



SCHOOL FUNDING COALITION | Immediate Student Needs

Washington's schools and districts continue to have urgent needs that require assistance to ensure all students have equitable access to continuous learning opportunities and programming. Acting on longer-term needs may have to be postponed, given the state's current financial circumstances; however, they must stay at the forefront of policy-makers' minds, as these issues must be addressed as the economy recovers. In addition to long-term issues, we urge the Legislature to immediately address several near-term issues, many of which are a direct result of the COVID-19 outbreak. We also urge the Legislature to refrain from adopting additional mandates during this crisis.

We believe that each and every student needs:

- Stable Support
- Safety
- Access to Learning
- Well-Equipped Staff

Stable Support

- Reimburse for unfunded costs associated with COVID-19, beyond what is reimbursed by federal funds, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for students and staff, food service, transportation, and online learning
- Promptly pass through federal funding dedicated for schools without supplanting state funding
- Hold the line on K-12 funding and prevent mid-year budget reductions; any budget reductions deemed necessary must not create or further exacerbate funding inequities between districts and must be tied to an expenditure-mandate that is also eliminated
- Maintain stable support for enrollment and pupil transportation

Safety

- Support funding for staffing and materials to ensure buildings and buses are clean and sanitary
- Train staff in providing trauma-informed instruction that is embedded in the social emotional framework

Access to Learning

- Provide equitable access to technology resources including devices and broadband connectivity
- Ensure resources for individualized needs of all students

Well-Equipped Staff

- Provide professional development for staff about racial literacy, cultural responsiveness, and stereotype threat for purposes of closing persistent opportunity gaps
- Provide professional development for staff so that they can effectively engage students in online learning

The School Funding Coalition represents the voices of nearly 8,000 school district leaders from our state's 295 school districts. We bring a front-line understanding of school district financing and the education funding issues the Legislature continues to grapple with—especially as state budget decisions are contemplated in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. For further information, please contact:

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