

# 2010 Legislative Proposal Form (For the 2011 Legislative Session)

Proposal submitted by: Issaquah School District

- Please check WSSDA's Positions Book to see if the subject of your issue or proposal is already covered by a standing (permanent) legislative position.
- Please provide a typewritten, computer-generated or hand-written legible form.
- The deadline for submission to the WSSDA office is Friday, May 28, 2010.
- Facsimile proposals are acceptable. Fax completed proposal forms to 360.493.9247.

1. Issue/Concern for the Legislative Committee:

The following is an issue of great concern to our school district: **Levy Lid Inequities**

2. Please check one of the following statements:

- Please have a member of the WSSDA Legislative Committee or WSSDA staff contact our board Legislative Representative to develop a specific proposal.  
(NOTE: If this option is desired, please do not wait until the deadline to contact us.) -OR-
- The following specific proposal could address or resolve our issue/concern:

**The WSSDA shall initiate and/or support legislation that would enact a comprehensive fix to K-12 education financing that ensures grandfathered inequities in levy lids for neighboring school districts are no longer perpetuated.**

3. We believe the issue should be addressed by (please check appropriate boxes):

- State Legislature
- State Board of Education
- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
- U.S. Congress
- Please address this issue to the appropriate body

4. Statements of Support/Explanation:

- a) Please explain why this issue has statewide implications and should be a top priority of WSSDA.

**There is no rational basis for the current differences in levy collection authority of school districts. The State Legislature has simply taken the inequities that existed in 1977 and frozen them in place without any meaningful or substantial change for over thirty years. Districts that failed to pass their local levy over a generation ago are still paying the price, struggling to compete with neighboring districts that received additional funding to offer teachers more competitive salaries and students more class time and better quality programs.**

**Efforts from last session to increase levy lids by a fixed percentage have only perpetuated differences between neighboring districts. It's in the interest of WSSDA to ensure that the new comprehensive K-12 funding plan being developed for HB 2261 addresses this issue so that a level playing field exists for all its members.**

b) Please explain the consequences to your district if this issue is not resolved.

**Additional amount ISD could have collected last year with Mercer Island's levy lid: \$10.6 M**  
**Additional amount ISD could have collected last year with Bellevue's levy lid: \$7.3 M**

**Despite having similar size and demographics, the Bellevue School District is able to offer higher paid teachers, an additional classroom period in high school, transportation for gifted programs, and nationally-recognized magnets like the International School thanks in part to these additional funds.**

c) What are the potential consequences to other districts?

**Next to each of the 91 school district whose levy lid was grandfathered in 1977 are neighboring districts that have been disadvantaged because of this special treatment under the law.**

d) How does this issue/proposal affect students and improve student learning?

**When state laws create an uneven playing field between neighboring school districts, it is arguably a violation of Article 1, Section 12 of the State Constitution, which requires that similarly situated individuals have the right to be treated equally under the law.**

**As it stands now, the level of local funding available to educate a student is arbitrarily based on events that occurred over 30 years ago. So a student living across the street from another could have dramatically different educational opportunities because of arbitrary factors that are wholly irrelevant to the achievement of legitimate state objectives.**

e) What are the costs of implementing your proposed solution, if one is proposed?

**While we'd like to think that fairness should be revenue neutral, we also recognize the need to hold harmless districts that are currently grandfathered until the state honors its constitutional duty to amply fund Basic Education. Closing the levy lid gap could have an impact on state LEA funding, which is based on local levy collections.**

**Our expectation is that the new comprehensive K-12 funding plan from the QEC should reserve local funding for supplemental education only, as it was originally intended.**

f) How would the proposal increase public confidence in public education?

**Addressing this issue would go a long way to addressing longstanding public concerns with fairness and equal treatment under the law.**

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5. Please indicate which of the following apply to your district:

- This proposal is being submitted by the Issaquah School District.
- This proposal has received approval by the school board.
- This proposal has not received approval by the school board.
- Approval is pending by the school board.

- This proposal is being submitted by an individual or group, other than a school board.
- Name of group or individual: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name and position: Chad Magendanz, ISD Board Legislative Representative

Phone Number: (425) 246-8782 Fax Number: (425) 837-7005

Email address: [chad@magendanz.com](mailto:chad@magendanz.com)

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