

2023

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



The 44 public school districts and one tribal compact school within the Capital Region ESD 113 region have collectively identified the following priorities for the 2023 Legislative Session. Working together, we can ensure excellent and equitable educational outcomes for all children and students in Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston counties. | www.esd113.org

BASIC EDUCATION STAFFING

The Legislature must now regularly review and rebase minimum salaries to ensure alignment with *actual* staffing costs for basic education.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

School district bonds require a supermajority vote to pass. And when they do pass, actual construction costs often exceed what schools can propose in their initiatives.

EARLY LEARNING

High-quality early learning programs can pave the way for success in school and throughout life including better physical and mental health.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

A gap between funding and best practices continues to persist, despite the Legislature’s incremental efforts to incrementally invest resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Improve the Prototypical School Funding Model to ensure staffing levels that support the whole child.
- Calculate salary allocations to account for *actual* costs.
- Develop and implement multiple educator pathways and incentives to ensure sufficient and diverse staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Allow citizens to approve bonds with a simple majority.
- Update the funding formulas for the Construction Cost Allowance and Student Space Allocation to reflect actual construction costs and educational space needs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Expand student access to preschool and transitional kindergarten.
- Invest in and support skilled early learning educators who are compensated for the complex and demanding jobs they perform.

RECOMMENDATION:

- Take more deliberate action to increase funding to reach the actual cost of safety net awards, transition services, professional development, and family liaisons currently borne at the local level.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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