

February 17, 2026

Dear Legislators,

The February 16 revenue forecast shows projected state revenue through 2029 is up significantly as compared to November's forecast. With this improved outlook, we urge you to reject the Governor's proposed cuts to Transition to Kindergarten and Local Effort Assistance in the budgets being released this week.

These programs are vital to student learning and educational equity. Transition to Kindergarten gives students who need additional preparation a stronger start and serves thousands of children in childcare deserts across the state. Local Effort Assistance helps level the playing field between property-rich and property-poor districts, often providing the funding necessary for intervention services, additional staff to meet student needs, and address state underfunding of basic education. Cutting either would fall hardest on students and communities with the fewest resources.

We also urge you to honor your commitment to basic education by increasing MSOC by at least \$100 million, consistent with SB 5918. Districts are absorbing sustained inflation in utilities, insurance, curriculum, and core operations. MSOC funding has not kept pace with real costs, and the shortfall is felt in classrooms every day.

With stronger-than-anticipated revenue, you can protect students, stabilize districts, and prevent further disruption. Please maintain these critical programs, increase MSOC funding, and do not impose different or additional cuts to K-12.

Sincerely,

Association of Educational Services Districts (AESD)

Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP)

Eastern Washington Quality Schools Coalition

Capital Region ESD 113

Public School Employees (PSE)

South Sound Superintendents

Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA)

Washington Association of School Business Officials (WASBO)

Washington Education Association (WEA)

Washington State Parent Teacher Association (WSPTA)

Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA)