

WEA 2019 Legislative Messages

Washington Education Association members continue to stand united for our public schools and students.

- As professional educators and union members, we are proud of our state's historic progress toward fully funding public education.
- Now we must protect our progress and build on our success.
- WEA members are committed to working together to ensure all 1.1 million Washington students have the safe, amply funded, high-quality public schools guaranteed by our state Constitution.
- Beyond K-12 public schools, WEA members stand united to increase funding for public colleges and universities and to ensure the financial security of retired educators.

School safety is a priority for WEA members -- our students can't learn unless they have safe schools.

- WEA members believe students, educators and community members have a fundamental right to be safe at school.
- All students deserve the individual help, support and resources they need to be successful in the classroom and in the community – including the increasing number of students who have serious emotional, economic and behavioral challenges.
- We urge the Washington Legislature and Gov. Inslee to fund additional counselors, psychologists, nurses, therapists, social workers and other mental health services for all students in every public school.

Three of WEA's top legislative priorities for 2019 are related to improving or implementing the McCleary school funding package the Legislature adopted in 2017 and 2018:

- Restore much-needed local levy flexibility to allow local voters to meet the needs of their students beyond state-funded basic education, including investments in school safety.
- Support healthy families by fully funding the new state-run health insurance system for teachers and other school employees as negotiated with the state.
- Fund additional school staff to meet students' mental health, social, emotional and safety needs.

