



"It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders..."

Article IX, Section 1, Washington State Constitution

October 28, 2013

Michael Green
Woodland School District
800 Third St
Woodland WA 98674

Dear Superintendent Green,

Thank you for being a member of the Network for Excellence in Washington Schools – the coalition that won the landmark *McCleary v. State* lawsuit. Your contribution to NEWS, last made in 2011 or before, has enabled us to successfully fight for full and ample funding for K-12 public education in this historic and landmark court case.

Today, I am calling upon you to join superintendents in nearly 100 other Washington school districts in making a renewed financial commitment to NEWS to support critical ongoing efforts to ensure that the Legislature enforces the *McCleary* ruling. Nothing short of full funding for K-12 education – and the future of your students and your district – is at stake.

When your school district renews its support, you will help to ensure that the Legislature heeds the State Supreme Court's ruling to fully fund K-12 schools by 2018. Your contribution to NEWS supports:

- Successful ongoing legal representation with the Washington State Supreme Court to hold the Legislature accountable for ample school funding;
- Activities to engage citizens across Washington through in-person presentations, electronic communications and the news media to build public support for the Legislature's response to the Court order;
- Efforts to keep NEWS members informed about the progress of the case and improved funding; and,
- Work to educate and maintain relationships with legislators who must implement *McCleary*.

The Supreme Court's decision to retain jurisdiction over the case gives public school supporters a remarkable opportunity – and a remarkable responsibility. NEWS is the only entity entrusted by the Supreme Court to vigilantly monitor and enforce compliance of *McCleary*. Please support NEWS now.

There is no specific requirement for the amount of support requested from school districts. Post-*McCleary*, we have asked districts to consider a contribution equal to \$1 per student. Some districts have given more, others less. We encourage each school district to consider its own unique financial circumstances in making a contribution that is as significant as possible to allow NEWS to vigorously continue this critical effort.

– OVER –

How we spend your financial contributions

Legal actions*

- Research, draft and file legal briefs in the Washington State Supreme Court to rebut annual reports from the State claiming that the State is fully complying with the Court's order to make "steady progress" toward fully and amply funding K-12 public education by 2018. (See the enclosed press release from NEWS as an example of how critical our response is to holding the Legislature accountable.)
- Research, draft and file responses to requests from the Supreme Court for additional briefs and information.
- Enforcement actions or other legal proceedings to be determined based on the State's compliance or lack of compliance with the *McCleary* ruling.

Ongoing activities

- Hold public meetings and present at other organizations' meetings to educate citizens about the *McCleary* case and the Supreme Court's mandates to the Legislature.
- Write and distribute e-communications to NEWS members about this ongoing effort.
- Prepare for and conduct general membership, Board of Trustees and Executive Committee meetings.
- Draft and distribute press releases and notices to media and arrange interviews with NEWS spokespeople relating to the State's lack of constitutional compliance and upcoming steps; write op-eds, news releases and other communications with the media.

Every-month activities

- Monitor legislative committee and task force meetings related to *McCleary* both during and outside of legislative sessions.
- Keep the NEWS website up to date with information for members and the public.
- Maintain and update financial and budget information.
- Respond to emails and calls from NEWS members, the news media, parents and general public.

Please, ask your Board to adopt a resolution to contribute to our efforts today. Visit the website at www.waschoolexcellence.org and click on Become a Member to find a sample resolution. If you have questions about making a contribution to NEWS, please contact our membership manager, Teresa Moore, at 253-765-7043 or news@waschoolexcellence.org.

Sincerely,



Nick Brossoit, Ed.D
President, NEWS Board of Trustees
Superintendent, Edmonds School District #15

Attachments: List of NEWS members; Sept. 30, 2013 press release

* Members of the Washington Education Association fund ongoing legal expenses through a special assessment on their union dues.



“It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders...”
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September 30, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***McCleary* plaintiffs on legislative school funding ‘progress’ report: ‘Must elected officials obey the constitution, or are they above it?’**

School funding coalition asks State Supreme Court to consider ‘stern warning,’ sanctions

The Legislature is failing to remedy Washington State’s unconstitutional violation of public school children’s right to an amply funded K-12 education and at the current rate of “progress” won’t meet a court-imposed 2018 deadline for full funding until 2028, the coalition that filed the successful *McCleary* school funding lawsuit said in a legal brief filed today.

In a response to the Legislature’s K-12 school funding report to the Washington State Supreme Court, the Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS) called upon the Court to consider issuing “at a minimum... a clear, firm, unequivocal warning to the defendant State that leaves recalcitrant elected officials no doubt that the State’s continued failure to comply with this Court’s Orders will result in a holding of contempt, sanctions, or other appropriate judicial enforcement.”

By the State’s own testimony in the landmark trial, state funding must rise to a minimum of \$12,701 per student by 2018 to comply with the Supreme Court’s order.

“The State reports its per pupil funding under the 2013-15 budget will be \$7,279 in 2013-14 and \$7,646 in 2014-15,” the NEWS brief stated. “At that under \$400/year rate of increase... the per pupil finish line will not be crossed until the 2028-29 school year, if there is no inflation or capital needs.”

Contrary to the State’s contention that its appropriation of \$982 million in new funds for K-12 education in the 2013-15 budget represents progress, NEWS pointed out that “State budget documents acknowledge that after accounting for that budget’s corresponding ‘savings’ – non-euphemistically known as cuts – the net biennium increase was only \$649 million (under \$325 million each year).”

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In addition to asking the Court to “enjoin the State from digging the unconstitutional underfunding hole even deeper by imposing any unfunded mandates on its schools,” NEWS requested a “stern warning” about potential consequences for the State’s continued violation of the Court’s orders to show progress and to produce detailed plans that show how that progress will be achieved.

NEWS said the Legislature also enacted new mandates that added unfunded cost burdens on local school districts. The State also failed to make “steady, real and measurable” progress regarding teacher salaries, transportation, full-day kindergarten, class size reductions and operational costs.

“To be blunt: the defendant State’s frequent disregard of the Court Orders in this case is contempt. Contempt is sanctionable,” NEWS said. “The State has been given years (in fact, decades) to follow court rulings telling the State that it must amply fund its K-12 public schools. Telling alone clearly does not work. Plaintiffs respectfully submit that in response to the State’s 2013 post-budget filing, this Court must do more than stand on the sidelines and cheer for a better result next year.”

NEWS’s response concluded:

“Is a constitutional right a real right, or just a nice sounding platitude? Must elected officials obey the constitution, or are they above it? Are court orders a mandate, or just a suggestion? And do our courts hold all citizens accountable to obey the law, or just those citizens who don’t have an official government title?

“The Class of 2018 was in 1st grade when this suit was filed. They were in 4th grade when the Final Judgment was entered against the State in this case. They were in 6th grade when this Court issued its January 2012 decision. Another year of State procrastination and delay might not be that important to most adults. But each year is crucial to a child traveling through our State’s public schools today – for to him or her, each year of amply funded education delayed is a year of amply funded education forever lost.”

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The [Network for Excellence in Washington Schools](#) is a coalition of more than 420 school districts, education associations and nonprofit organizations dedicated to achieving full and ample funding for K-12 public education. In 2012, NEWS won an historic victory when the Washington State Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the State of Washington is violating its constitutional “paramount duty” to amply fund the education of all K-12 students. The Court chose to retain its jurisdiction over the case to ensure legislative compliance.



The 424 NEWS members, as of October 2013

(includes 200 school districts)

Organizational Members

American Association of University
Women of Washington
ArtsEd Washington
Assn. of Educational Service Districts
Assn. of Washington School Principals
Black Collective (Tacoma & Pierce County)
Breakfast Group (Seattle)
Citizens for Better Schools
Disability Rights Washington, f/k/a
Wa. Protection and Advocacy System
Educational Service District 101 (Northeast)
Educational Service District 105
Educational Service District 113
Educational Service District 114 (Olympic)
Educational Service District 189 (Northwest)
El Centro de la Raza
Equitable Opportunity Caucus
Japanese American Citizens League
League of Women Voters of Wa.
Linda Hanson Associates
Lutheran Public Policy Council
Minority Executive Directors Coalition
Public School Employees
Rural Education Center
Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle
Vietnamese Friendship Association
Washington Assn. of School Administrators
Washington Assn. of School Business Officials
Wa. Coalition for Gifted Education
Washington Education Association
Washington State PTA
Wa. State Special Education Coalition

School District and Local EA Members

Aberdeen Education Association
Aberdeen School District
Almira Education Association
Almira School District
Arlington Education Association
Arlington School District
Asotin-Anatone Education Foundation
Asotin-Anatone School District
Auburn Education Association
Auburn School District
Bainbridge Island Education Association
Bainbridge Island School District
Battle Ground Education Association
Battle Ground Public Schools
Bellevue Education Association
Bellevue School District
Bellingham Education Association
Bellingham Public Schools
Bethel Education Association
Bethel School District
Blaine Education Association
Blaine School District
Bremerton Education Association
Bremerton School District
Brewster Education Association
Brewster School District
Bridgeport Education Association
Bridgeport School District
Brinnon Education Association
Brinnon School District
Burlington-Edison Education Association
Burlington-Edison School District

Castle Rock Education Association
Castle Rock School District
Central Kitsap Education Association
Central Kitsap School District
Central Valley Education Association
Central Valley School District
Centralia Education Association
Centralia School District
Chehalis Education Association
Chehalis School District
Cheney Education Association
Cheney Public Schools
Chewelah Education Association
Chewelah School District
Chimacum Education Association
Chimacum Independent Association
Chimacum School District
Clarkston Education Association
Clarkston School District
Cle Elum-Roslyn Education Association
Cle Elum-Roslyn School District
Clover Park Education Association
Clover Park School District
Ed. Service Employees of College Place
College Place Public Schools
Columbia Education Association
Columbia School District (Walla Walla)
Cosmopolis Education Association
Cosmopolis School District
Coupeville Education Association
Coupeville School District
Crescent Education Association
Crescent School District
Curlew A/L
Curlew School District
Davenport Education Association
Davenport School District
Columbia County Ed. Assn.-Dayton
Dayton School District
Deer Park Education Association
Deer Park School District
Dieringer Education Association
Dieringer School District
Dixie School District
East Valley Education Association
East Valley School District (Spokane)
Easton Education Association
Easton School District
Eatonville Education Association
Eatonville School District
Edmonds Education Association
Edmonds School District
Entiat Education Association
Entiat School District
Enumclaw Education Association
Enumclaw School District
Ephrata Education Association
Ephrata School District
Everett Education Association
Everett Public Schools
Evergreen Education Association
Evergreen Public Schools
Federal Way Education Association
Federal Way Public Schools
Ferndale Education Association
Ferndale School District
Fife Education Association
Fife Public Schools
Finley Education Association

Finley School District
Franklin Pierce Education Association
Franklin Pierce Schools
Freeman Education Association
Freeman School District
Goldendale Education Association
Goldendale School District
Grand Coulee Dam Education Assn.
Grand Coulee Dam School District
Granger Education Association
Granger School District
Harrington Education Association
Harrington School District
Highline Education Association
Highline Public Schools
Hockinson Education Association
Hockinson School District
Hood Canal Education Association
Hood Canal School District
Issaquah Education Association
Issaquah School District
Kahlotus Education Association
Kahlotus School District
Keller School District
Kelso Education Association
Kelso School District
Kennewick Education Association
Kennewick School District
Kent Education Association
Kent School District
Kettle Falls Education Association
Kettle Falls School District
Kiona-Benton Education Association
Kiona-Benton City School District
La Center Education Association
La Center School District
Lake Chelan Education Association
Lake Chelan School District
Lake Quinalt Education Association
Lake Quinalt School District
Lake Stevens Education Association
Lake Stevens School District
Lake Washington Education Association
Lake Washington School District
Lakewood Education Association
Lakewood School District
Liberty Education Association
Liberty School District
Longview Education Association
Longview Public Schools
Lopez Island Education Association
Lopez Island School District
Lynden Education Association
Lynden School District
Mabton Education Association
Mabton School District
Mansfield Teachers Association
Mansfield School District
Manson Education Association
Manson School District
Marysville Education Association
Marysville School District
McCleary Education Association
McCleary School District
Mead Education Association
Mead School District
Medical Lake Education Association
Medical Lake School District
Mercer Island Education Association

Mercer Island School District
Meridian Education Association
Meridian School District
Methow Valley Education Association
Methow Valley School District
Monroe Education Association
Monroe Public Schools
Montesano Education Association
Montesano School District
Moses Lake Education Association
Moses Lake School District
Mossyrock Education Association
Mossyrock School District
Mount Baker Education Association
Mount Baker School District
Mount Vernon Education Association
Mount Vernon School District
Mukilteo Education Association
Mukilteo School District
Naches Valley Education Association
Naches Valley School District
Napavine Education Association
Napavine School District
Naselle-Grays River Valley Education Assn.
Naselle-Grays River Valley Schools
Nespelem Education Association
Nespelem School District
Newport Education Association
Newport School District
Nine Mile Falls Education Association
Nine Mile Falls School District
Nooksack Valley Education Association
Nooksack Valley School District
North Franklin Education Association
North Franklin School District
North Kitsap Education Association
North Kitsap School District
North Mason Education Association
North Mason School District
North River Collaborative (Ed. Assn.)
North River School District
North Thurston Education Association
North Thurston Public Schools
Northshore Education Association
Northshore School District
Oak Harbor Education Association
Oak Harbor Schools
Ocean Beach Education Association
Ocean Beach School District
Ocosta Education Association
Ocosta School District
Odessa Education Association
Odessa School District
Okanogan Education Association
Okanogan School District
Olympia Education Association
Olympia School District
Omak Education Association
Omak School District
Onalaska Education Association
Onalaska School District
Onion Creek A/L
Onion Creek School District
Orcas Island Education Association
Orcas Island School District
Orchard Prairie School District
Orient School District
Orting Education Association
Orting School District
Pasco Association of Educators
Pasco School District
Pateros Education Association
Pateros School District
Paterson School District
Pe Ell Education Association

Pe Ell School District
Peninsula Education Association
Peninsula School District
Pioneer Education Association
Pioneer School District
Garfield County (Pomeroy) Ed. Assn.
Pomeroy School District
Port Angeles Education Association
Port Angeles School District
Port Townsend Education Association
Port Townsend School District
Prescott Education Association
Prescott School District
Prosser Education Association
Prosser School District
Pullman Education Association
Pullman Public Schools
Puyallup Education Association
Puyallup School District
Quilcene Education Association
Quilcene School District
Quincy Education Association
Quincy School District
Rainier Education Association
Rainier School District
Raymond Education Association
Raymond School District
Reardan-Edwall Education Association
Reardan-Edwall School District
Renton Education Association
Renton School District
Republic Education Association
Republic School District
Richland Education Association
Richland School District
Riverside Education Association
Riverside School District
Riverview Education Association
Riverview School District
Rochester Education Association
Rochester School District
Rosalia Education Association
Rosalia School District
Royal Education Association
Royal School District
San Juan Island Education Association
San Juan Island School District
Seattle Education Association
Seattle Public Schools
Selah Education Association
Selah School District
Sequim Education Association
Sequim School District
Shelton Education Association
Shelton Public Schools
Shoreline Education Association
Shoreline Public Schools
Skykomish Education Association
Skykomish School District
Snohomish Education Association
Snohomish School District
Snoqualmie Education Association
Snoqualmie Valley Public Schools
South Bend Education Association
South Bend School District
South Kitsap Education Association
South Kitsap School District
South Whidbey Education Association
South Whidbey School District
Spokane Education Association
Spokane Public Schools
Stanwood-Camano Education Assn.
Stanwood-Camano School District
Star School District
Steilacoom Education Association

Steilacoom Historical School District
Stevenson-Carson Education Association
Stevenson-Carson School District
Sultan Education Association
Sultan School District
Summit Valley Education Association
Summit Valley School District
Sumner Education Association
Sumner School District
Sunnyside Education Association
Sunnyside School District
Tacoma Education Association
Tacoma Public Schools
Tahoma Education Association
Tahoma School District
Tekoa Education Association
Tekoa School District
Thorp Education Association
Thorp School District
Toledo Education Association
Toledo School District
Tonasket Education Association
Tonasket School District
Trout Lake Education Association
Trout Lake School District
Tukwila Education Association
Tukwila School District
Tumwater Education Association
Tumwater School District
University Place Education Association
University Place School District
Valley School District
Vancouver Education Association
Vancouver Public Schools
Vashon Island Education Association
Vashon Island School District
Wahkiakum County Education Assn.
Wahkiakum School District
Waitsburg Education Association
Waitsburg School District
Wapato Education Association
Wapato Public Schools
Washougal Association of Educators
Washougal School District
Washtucna Education Association
Washtucna School District
Wellpinit Education Association
Wellpinit School District
Wenatchee Education Association
Wenatchee School District
West Valley Spokane Education Assn.
West Valley School District-Spokane
West Valley Yakima Education Assn.
West Valley School District-Yakima
White Pass Education Association
White Pass School District
White River Education Association
White River School District
White Salmon Education Association
White Salmon Valley School District
Wilbur Teachers Association
Wilbur School District
Willapa Valley Education Association
Willapa Valley School District
Winlock Education Association
Winlock School District
Wishram Education Association
Wishram School District
Woodland Education Association
Woodland Public Schools
Yakima Education Association
Yakima Public Schools
Yelm Community Schools
Yelm Education Association