

DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Pupil Transportation

- The current transportation funding formula is complex and does not pay for the actual costs of getting our students to and from school. Districts must use local levy dollars to pay for transportation costs.
- For Issaquah School District, in the last three years we have had an average gap of \$2.5M between what the State formula provided and what our actual expenditures were:

Three Year Average

State Transportation Revenue	\$ 9.8M
<u>District Transportation Expenditures</u>	<u>\$12.3M</u>
Gap in Pupil Transportation Funding	\$ 2.5M

- We should be directing our levy dollars for enrichment and providing equitable access to innovative programs for students. Currently, we have elementary special programs that lack equitable transportation options due to lack of funding (estimated at \$1M). A fully funded transportation formula would also free up levy funds to provide high school students transportation for choice programs (estimated at \$1.5M).
- Districts need an **equitable** system that is more **transparent**, more **predictable**, and **fully funds** the cost of transporting students.

Bill: SB5873

Special Education Funding

- We acknowledge and appreciate the previous funding enhancements by the Legislature in the last five years. Still, there remains a significant gap between school district expenditures for special education and state provided funding. This shortfall forces districts to rely on local levies to meet the excess costs to ensure the needs of all of our students are met.
- Increased special education enrollment and needed supports for students continue to strain local funds. Lack of adequate special education funding is the largest challenge to our budget:

Budget Year	Amount of ISD spending on SPED	Amount of federal funding	Amount of state funding	Amount of local levy funding	% SPED spending from local levy
2022-23	\$45.1M	\$10.9M	\$21.4M	\$12.8M	29%
2023-24	\$52.4M	\$4.9M	\$30.2M	\$17.3M	33%

Bills: SB5852, HB1973