



THE SCHOOLS & DISTRICTS  
IN THE ESD 112 REGION:

Battle Ground  
Camas  
Castle Rock  
Centerville  
Evergreen  
Glenwood  
Green Mountain  
Hockinson  
Kalama  
Kelso  
Klickitat  
La Center  
Longview  
Lyle  
Mill A  
Mount Pleasant  
Naselle-Grays River Valley  
Ocean Beach  
Ridgefield  
Roosevelt  
Skamania  
Stevenson-Carson  
Toutle Lake  
Trout Lake  
Vancouver  
Wahkiakum  
Washington School  
for the Deaf  
Washington State  
School for the Blind  
Washougal  
White Salmon Valley  
Wishram  
Woodland

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# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## *from Southwest Washington School Districts*

2018

The 30 school superintendents who represent the ESD 112 region are committed to advocating for fair and equitable solutions to the state's education budget. Following are the items we deem the highest priority for the 2018 Legislative Session:

### 1. Address Deficiencies in EHB 2242

To fully comply with its constitutional mandate, the 2018 Legislature must address specific deficiencies of EHB 2242/SSB 5883, including:

- » **Special Education:** While additional funding is provided in the bill for special education, there was no increase in the per student multiplier, which will continue to force many districts to use extremely limited local levy funds to backfill the state's funding gap.
- » **Salary Allocations and State Schedule:** Additional funds are also provided to support educator compensation; however, that enhancement is not enough to fund actual salary or staffing costs, nor is it equitable in any way. Instead, EHB 2242 institutes a new one-size-fits-all statewide average salary allocation, while eliminating the staff mix factor. That means districts with more experienced staff will be forced to raise additional revenue to retain those educators or be forced to discriminate against more senior staff in hiring decisions—or make program cuts.
- » **Levies:** EHB 2242 does not solve funding inequities statewide. For most districts in our region, the bill further exacerbates current disproportions between districts by capping levy authority of property rich districts at the lesser of \$1.50/\$1,000 AV or \$2,500 per student, while levy authority of neighboring property poor districts is capped at a much lower \$1,500 per student—including state-funded Local Effort Assistance.
- » **Regionalization:** EHB 2242's calculation methodology and application of regionalization factors further deepens school district inequities, forcing needless competition for staff between neighboring districts.

### 2. Support School Facilities

The 2018 Legislature must enact a full Capital Budget. In 2017, over \$1.0 billion of school construction funding was left on the table following the failure to adopt a Capital Budget. Because of this, school districts will experience increasing costs, a funding backlog, lost planning time and materials and labor shortages.

Additionally, we ask the Legislature to enhance the state's investment in K–12 construction by updating the current, outdated funding formulas for the Construction Cost Allowance and Student Space Allocation to ensure funding more closely reflects actual construction costs and educational space needs.

*Thank you for your consideration of these important issues and challenges.*