

# **Everett Public Schools**

# 2016 Legislative Platform

#### **Board of Directors**

- Pam LeSense President
- Ted Wenta
   Vice President
- Traci Mitchell Legislative Representative
- Carol Andrews
   Board Member
- Caroline Mason Board Member

## Superintendent

• Dr. Gary Cohn

#### **Core Values**

- Learning
- Equity
- Passion
- Respect
- Diversity
- Collaboration

# Our students will lead and shape the future.

#### **Our Mission**

Inspire, educate, and prepare each student to achieve to high standards, contribute to our community, and thrive in a global society.



# **Everett Public Schools 2016 Legislative Priorities**

### Fulfill the State's paramount duty – amply fund K-12 education

- ➤ Implement the new basic education finance system the State has already adopted (ESHB 2261 (2009) and SHB 2776 (2010)).
- ➤ Identify a framework for basic education to ensure the State fully funds basic education, particularly in the areas of salaries and benefits. What qualifies as basic education must ensure all students can graduate with 24 credits. The system must also account for the uniqueness of each employee group's work year and work day.
- ➤ Target a statewide graduation rate of 100 percent and provide full funding for the program of basic education.

## Safeguard school districts from falling off the 2018 levy cliff

- ➤ Take action during the 2016 legislative session to prevent the levy cliff. Without such action, in 2017, school boards across the state must publically adopt a reduced educational program (REP) and launch a reduction in force (RIF). Unless the Legislature takes action in the 2016 short session, districts must adopt the REP in 2017 even if the 2017 105-day biennial session ends on time.
- ➤ Take responsibility first for basic education costs before cutting local levy authority or cutting Local Effort Assistance (LEA) for property-poor districts.

## School construction and simple majority for bonds

- ➤ Send voters a constitutional amendment to change the requirement to approve school district bonds. The 60 percent super-majority requirement should be changed to a simple-majority requirement of 50 percent plus one.
- ➤ Fund school construction at a level enabling districts to build classrooms needed to lower class sizes (consistent with the 2015-17 operating budget).
- Adjust the State's funding formulas so the State pays the cost of schools needed to serve our students. The State must increase the square feet allocated to each student and increase the cost allocated per square foot. These changes are needed to ensure the State matches the actual cost of school construction.