



Our students will lead and shape the future

News release

July 20, 2016

State Superintendent sues the state and seven school districts over funding of salaries

State Superintendent Randy Dorn has filed a lawsuit against the state and seven school districts, including Everett Public Schools, challenging how school districts across the state fund salaries.

Superintendent Gary Cohn and Board President Ted Wenta issued the following statement in response to the lawsuit:

It is the paramount duty of the State to provide for basic education, but the State has not fulfilled its constitutional obligation to fully fund basic education for our students. In McCleary, the State Supreme Court directed the State Legislature to address the funding gap. Everett Public Schools shares the frustration felt by many with respect to the ongoing failure of the State to fully fund basic education.

Everett Public Schools is working to respond to the increase in our student population. Over the last six years, our student enrollment has increased from 18,829 to 19,496 students and is projected to grow by nearly 1,500 students over the next decade. As enrollment increases, the state funding gap continues to grow.

For many years, the State Legislature has authorized districts to use local levy funding to contract for and pay supplemental teacher salaries for extra time, responsibility, and to provide incentives. Everett has used this authority to attract excellent teachers and to pay them a fair living wage for the work actually performed. If Superintendent Dorn thinks Everett is actually paying for what is legally basic education, then he should be suing the State to pay for these extras according to the State's Constitutional obligation; he should not be suing Everett Public Schools.

We negotiate fair, competitive wages to attract and retain quality professionals. They support the education of our students and prepare them for a successful future in a global world.

Everett Public Schools complies with the system established by the State Legislature. We will continue to support and promote student achievement while we wait for the State Legislature to fully fund education.

For more information:

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