

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 2010

Legislative Update

Legislators and Governor Gregoire delivered on several of legislative the goals the WEA Board set last fall:

- They passed research-based education reform legislation that reflects the professional experience and judgment of Washington educators.
- They passed the levy bill, which increases state funding for levy equalization by \$25 million and allows voters to increase their local school levy amounts.
- They approved \$800 million in new state revenue to protect core education programs, including all-day kindergarten, levy equalization, classified staff funding and the bulk of K-4 class-size funding.

WEA members, staff and leaders worked hard to make these priorities become reality. Significantly, WEA helped lead and fund two important, unprecedented coalitions -- one in support of new revenue, the other in support of protecting school funding.

Yet even with new revenue, the recent state budget cuts caused by the economic recession will result in overcrowded classrooms, fewer staff for students and cutbacks in important student programs for both K-12 and higher education.

Educator Night Forum

The last forum of the year will be held May 20. The topic will be ELL along with some discussion around issues of cultural competency and social injustice. Ben Ibale from WEA will be the trainer. Contact Donna at the HEA office to register.

Special Education Task Force

The Special Ed Task Force met on April 27. The committee will meet twice in May. The HEA team is still facing tough resistance from the District to address real concerns facing our members and students. The District wants to focus primarily on the budget. The HEA team is trying to focus on the increased demands being placed on staff. There has been little agreed to at this point.