



# FAIRMOUNT PARK ELEMENTARY PTA

## Budget Cut Action Alert!

**We now know the massive impact of the Washington State Legislature's failure to extend the levy cliff. Senators all across the state need to hear from parents NOW.**

We need Senate Republicans to move HB 1059, the levy cliff bill, out of committee and to the floor for a vote.

**As a reminder, at Fairmount Park, failure to extend the levy cliff mean cutbacks in staff and programs, including teaching, counseling, assistant principal support, instrumental music and other areas that make Fairmount Park such an amazing school. Across the state, each school and school district will have to make similar decisions about what staff and/or programs they have to cut.**

## The time for each of us act is now! Here's what we can do:

Call or email key state senators and ask them to "Please extend the levy cliff by voting for HB 1059 right away and support fully funding basic education this session. Let them know what the cuts are for our school and tell them that our kids can't wait. If there's a specific cut that will affect your family, tell them why it's important.

Once you've contacted the senators, reach out to friends and family and ask them to do the same!

### Key Senate Members

[joe.fain@leg.wa.gov](mailto:joe.fain@leg.wa.gov)  
[hans.zeiger@leg.wa.gov](mailto:hans.zeiger@leg.wa.gov)  
[michael.baumgartner@leg.wa.gov](mailto:michael.baumgartner@leg.wa.gov)  
[jan.angel@leg.wa.gov](mailto:jan.angel@leg.wa.gov)  
[dino.rossi@leg.wa.gov](mailto:dino.rossi@leg.wa.gov)  
[maureen.walsh@leg.wa.gov](mailto:maureen.walsh@leg.wa.gov)  
[mark.schoesler@leg.wa.gov](mailto:mark.schoesler@leg.wa.gov)  
[brad.hawkins@leg.wa.gov](mailto:brad.hawkins@leg.wa.gov)  
[randi.becker@leg.wa.gov](mailto:randi.becker@leg.wa.gov)  
[lynda.wilson@leg.wa.gov](mailto:lynda.wilson@leg.wa.gov)  
[curtis.king@leg.wa.gov](mailto:curtis.king@leg.wa.gov)  
[barbara.bailey@leg.wa.gov](mailto:barbara.bailey@leg.wa.gov)  
[john.braun@leg.wa.gov](mailto:john.braun@leg.wa.gov)  
[ann.rivers@leg.wa.gov](mailto:ann.rivers@leg.wa.gov)  
[mark.miloscia@leg.wa.gov](mailto:mark.miloscia@leg.wa.gov)

Tip: Copy and paste this list into your email – don't forget to copy your own legislators! (34<sup>th</sup> district legislators: [Eileen.cody@leg.wa.gov](mailto:Eileen.cody@leg.wa.gov); [joe.fitzgibbon@leg.wa.gov](mailto:joe.fitzgibbon@leg.wa.gov); [sharon.nelson@leg.wa.gov](mailto:sharon.nelson@leg.wa.gov))

**Spread the word.** Use your network and tweet, post, call, email. Friends and family can find their legislators here: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>.

### What do I say?

#### 1. What you are writing to them about?

- One brief sentence.
- Example, "I am deeply concerned about the levy cliff."
- *Tip – use that item as your subject line too!*

#### 2. Identify yourself.

- Tell them briefly who you are - a parent, grandparent, teacher, etc.
- If you live in their district, be specific – name your child's school, your neighborhood, etc.

#### 3. Tell them what you want them to do.

- Example: "Please pass the levy cliff fix, HB 1059, immediately and work to ensure ample funding for schools this session.

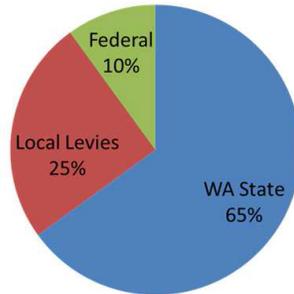
#### 4. Emphasize: Tell them why it matters to you in one or two sentences – how will this affect your family?

#### 5. Close with a thank you and include your address in the signature.

**BRIEF UPDATE/TIMELINE RE: School funding/Levy Cliff/McCleary & St. Legislature**  
**Produced by FPE PTA Legislative Comm. 3/1/17**

- Wa. St. Local K-12 Funding - average where school districts get funding (*Seattle Council PTSA*)

**School District Operations Budget**  
(average)



- Approx. 2014-15 per student spent in Wa. St. \$10,977\* (inclusive of local levy dollars & federal funding); Wa. St. contribution \$7,666\*
- Wa. St. ranked 49<sup>th</sup> of 51 states (includes D.C.) in contributions of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) back into our public-school system; Wa. St. is one of the 10 wealthiest states and we invest less than 3% of our GDP into our education system (*Chris Reykdal, Wa. St. Superintendent of Public Instruction citing Rutgers's Education Law Center statistics*)
- 2009 McCleary vs. Wa. St. filed
- McCleary vs. WA decided for plaintiff (McCleary)- state is not fulfilling constitutional duty to amply fund education, which is stated as a “paramount duty” in the Washington State Constitution (too many dollars contributed from other sources, rather than the State of Washington itself — i.e. local levies -- to be considered fully funded)
- 2009-10 Leg. Session ESHB 2261 & HB 2776 “The Basic Ed. Bills) passed to begin work toward fulfilling McCleary and “fully fund” education (includes: refines term “basic ed” ... to graduate with a meaningful diploma prepared for college or for a family wage job; creates “prototypical school” funding model, aligns HS requirements w/ college/employer requirements, roll-out of all-day K, reduce class-sizes in K-3, enhanced allocations for low-income, bi-lingual, & highly capable; increased transportation, maintenance & operating costs; and increased accountability & professional development.)
- \$4.5 to \$8 billion a biennium for operating costs, plus additional capital funding is what will be needed for Wa. St. to “fully fund” education
- 2010 Legislation passes to raise the current locally approved school levy caps temporarily by 4% (from 24%-28%) due to the 2008 recession—this temporary levy cap approved and is set to sunset by the Legislature in 2018
- 2018 - Deadline to “fully fund” schools based on McCleary decision
- 2017 Bipartisan Ed. Funding Comm. established by the legislature & comprised of legislators tasked with working together to come to solutions/mechanisms/agreements to fully fund education
- Dec. 2017 Bipartisan Ed. Funding Comm. states it failed to come to joint solutions (Democrat members make ‘recommendations’ based on the committee research, Republicans do not offer suggestions at that time)
- 2016 Bipartisan support and House passage of first “levy cap extension” to extend the temporary levy raise (the original 4%) for the 2017/18 school year
- Gov. Inslee introduces his budget proposals to fully fund education (SB5111, SB5113 & SB5127)
- Jan. 23, 2017- SHB 1059 (levy lift one-year extension) passes the House with continued bipartisan support and is sent to the Senate
- Jan. 28, 2017- S5607 Republican ed. funding bill (sponsor Sen. Braun) is introduced, heard & passed at Sen. Ways & Means Comm. Chaired by Sen. Braun (Jan. 30), and subsequently passed on the Sen. Floor (Feb. 1)
- S5607 was introduced on a Saturday afternoon, committee waived the five day notice to give the bill a hearing, and the bill was 121 pages, also INCLUDES the one-year levy extension language & is comprised of policy wants (i.e. removal of the need for teacher accreditation.... & numerous other policy changes)
- Jan. 28, 2017 - Sen. Ways & Means hears SHB 1059 (stand-alone, one-year levy extension) & is not approved out of Ways & Means comm.
- Jan 31, 2017 – HB1843 Dem. ed. Funding bill is introduced (Rep. Sullivan), heard & passed at House Approps (Feb. 6 & 9), Feb. 22 passes on House floor and is referred to Senate Ways & Means Comm. Feb. 23 (35 pages)
- Feb. 15, 2017 – SB5825 ‘Moderate’ Dem. ed. Funding bill is introduced (Sen. Mullet), is referred to Sen. Ways & Means Comm. which hears the bill on Feb. 23, bill has not passed out of Sen. Ways & Means (36 pages)

\**Seattle Times- What Does it Mean to Fully Fund Education (3/4/16) by Anika Anand citing OSPI & LEAP Committee*