



Talking Points: Reaction to Gov. Inslee's Budget

- Gov. Jay Inslee's education budget proposal falls far short of what is needed to comply with the orders issued by the Supreme Court in *McCleary v. Washington*. If adopted, the budget would move this state one step closer to a constitutional crisis.
- Over and over again our courts have ruled that relying on levies to fund a major portion of our education system is unconstitutional. The Governor's proposal does not address that central fact.
- In September, the Supreme Court held the state in contempt for not producing a plan that, by 2018, would fully fund basic education without the use of local levies. The Court, however, gave the state one last chance – the 2015 legislative session – to comply without imposing sanctions.
- In response, Gov. Inslee proposes to increase funding for a long list of educational programs that I support. He also proposes to fully fund the elements contained in [Substitute House Bill 2776](#):
 - Full-day kindergarten
 - Class size reduction in grades K–3
 - Student transportation
 - Full funding of Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC)

- These are positive enhancements, but HB 2776 was just the first step toward the full state funding of education. Funding the elements of 2776 alone does not satisfy our obligation under the constitution.
 - The Governor offers no plan on how he intends fund reduced class sizes in grades 4–12, required as part of the prototypical school model envisioned by SHB 2261, and by Initiative 1351.
 - Nor does the Governor address state funding of the compensation of education staff that levies currently fund.
- Several weeks ago I sent the Governor [a detailed letter](#) expressing my view on what would be the minimum amount of new funding needed in the next budget to make sufficient progress towards full state funding. I urge the Legislature to consider the points I outlined in that letter and pass a budget that will represent the major step forward that the legislature promised the court would be forthcoming during this legislative session.
- Thank you.