



Our region supports the **WASA “Big 3”** platform and urges the Legislature to continue prioritizing **equity, stability, and adequacy** in K-12 education. While we recognize the challenges of the current budget cycle, *Washington’s education funding system remains broken*. We encourage lawmakers to:

- Listen to the recommendations of state funding workgroups;
- Support property-poor districts with stable, predictable funding that doesn’t overburden local taxpayers;
- Reinvest in a salary structure that reflects the value of experienced, high-quality educators.

Priority Action Items



Prioritize MSOC Funding: Sustain the Foundations of Basic Education

The costs of Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC) — including curriculum, technology, fuel, insurance, software subscriptions, and instructional tools — continue to rise, but state funding hasn’t kept pace.

Districts are forced to dip into local levies and reserves, threatening enrichment programs and core operations.

Action Request:

- Reinvest any realized savings from declining enrollment or caseloads into MSOC.
- Fully fund MSOC categories in the prototypical school model and provide guardrails to ensure funding is directed toward these essential needs.



Reduce Burdens: Address Unfunded Mandates & Inefficiencies

Despite progress in some areas, districts remain overwhelmed by mandates that are underfunded or offer little instructional return. These burdens drain time, capacity, and budgets.

A. Substitute Costs & Employee Benefits

- Fully fund or improve programs like PFML and FMLA, that burden school districts with millions of dollars spent on substitute costs and impact student learning.
- **Reform the 630-hour rule** that requires districts to provide benefits to substitutes who may not even seek them.

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TEACHERS

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65,000

STUDENTS



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Central Washington
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EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT 105



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For More Information:

Shane Backlund, Superintendent, ESD 105

shane.backlund@esd105.org

www.esd105.org

33 S. 2nd Ave., Yakima, WA 98902



Priority Action Items (Continued)

B. Public Records Burden

- Create a rubric to evaluate and filter large-scale or disruptive public records requests.
- Allow for reasonable fees when requests require significant time and staff redaction.
- Example: One request generated over 30,000 emails requiring dozens of hours of processing.

C. Sales Tax on Services

- Support SB 5814 exemption for public schools.
- School districts should not pay sales tax on services necessary for daily operations (e.g., training, repairs, consulting).



Defend & Advance Investments that Support Student Learning

In the face of fiscal constraints, student-centered funding must remain protected.

A. Preserve Local Effort Assistance (LEA)

These flexible funds are often used to backfill basic education gaps and support student programming in high-need districts.

- Oppose any changes that would raise the levy floor or reduce eligibility, such as the idea of a \$2.00 levy rate minimum.

B. Protect the Transition to Kindergarten (TTK)

TTK is helping districts close early learning gaps, especially in rural areas without high-quality preschool access.

- Preserve this investment to support readiness and long-term student success.

C. Support Math Achievement

Support legislative focus on mathematics outcomes, especially 8th-grade proficiency.

- Retain local control over instructional strategies and materials to ensure flexibility for districts to meet diverse student needs.