

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
March 2010

Budget Update

The Senate has released their budget which has several similarities to the Governor's budget. The Senate's proposed supplemental budget provides just over \$13.3 billion in spending for the adjusted two-year period. The overall K-12 budget is reduced by a net \$ 214 million with the difference largely being the accommodation of additional spending for higher caseload costs attributable to more students than originally budgeted and a higher staff mix cost for certificated instructional staff. The major reductions are:

K-4 Staff Enhancement is eliminated in the 2010-11 school year	\$ (102.9 million)
Initiative 728 Student Achievement funds are eliminated in the 2010-11 school year	(78.5 million)
Learning Improvement Day is eliminated for the 2010-11 school year	(15.2 million)
Various small grant programs to schools from OSPI are eliminated	(13.0 million)
Enhanced Classified Staffing Ratio	(15.3 million)

It is important to note that three of the five listed items will all result in significant staff reductions in schools throughout the state. WEA estimates that just the K-4 class size enhancement and the I-728 funding provide for about 3,000 classroom teachers statewide, and those positions will no longer be funded by the state. In addition, funding for many ESP members will also be eliminated. It is easy to say that on average that class sizes in Washington will rise by about 2 to 3 students as a result of these cuts and that more than 4,000 educators are likely to lose their jobs before the start of the next school year.

Compensation:

The proposed loss of the remaining Learning Improvement Day (LID) will result in another 0.55% reduction in base pay for teachers.

There are no other compensation-related changes contemplated in the supplemental spending plan, so the funding for employee pensions remains the same as originally budgeted. Similarly, the planned increase in funding for employee health benefits continues to be scheduled to increase from the current year amount of \$745 per month to \$768 per month for the 2010-11 school year. The amounts due the Health Care Authority for the retiree remittance (\$59.59 this year and \$64.90 in the 2010-11 school year) are reduced slightly for next year to \$60.00 beginning September 1, 2010.

Funding for bonus payments to those certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards will continue as originally budgeted under the Senate's proposal.

A final note on the K-12 budget would be how some of it is paid. The Senate proposal ties the funding for calendar year 2011 levy equalization payments and all day

Kindergarten in the 2010-11 school year to the proposal to raise the sales tax by 0.3 percent. Should that proposal end up being a ballot issue, this funding could be in jeopardy should the voters repeal that tax increase.

Governor's Education Bill

The WEA has supported the Governor's bill as it was originally presented. The Governor has respected our members' experience and judgment on education reform ([Senate Bill 6696](#)). WEA has spent months working with Governor Gregoire and others on this bill to make sure it is based on sound research.

Some legislators (and groups such as League of Education Voters and Stand For Children) want to tie student test scores directly to teacher evaluations. The same non-educators also want to impose a statewide teacher evaluation system, eliminating our ability to work with school districts on evaluation systems that meet local needs. They want a one-size-fits-all approach from Olympia.

WEA has made it very clear that if these types of Amendments to the bill our accepted then our support for SB 6696 will be pulled! Contact your legislators and tell them these types of amendments are unacceptable.

Seniority!!!!!!!!!!!!

Seniority lists will be posted March 1st in all buildings. It is critical that you inform your members of the need to verify their seniority date. Members have 14 calendar days to challenge/correct inaccurate seniority dates.

Special Education Task Force

The Special Ed Task Force will meet once in February. The February meetings will look at comparison data for several topics under discussion. The Committee will look at other District's contract language in the Puget Sound area.