

# 2014 Legislative Assembly Proposal Form

- Please check WSSDA's Positions list at [www.wssda.org](http://www.wssda.org) to see if the subject of your issue or proposal is already covered by a standing (permanent) legislative position. If the position starts with 7.X.X, you do not need to resubmit.
- Complete this form and submit by Friday, May 23, 2014.

Proposal submitted by: Issaquah School District

## 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:

WSSDA shall initiate and/or support... legislation that removes grandfathered inequities in K-12 education levy lids.

3. We believe the issue should be addressed by: State Legislature

## 4. Statements of Support/Explanation:

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

There is no rational basis for the current difference in levy collection authority between 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 five 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 receive additional funding to offer teachers more competitive salaries and students more class time and better quality programs.

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

Additional amount ISD could have collected last year with the Mercer Island's levy lid: \$11.8M  
Additional amount ISD could have collected last year with Bellevue's levy lid: \$7.8M

Despite having similar size and demographics, the Bellevue School District is able to offer higher pay to 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 districts 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, we believe it violates Article 1, Section 12 of the State Constitution, which requires that similarly situated individuals have the right to be treated equally under the law.

### 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 should reserve local funding for supplemental education only, as it was originally intended.

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

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

## 5. This proposal is being submitted by:

School District:

Group other than a school district:

Individual:

Issaquah School District

If you are submitting this as a school district: This proposal has received approval by the school board

Your Name: Anne Moore

Position: ISD Board Legislative Representative

Phone Number: 425-503-2742

E-mail Address: MooreA@issquah.wednet.edu

Proposal submitted by: Anne Moore

**Instructions for submitting form**

- Save completed form on your computer.
- To submit via e-mail, send saved form to: legislative@wssda.org
- To submit via fax, send to: 360.252.3022
- To submit via mail, send to: WSSDA, 221 College Street NE, Olympia, WA 98516

The deadline for submission is:  
**Friday, May 23, 2014**