



2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Olympia School District will face funding shortfalls in the 2023-24 school year and beyond. The shortfalls are caused, in part, by long-term structural inequitable funding mechanisms (Regionalization, Staff Mix, low state salary allocations) and underfunded state or federal requirements (Special Education, Health Care, K-3 class size). These shortfalls are exacerbated by enrollment declines driven by the pandemic. To address these financial realities, we request necessary legislative action as follows:

Provide Equitable and Flexible Funding

- Fully fund staff salaries so that the voter-approved levy is not subsidizing state basic education responsibilities
- Review regionalization so that Olympia is not placed at a disadvantage with neighboring districts
- Fully fund the salaries of experienced teachers

Fully Fund Special Education

- Fully fund the cost of educating our students receiving special education services so that the voter-approved levy is not subsidizing state basic education responsibilities

Fully Fund Transportation

- Update the state's transportation funding formula to cover the cost of driver compensation, and fully fund the transportation safety net for specialized transportation with low ridership

Continue Investment in Pandemic Recovery and the Physical and Mental Well-being of Students

- Increase investments and staffing to better support students' behavior and mental health needs
- Support district efforts to provide multi-systems of support and ensure all staff have the training to provide trauma informed care
- Fully fund school meals for all students

Close Opportunity Gaps and Advance Equity

- Support districts' efforts to recruit, support and retain staff who reflect the diversity of the community we serve
- Fund necessary professional development for all staff to be responsive to the diverse needs of our learning community



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