

Bill Summary

Intent

The state has demonstrated its commitment to funding education during the last two biennia, and remains committed to eliminating school district dependency on local levies for basic education.

The Legislature intends to provide state funding for competitive salaries and benefits sufficient to hire and retain competent staff.

The Legislature intends to minimize any disruptive impact to school districts and tax payers.

The lack of transparency about how districts use local levy funds has hindered the Legislature's ability to make decisions concerning teacher compensation.

Education Funding Task Force Established

The Education Funding Task Force is created to review data and analysis previously provided to the Legislature, as well as new information provided by a consultant, and to make recommendations to the Legislature.

- The council consists of eight legislators (two members from each caucus), and the Governor or his designee as a nonvoting member to facilitate the task force.
- Recommendations of the council require the affirmative vote of five of its members.
- Staff support is provided by House Office of Program Research and Senate Committee Services, with additional support from Office of Financial Management.
- Meetings of the council shall be open to the public.

Education Funding Task Force Recommendations

The Task Force shall make recommendations for:

- Compensation sufficient to hire and retain staff and an associated salary allocation model.
- Whether a system for future salary adjustments should be incorporated into the salary allocation model.
- Whether a local labor market adjustment formula should be incorporated into the salary allocation model. This should include considerations for rural and remote districts and districts with economic and distressing factors that affect recruitment and retention.
- How to achieve sufficient classroom facilities to fully accommodate K-3 class size reduction.

- Improving or expanding existing educator recruitment and retention programs.
- Local school levies and local effort assistance.
- Local school district collective bargaining.
- Clarifying the distinction between basic education and local enrichment.
- Required district reporting, accounting, and transparency of data and expenditures.
- School employee health benefits.
- Sources of state revenue to support basic education.

Recommendations and any supporting legislation must be submitted to the Legislature by January 9, 2017.

Analysis of K-12 Public School Staff Compensation.

- WSIPP shall contract with an independent consultant to:
 - Collect and analyze K-12 public school staff total compensation data. Including, identifying compensation outside the program of basic education.
 - Identify market rate salaries that are comparable to each of the staff types in the prototypical school funding model.
 - Recommend whether a local labor market adjustment formula should be implemented and if so which market adjustment factors and methods should be used.
- OSPI and school districts must provide compensation data necessary, with sufficient time for the consultant to do this analysis.
- The consultant shall provide an interim report to the Education Funding Task Force and the Governor by September 1, 2016 and final data and analysis by November 15, 2016.

Legislative Action

The Legislature shall take action by the end of the 2017 session to eliminate school district dependency on local levies for implementation of the state's program of basic education.

Appropriation

Makes an appropriation of \$250,000 per fiscal year to the Evergreen State College to fund the Washington State Institute for Public Policy contract with an independent professional consulting services.