

**Resolution:
Educating Students: Our highest duty ... and best investment**

Whereas, Article IX of Washington's Constitution declares "It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex";

Whereas, courts have found the state to be in violation of its "paramount duty" on numerous occasions, most recently on February 4th, 2010;

Whereas, state funding of education has declined from 51% to 41% of the state budget over the last 30 years;

Whereas, the state has abandoned their commitment to state initiatives 728 (school improvement) and 732 (teacher pay);

Whereas, the state further reduced funding for the 2011-2013 biennial budget, cutting \$2.5 billion out of education at all levels;

Whereas, prior to that the state had already reduced \$2.3 billion out of education in the 2009-2011 budget;

Whereas, Washington continues to add non-funded mandates, reduce education funding state wide, and moves yearly to remove more of the safety nets for poor children: 728 and Levy Equalization.

Whereas, class size in our state is the 3rd worst in the nation and the last round of budgetary cuts further reduced funding for class sizes in grades K-3 as a cost-saving measure;

Whereas, for 2011-2013 the state continues to spend tens of millions of dollars a year on non-mandated testing, establishing new and additional state assessments while at the same time cutting funding for three days of instruction;

Whereas, the economic recession has required legislators to make difficult choices in reducing state programs by 10% or more, reducing state employee pay by 3% and reducing educators pay by 1.9 to 3%;

Whereas, the Marysville School District has cut:

- \$4.5 m in I-728 funds eliminating a safety net and extra learning support for poor students;
- Nearly 10% of our teaching staff – 56 Teachers – greatly increasing class size at all levels;
- Administrative staff far below state staffing levels;
- All summer school and all after school support for struggling students;
- Support staff (SROs, security, custodians, grounds, maintenance, paraprofessionals, clerical, food service, and transportation) who help maintaining the safe, clean and positive learning environments in our local schools;
- Co-curricular and extra-curricular programs opportunities for students as have been cut and course offerings have been reduced;

Whereas, the Governor's cuts proposed for 2012-13 would:

- RIF 27 teachers to increase average class size from 31 to 33 in secondary schools.
- Eliminate \$4.3 million in Levy Equalization which:
 - Takes funding ONLY from our poorest communities;
 - Results in further increases to class size, reduced health, safety and security, and elimination of supports for student achievement; and
 - Contributes to unemployment in our community.

Therefore, we, the undersigned parents, staff, and community members who work in and support the students in Marysville ... respectfully request that the 2011-2012 Washington State Legislature acts to:

- Keep cuts away from the students, the classrooms and the schools,
- Raise revenue to continue investing in the future of our students, our community and our state, and
- Eliminate those costly and intrusive burdens which take time and money away from serving students.