equitable state funding**

At their meeting Tuesday night, Everett Public Schools Board of Directors unanimously approved Resolution 896 supporting legislative efforts to equalize the state funding formulas.

The resolution asks legislators to address funding for teaching, administrative and classified staff simultaneously and asks for approval of [SSB 5135 and HB 2642](#) in the 2008 State legislative session.

**EVERETT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2****IN SUPPORT OF FAIR AND EQUITABLE STATE FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS****RESOLUTION NO. 896**

**WHEREAS**, the Everett School District receives the majority of its annual revenue from the state's basic education apportionment formulas for teaching, administrative, and classified staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the state's basic education apportionment formulas fund teaching, administrative, and classified staff at different dollar amounts for different school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, the funding disparities do not reflect any rational differences in geography, demographics, student population, cost of living, or any other educationally relevant variable, and do not serve any compelling government interest; and

**WHEREAS**, these funding inequities have a ripple effect on other areas of education funding, including employee benefits and special education reimbursements, as well as the ability of local taxpayers to levy additional revenue for the maintenance and operation of schools; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 2, 2007, King County Superior Court Judge Michael Heavey ruled in *Federal Way School District v. State* that these funding disparities violate Article IX, section 2 of the Washington Constitution, which requires the state legislature to provide for a general and uniform system of public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Judge Heavey also ruled that these funding disparities violate the equal protection rights of students, teachers, and taxpayers under Article I, Section 12 of the Washington Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, Substitute Senate Bill 5135 and House Bill 2642, which would equalize salary allocations over five or six years and therefore remedy the constitutional deficiency identified by Judge Heavey, are before the state legislature;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of Everett School District No. 2 as follows:

1. The Board supports legislative efforts to equalize the state funding formulas, and believes that any equalization effort should address funding for teaching, administrative, and classified staff simultaneously; and
2. The Board supports the passage of SSB 5135 or HB 2642 in the 2008 Washington State legislative session; and
3. The Superintendent is directed to communicate this Resolution to Governor Christine Gregoire, State Senator Margarita Prentice, State Representative Helen Sommers, State Representative Kathy Haigh, and all state legislators whose districts include a portion of the Everett School District.

**ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of Everett School District No. 2 at an open public meeting held on February 26, 2008, notice of which was given as required by law, the following directors being present and voting therefore.

Karen Madsen, President  
Kristie Dutton, Vice President

Carol Andrews, Director  
Sue Cooper, Director  
Ed Petersen, Director

Attested by:  
Carol Whitehead, Ed.D.  
Secretary to the Board