

**RESOLUTION NO. 35-24
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 501
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE TO
ADDRESS K-12 FUNDING**

Whereas the Washington State Constitution states that “It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children”; and

Whereas Bellingham Public Schools is facing significant funding challenges as we plan for the 2025-2026 school year and despite having implemented reductions in the 2023-2024 school year; and

Whereas the percentage of K-12 funding in the state operating budget has declined from 52% in 2019 to 44% in 2024; and

Whereas inflation adjusted K-12 spending in Washington state has declined by over 10% since 2019; and

Whereas the state funding provided for public education has not kept pace with inflation impacting Bellingham Public Schools by nearly \$11 million in the 2025-2026 school year; and

Whereas the state funding shortfalls for special education results in a \$7 million negative impact to Bellingham Public Schools; and

Whereas the state funding shortfalls for utilities and insurance costs results in a \$3 million negative impact to Bellingham Public Schools; and

Whereas the state created regionalization formula for district allocations is flawed such that Bellingham schools receives a lower regionalization factor than our neighbors despite having the highest median housing costs among those neighbors which could result in negative budget impacts to Bellingham Public Schools of \$5.47 million for the 2025-26 school year; and

Whereas the state created “experience factor” formula supporting district allocations for districts with staff that have a higher than average experience and a ratio of more advanced degrees utilizes out of date data resulting in inadequate funding to Bellingham Schools of \$3.6 million for the 2025-26 school year; and

Whereas the Washington State Legislature has failed to act on a variety of options presented to address the systemically underfunded public education system in Washington State;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Bellingham School District No. 501 Board of Directors formally urges the Legislature to fully fund public education with ample provisions for students at the Bellingham Public School District consistent with our state constitution.

Be it further resolved that the Bellingham School District No. 501 Board of Directors formally urges the Washington State Legislature to update existing allocations based on the most recent year's complete data to ensure accuracy for changing budget conditions.

Be it further resolved that the Bellingham School District No. 501 Board of Directors formally urges the Washington State Legislature to provide full funding for specific additional state requirements mandated through legislation including special education, materials, supplies and operating costs.

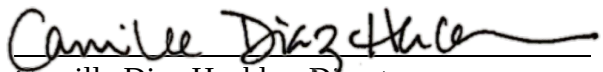
Be it further resolved that the Bellingham School District No. 501 Board of Directors formally urges the Legislature to include in funding plans a comprehensive system for stable and sustainable revenue with ample provisions for equitable funding.

Adopted at a regular meeting of the Bellingham School District No. 501 School District Board of Directors this 12th day of December 2024.

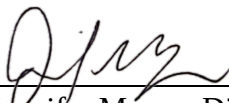
BELLINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 501 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



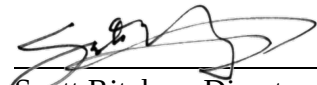
Douglas Benjamin, Director



Camille Diaz Hackler, Director



Jennifer Mason, Director



Scott Ritchey, Director



Katie Rose, Director