

Carolyn Logue
Final Education Funding Bill
Via email July 7, 2017

For the school library folks — the Governor signed the Education Funding Bill with four section vetoes. The prototypical school model remains in place with more money going to starting in 2018/19 to increase the multiplier for our current FTE allocations.

Although the T-L allocation was not increased to 1.0, the writers of the bill specifically allowed this to occur in future budgets thus providing the basis and making it easier for us to move forward with legislation - it will be dependent on state budget dollars available. We can talk further about this as we plan for next year.

Below is a summary of the full bill, a link to the actual bill, and a note of the three vetoed sections.

The bill will now be reviewed by the Supreme Court to determine whether or not McCleary requirements have been fulfilled.

[EHB 2242](#), allocates an additional \$7.3 billion in state funding for K-12 education over the next two biennia providing the following:

- Increases and revises state allocations for K-12 basic education salaries and replaces the K-12 salary allocation model, increases minimum salary allocations, establishes maximum salaries and other salary limitations, and adjusts state allocations for inflation and regional differences in the cost of hiring staff.
- Adds a state allocation for professional learning days, up to three days.
- Enhances state basic education funding under the prototypical school model through increases to special education, vocational education, highly capable, and transitional bilingual programs, all beginning in the 2017-18 school year.
- Creates a new learning assistance allocation for high-poverty schools, beginning in the 2017-18 school year.
- Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to publish per-pupil funding rates for each school district for general apportionment and specified categorical programs.
- Codifies into the Basic Education Act allocation requirements for services and staffing previously funded in the budget.
- Reestablishes certain increases to class size ratios and other school staffing ratios as enrichments that may become part of the basic education program if funded in the future.
- Establishes a new state property tax for common schools, beginning in calendar year 2018, for a total rate of \$2.70 per \$1,000 of assessed value when combined with the existing state property tax.
- Establishes a new school district levy lid capped at the lesser of \$2,500 per student or \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, effective calendar year 2019.

- Provides local effort assistance in proportion to a school district's actual levy compared to the maximum levy, up to a combined total of \$1,500 per student, effective calendar year 2019.
- Limits use of school district levies and local effort assistance to enrichment and defines permitted forms of enrichment, beginning with the 2019-20 school year.
- Requires pre-ballot approval of enrichment expenditures from school district levy revenues beginning calendar year 2020.
- Revises school district accounting, auditing, and budgeting practices.
- Establishes a School Employees Benefits Board to procure health care and other benefits for school district employees statewide, beginning January 1, 2020.

The governor vetoed the following sections of EHB 2242:

Section 106 limits school districts' use of late start and early release days to seven occurrences each school year. Educators use this time to develop new competencies, collaborate with other educators, receive mentoring from senior teachers, and analyze student data to inform instructional practices. Research shows that this time for job-embedded professional learning and collaboration is linked to student success. Limiting practices that improve student achievement goes against the intent of this bill and our goals.

Section 607 requires the Caseload Forecast Council (Council) to convene a technical working group to determine the feasibility of developing a model to aid in school district four-year budget plans. Timely data does not exist to predict school district-level enrollments that factor in business growth and other local factors. The work required in this section is outside the scope of expertise for the Council. No funding is provided in the 2017-19 omnibus appropriations act; therefore, the Council is unable to contract for this work.

Section 819 ends reporting requirements for school employee health insurance benefits, effective December 1, 2018. House Bill 1042, signed on July 6th, 2017, removes these reporting requirements. Moreover, funding to support these requirements was not included in the budget, so the Office of the Insurance Commissioner will be unable to produce the report.

Section 1003 repeals, among other things, the statutes that govern approved training and continuing education clock hours for the purpose of credit on the salary schedule, effective for the 2017-18 school year. These statutes are essential to compensation in the upcoming school year.

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