

Plan Overview

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On this page you'll find an overview of my plan for funding education reform in Washington state. I've called this **The Iseminger Education Finance Plan**, and it's based on five implementation elements, or **tenets**, that collectively chart an attainable course to funding education reform in Washington state.

Tenet 1: Reserve a Portion of Annual Increases in State Revenues for K-12 Education Reform

Dedicate 50% of annual increases in state revenues for K-12 education, until full implementation of basic education reform is complete in 2018.

Benefit: Revenues are increased for K-12 education without creating a new tax, nor increasing tax rates.

Tenet 2: Shift the 28% Levy Lid to State Collection

Set all districts to the 28% levy lid collection rate, reduce all grandfathered districts to 28%, and shift those levy collections into the existing \$3.60 state-collected portion of the property tax. Create a Local Burden Assistance (LBA) fund, paid out of education revenues, to account for undue tax burdens in low-assessed-valuation districts. Provide two additional options for this shift: Student-based collections (Option B) and Uniform Mil Rate (Option C).

Benefit: Provides education revenue in an equitable, consistent manner, most of which is already being collected locally for basic education programs. Uses existing state-based tax authority to collect an already-authorized education tax (the 28% levy lid), and caps collections at the existing \$3.60 authority ceiling. Leverages the LEA formula to apply LBA relief for burdensome tax rates, ensuring equity in contribution.

Note: See Tenet 5 for the new local levy structure.

Tenet 3: Use State Bonding to Address Required Capital Improvements

Reserve the increased bonding authority realized with Tenet 2 for K-12 capital improvements, such as new schools, necessary for education reform. Weight assistance toward needy districts, and require local effort to receive matching. Use collections of regionally vetted previously-built stock plans to ensure cost- and instructionally-sound construction efficiencies.

Benefit: Enables improved basic education throughout the state, including districts without available space. Promotes financial efficiency by using vetted plans, adjusted architecturally and cost-wise for different regions. Ensures local participation to receive match, but recognizes the need for local assistance.

Tenet 4: Implement Reform by Funding the Neediest Students First

Since implementation of these programs happen over an eight-year period - from 2010 to 2018 - there is opportunity to fund elements on varied schedules: some elements should be implemented early; some evenly over time, others toward the end.

Benefit: Prioritizes funding toward high-impact, high-return program elements that serve the neediest students. In many cases, will provide early benefits to districts that would see increased overall levy rates based on Tenet 2. Programs targeted would include: pre-k for at-risk children; all-day kindergarten weighted toward high-poverty districts; classroom reduction for high-poverty schools; enhanced ELL/TBIP programs; enhanced LAP programs.

Tenet 5: Reform Local Levies: Enable Local Participation Without Statewide Disparity

Reform local levy rate lids to 10% or \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV), whichever is more. Retain the Local Effort Assistance (LEA) formula as it is today. To mitigate potential future increases in the levy lid, and associated potential for disparity among statewide programs, pass a law that requires local levy proceeds that exceed the 10% or \$1 per \$1000 AV limits deposit 50% of those excess revenues into the LEA fund.

Benefit: Retains communities' ability to contribute to local schools, while reducing the levy lid from 28% to 10%. Enables high AV districts to levy on assessed value rather than their student base, and balances levy lid rates with statewide equity among programs.

Notes:

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