



City of Bothell™

February 9, 2024

Members of the Washington State Legislature:

Like many communities, Bothell is proud of our local school district. Northshore School District is a persuasive reason many families have moved to Bothell and the surrounding areas. They are an integral and central pillar of our community, and an invaluable partner serving 23,000 students in 36 schools with 119 languages spoken.

School districts across the state are facing huge budget deficits, and Northshore School District is no different - facing an estimated \$26 million (5%) deficit for the 2024/25 school year, after making \$21 million worth of cuts for their 2023/24 school year.

Despite the state investments in education post the McCleary decision in 2012, there remains a gap between revenue the districts receive and are able to raise, and the costs to educate students. There are several contributing reasons for the gap, including decreased student enrollment, meeting legally required services - most notably in special education (of which 14% of Northshore's students are enrolled in special education services), and increased operational costs.

Northshore School District along with other districts have proposed near- and longer-term solutions. I am writing today, on behalf of the Bothell City Council, to express support for Northshore's legislative priorities including a short-term infusion of surplus funds, along with their request for a task force to work on long-term school funding solutions.

Please consider the solutions proposed by Northshore and their companion districts. Public education must remain a priority for all.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mason Thompson'.

Mason Thompson
Mayor

Cc: Bothell City Council