



Student Bill of Rights

“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.”

– Washington Constitution, 1889

Washington’s 1.1 million public school students have a constitutional right to an amply funded public education, regardless of their ZIP Code or family background. Quality public education is a civil right in our state.

As parents, educators and community members, we demand that the 2017 Washington Legislature comply with the Supreme Court’s McCleary decision and amply fund the basic education the constitution guarantees our students.

We believe all Washington public school students have the following rights:

All students have a right to well-maintained schools, current curriculum, safe transportation and adequate school supplies. Students must have access to 21st century technology. Special education, gifted, learning assistance program, and transitional bilingual education for English language learners are essential.

This requires fully funding a high-quality, well-rounded basic education so all children have equal opportunity to succeed.

All students have a right to small class sizes and professional support services that provide the individual one-on-one attention they need.

This requires fully funding smaller K-12 class size ratios and additional support services as required by voter-approved I-1351.

All students have a right to be taught by caring, committed and qualified teachers and education support professionals.

This requires fully funding competitive, professional base pay and benefits to attract and keep high-quality K-12 school employees, and maintain flexibility for school districts to supplement educators’ pay beyond the base state salary to meet local needs.

All students have a right to learn in clean and safe school facilities, including ample classroom space equipped with modern technology.

This requires fully funding school construction to modernize existing schools, build new schools and expand classroom capacity.

All students have a right to attend local public schools that have the flexibility to meet their unique needs.

This requires fully funding basic education while ensuring that parents, educators and community members have a voice in shaping their public schools, including the ability to approve levies to support enrichment programs beyond basic education.

The WEA Board of Directors approved this student bill of rights, which is based on WEA’s McCleary school funding recommendations to the state. Share it with colleagues, parents and anyone who cares about public schools and students.

We, the people of the State of Washington ...