



World-Class Education in Washington State Washington Kids Can't Wait !

The Spokane Moms have teamed up with other education advocacy groups (the League of Education Voters, WA State PTA, WA Stand for Children) to launch a state-wide petition calling on Washington's leaders to minimize cuts to education for the 2009-11 budget and redefine our program of basic education this year. We are working together to build a citizens' mandate for moving education reform forward **this Legislative session**.

(For more inform on the petition and the team of folks behind it, see <http://wakidscantwait.com/>)

Please help us gather the citizens' voice. Our goal

50,000 signatures!

PETITION SIGNATURE GATHERING INSTRUCTIONS

A few important things:

1. **Sign only once.** If folks already signed online, please do NOT have them sign again.
2. **Washington residents only.** Signatories do not have to be of voting age.
3. **Encourage people to include a comment.** The *most important thing* people can do!
4. **Encourage folks to provide email** so we can keep them updated on the effort.
5. When you've got a stack of completed signature sheets, please mail them to

**League of Education Voters
2505 3rd Ave Suite 326
Seattle – WA - 98121**

THANK YOU for stepping up to help in this way. We are hopeful that Washington State's leaders will, ultimately, pass a bill that contains a solid framework for a transparent and modernized K-12 education finance system. Whether or not this happens hinges upon your efforts; we are deeply appreciative of anything you can do to help make this happen.

For more information and other ways to get involved in this effort, please see our website:
www.fundourfuturewashington.org

Questions? Please contact us: info@fundourfuturewashington.org



Helpful suggestions for getting folks to sign the petition

We've found that the way you pitch the petition can make a big difference. To date, the most effective quick ask has been:

"I'm hoping you'll sign this petition that asks our state leaders to prioritize education for Washington's children."

'Will you support redefining basic education?' is too soft (or too scary), and it gives them an opening to quickly say "No."

If folks have questions, provide some basic information:

- The current definition of "basic education" in Washington was written more than 20 years ago.
- The current funding formula for K-12 education in Washington is more than 30 years old.
- Things like school libraries and gifted education aren't considered 'basic'.
- The State of Washington ranks 42nd in the nation in funding for education.
- Hard-earned levy dollars have been filling in the gaps (so the \$\$ hasn't gone to enriching, enhancing, and making local education fit the needs of the community).
- Teachers in Washington rank last among West Coast States in average compensation.
- Our state leads the world in technology and engineering innovations yet our children are graduating without 21st century skills necessary to compete for jobs in a global economy.

80-90% grab the pen and say, "Sure." Most folks have no idea this is happening.

***** As soon as they start signing their name say:**

"The most important thing you can do is leave a comment about why you think this is important. We send your comments directly to your legislators and the Governor; they are reading them and it is making a difference."

**You can give them examples if they seem nervous. You can usually get 100% comment rate once you get the timing right!

IDEAS of WHERE TO GATHER SIGNATURES (ask for permission first, if needed):

Outside public libraries; independent bookstores; coffee shops; farmers markets; PTA meetings; church; book club; community festivals or gatherings; soccer games; workplace; neighborhood.

Email with other ideas so we can pass them on: info@fundourfuturewashington.org

THANKS!