World Class Washington Education - Our Kids Can't Wait

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Published by Lisa Layera Brunkan, Susan McBurney, League of Education Voters, WA Stand for Children and WA PTA on Mar 09, 2009

Background (Preamble): It's been nearly 30 years since we've redefined what "basic education" means in the State of Washington, and over 20 years since our graduation course requirements have been updated.

Before the economic crises, Washington school district budgets were hemorrhaging – programs were cut, teaching staffs were reduced, and basic resources were drained. Now, $1 billion in new cuts to K-12 education could be made in the next state budget.

In the past decade alone there have been 19 studies looking at how to improve Washington's education system. **Our children need action now**.

We call upon our elected lawmakers to act this legislative session to pass a framework for a transparent and modernized K-12 finance system that at least:

- Ensures our students graduate high school qualified and competitive for continuing education, college, work and life.
- Increases teacher pay and creates a plan to entice, retain and support the next generation of great teachers.
- Replaces complicated staffing formulas with a transparent school funding model that funds basics like decreased class size, librarians, counselors, and support for struggling students.
- Makes early learning "basic" for our at risk children.

We respectfully ask our elected officials to honor their constitutional obligation to prioritize and fund public education so our one million school children and their educators can succeed in the 21st century.

Petition: We, the undersigned, call upon the Washington State Legislature and Governor to minimize cuts to education for the 2009-2011 biennium and redefine our program of basic education during the 2009 Legislative Session.

Name	Email	City	Zip

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