



Washington Coalition for School Libraries and Information Technology (WCSLit)

2008 Legislative Agenda

Charter Members

Michael Eisenberg, UW
Jan Walsh, WA State Librarian
Gene Sharratt, WSU
Don Barbieri, Chairman of the Board, Red Lion Corp.
(affiliation noted for identification purposes only)

WLMA
Kathryn Egawa

Research Advisory Council

Gary Hartzell
Keith Curry Lance

Coalition Partners

WLA
WSPTA
League of Education Voters
ALA
AASL

Spokane Mayor Mary Verner

Local Chapters

WCSLit Bellevue Chapter
WCSLit Bothell Chapter
WCSLit Bremerton Chapter
WCSLit Colbert Chapter
WCSLit Issaquah Chapter
WCSLit Kennewick Chapter
WCSLit Kirkland Chapter
WCSLit Olympia Chapter
WCSLit Pomeroy Chapter
WCSLit Puyallup Chapter
WCSLit Redmond Chapter
WCSLit Renton Chapter
WCSLit Richland Chapter
WCSLit Sammamish Chapter
WCSLit Seattle Chapter
WCSLit Spokane Chapter
WCSLit Tacoma Chapter
WCSLit Woodinville Chapter
WCSLit Yakima Chapter

Founding Parent Members

Lisa Layera Brunkan, Co-Chair
Susan McBurney, Co-Chair
Denette Hill, Treasurer

Down Payment Toward 21st Century Equal Opportunity Education

Support a bill that creates a line item for school library programs in the 2008 budget. Among other things, this bill would:

- Promote the core value that Washington students need full-time access to school libraries and a certified teacher-librarian to teach the literacy and information technology skills needed to be successful in school, work and life.
- Affirm the fact that research shows well-funded, well-staffed school libraries increase student achievement and test scores.
- Recognize that fluency in reading, communicating, information processing, computational thinking, and using technologies are the mainstay of the new economy.

Partnerships for 21st Century Access: Certification for Rural WA Matters

Create a partnership that would link Washington higher education institutions with business partners and OSPI to create a virtual learning training program to certify teacher-librarians in our rural districts.

- Professionals matter as much for our rural school districts as for our urban school districts.
- Get the best return on the technology grant allocation made in the 2007 budget which allocated larger sums of tax payer money to smaller districts.

Strong School Libraries – Essential to World-Class Education

To ensure that the erosion of Washington school libraries can *never* happen again, the coalition supports the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance making school library programs a part of Washington's definition of basic education.

- School library programs need to receive adequate and sustained funding for full-time, certified staff, support staff, resources, technology and facilities.
- The Washington State budget must provide the technology, materials, training and appropriate staffing to make all students "information rich" and not "information poor."

21st Century Skills – a Priority in the State of Washington

Launch a "21st Century Skills in Washington" initiative through The Partnerships for 21st Century Skills. <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org>

- Washington state policy makers today have an opportunity, indeed an obligation, to define what we want for our kids – fluency in essential skills and jobs and success in the information age – and to invest in and hold accountable our teacher-librarians and library programs to ensure that our students have these 21st Century skills.