



For our children, our community, our world, our future
CHENEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

12414 S. ANDRUS RD., CHENEY, WA 99004

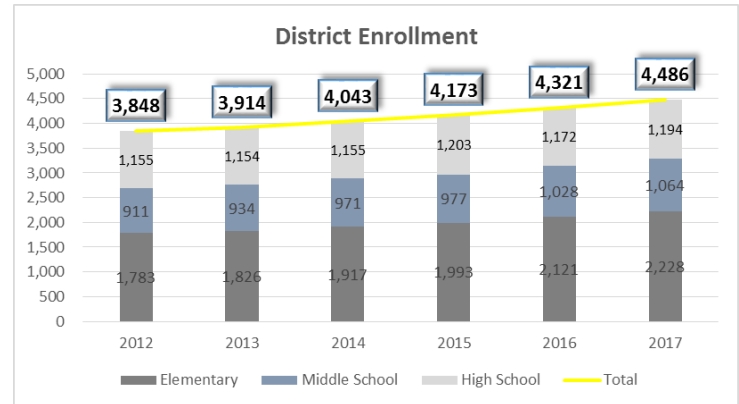
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LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

AMPLE AND DEPENDABLE FUNDING

The Washington State Legislature has a blueprint for ample funding that was adopted in ESHB 2261 in 2009 and SHB 2776 in 2010. We request that the 2017 Legislature update and implement this basic education finance system to levels that amply fund public schools and the students we serve. Education funding should be comprehensive, stable, sustainable and ample for all students in the State. In addition, we request that any new legislation that adds additional requirements to our schools is fully funded.

SUPPORT TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN A QUALITY WORKFORCE

To attract the best and brightest to the field of education, our teachers and support staff need to receive fair compensation. Shortages in the field of education are real and are impacting our ability to hire and retain staff in all positions. In 2012, the Compensation Technical Working Group made recommendations that would serve to attract and retain teachers. We request that these recommendations are updated and followed. As the Legislature takes action to ensure this, it must address the levy cliff and its significant effect on levy equalization and the levy base. The levy cliff will have an approximate financial impact of \$1,100,000 on Cheney Public Schools.

MAKE CHANGES TO SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE

Cheney Public School District enrollment continues to grow at approximately 3% annually, with 35 portable classrooms currently in use. Our enrollment has increased by 165 students from 2015-16 to 2016-17. The 10-year enrollment projection is for approximately an additional 900 students district-wide. Current State construction funding formulas are antiquated and do not represent actual square footage needs or construction costs. Consequently, we are requesting State support for the ACTUAL costs of school construction and changes to the Growth Management Act so that schools can be sited and built outside of Urban Growth Areas, when necessary and appropriate.

CREATE AND MAINTAIN FAIR ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEMS

Our State assessment system has been in constant fluctuation. We desire a fair assessment system that is consistent, efficient, non-punitive and designed to assist schools in improving practice. We also request that State assessments are delinked from high school graduation. In addition, a State accountability system should be designed to assist schools with improving practice and student learning and not utilized as a means to punish schools for perceived under-performance.

Serving the Communities of Airway Heights, Cheney, and West Plains