

18.28 Increasing Revenue to Support Our Legislative Principles

Resolution passed 2010

Whereas, our legislative principles state that “the Washington State PTA shall identify and initiate education and action on public policy affecting tax policies that are fair, equitable, and provide stable, adequate revenues for public education and for programs that benefit children and youth;” and

Whereas, Washington State PTA has long had redefinition of and fully funding basic education for all students as a top legislative and policy priority, and worked to help win approval of the basic education reform legislation and enhanced funding formulas embodied in ESHB 2261 and SHB 2776, in addition to a substantial history of support for health and welfare legislation and policy for our children and youth; and

Whereas, the implementation of education reforms approved through ESHB 2261 and SHB 2776 will require substantial additional funding for K-12 education from Washington state; and

Whereas, in the 2009 education funding lawsuit *McCleary vs. the State of Washington*, Superior Court Judge Erlich ruled in favor of the plaintiff, noting that there has been substantial underfunding of public education over many years; and

Whereas, despite the Superior Court ruling calling for additional funding, recent revenue shortfalls have caused Washington state to reduce the K-12 education budget; and

Whereas, realizing efficiencies in state spending by reducing waste and reprioritizing funding toward education may be possible and desirable, but will not alone be sufficient to avoid cuts and pay for education reform; and

Whereas, instead of having fair and equitable tax practices, Washington state is recognized as having one of the most regressive tax systems in the United States.

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that Washington State PTA will encourage reprioritization and efficiency in state spending to increase funds available for education when these spending changes are consistent with our legislative principles, which include protecting and promoting the health, safety, and welfare of children and youth; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA will consider taking public positions in support of fair, equitable and ample revenue increases as a necessary component of fully funding education and meeting other needs of children and youth; and be it further

Resolved, that Washington State PTA will consider all major legislation and initiatives that impact education funding as they emerge and take action consistent with our goal of achieving and maintaining ample education funding, and our Legislative Principles pertaining to protecting and promoting the health, safety, and welfare of children and youth.