



February 7, 2019



Dear WASA Members,

As you know, a WASA committee has been working to develop recommendations for the Legislature to consider that would “hold harmless” those districts most severely impacted by the *McCleary* legislation. The committee has completed its work and is ready to move forward with recommendations to the Legislature.

The purpose of my email today is to share specific information related to our recommendations, as well as resources that may be utilized to communicate with your community and most importantly legislators.

Our committee’s analysis revealed that 93 school districts would have less funding for basic operations in the 2019–20 school year than in 2017–18 school year and another 22 would receive negligible funding above the break-even point under the new legislation. WASA is proposing a short-term solution that would increase state funding to get these districts to a financial break-even point. It is important to emphasize this proposal is only a short-term solution that would minimize, not resolve, the budget challenges these **115 districts** are facing. (*Click link to view the **FULL BREAKDOWN** of districts.*) Like nearly all others in our state, these districts will still be making expenditure reductions during the next two years in order to maintain their financial sustainability. In addition to a proposed increase in state funding to districts incurring losses in funding, the committee also developed a recommendation to expand the state’s “experience factor” eligibility criteria to include school districts that exceed the statewide average for years of experience by 15%.

As we move forward together, it is critically important that WASA members who engage in conversations on this matter be well informed and speak in a unified voice that is both accurate and consistent. To that end, we have developed a collection of **resources** that can be accessed in order to familiarize yourself with the committee’s analysis and then communicate with legislators and other key constituents.

Two Zoom meetings have been scheduled for this Friday to review the committee findings and the recommendations. If your district is one that would receive additional state funding to be held harmless under the proposed solution, we strongly encourage you to join one of these meetings. The meetings will also be recorded and made available on WASA’s website in case you are unable to attend.

Click either of the Zoom times below to be directed to the meeting as an attendee.

Friday, February 8, 9–10 a.m.

Friday, February 8, 2–3 p.m.

Thank you again, to the WASA committee for their outstanding work on this proposed solution: Shawn Batstone, Janette Bumgarner, Kim Ferra, Tom Fleming, Stephanie Hance, John Hannah, Gavin Hottman, Jim Kowalkowski, Tim Merlino, Cory Plager, Kassidy Probert, and Greg Woods. They devoted an immense amount of time to this effort and have developed a plan that would provide much-needed assistance to those districts most severely impacted by the *McCleary* “fix.”

Sincerely,



Joel Aune
Executive Director

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