

# San Juan Island School District

## LEGISLATIVE FUNDING ISSUES

### LEVY CAP

#### **Summary:**

Allows a district to levy at the lesser of \$2.50 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value (Total Assessed Value or TAV) or \$2,500 per pupil for school districts with fewer than 40,000 FTEs (EVERYONE EXCEPT SEATTLE)

Allows a district to levy a the lesser of \$2.50 per \$1,000.00 of TAV or \$3,000.00 per pupil for school districts with 40,000 FTEs or more (SEATTLE ONLY)

#### **Problem:**

The intent of the Bill was to lift the levy lid for all School Districts. The effect of the adopted language is that the levy lid was lifted ONLY for the Seattle School District.

The legislative levy cap reduced our voter-approved budget by an average of \$690,000 over each of the next four years. This legislation negated strong voter will to support our schools.

#### **Effect:**

SJISD cut \$750,000.00 of total budget (@6 FTEs, 6% of total budget) and will still remain insolvent in the out years with no ability to cut further.

#### **SOLUTION:**

Revisit the legislation and introduce an amendment that allows a district to levy \$2.50 per \$1000 total assessed value **OR** \$2500 per pupil.

### PROTO-TYPICAL FUNDING

#### **Summary:**

Schools are funded based on what OSPI believes an average size school would need

#### **Problem:**

Small schools districts have the same needs as larger "prototypical" districts but are not provided funding to pay for these mandated needs.

#### **Effect:**

SJISD is funded for 45 minutes a day of school nursing yet we have 7 diabetic students and other health impaired students who require daily access to school nursing care.

SJISD is funded for 8 minutes a month of school psychology time yet are mandated to provide evaluations that require at a minimum 4 hours a day of psychology time...and the list continues with lack of funding for administrators, counselors, custodians, etc.

#### **SOLUTION:**

Create a prototypical funding model based on minimum standards of needs for all districts regardless of size.

### REGIONALIZATION FUNDING PERCENT

#### **Summary:**

Districts with higher costs of living receive additional funds to help retain and recruit staff to these higher cost areas. The regionalization additional amounts are by increments of 6%, 12%, 18% and 24%.

#### **Problem:**

There appears to be little rationale for how these increased percentages were created and assigned.

Island school districts receive a 12% regionalization factor but San Juan County is second only to King County for costs of living.

#### **Effect:**

San Juan County school districts have a great deal of difficulty recruiting and retaining staff due to our high cost of living.

#### **SOLUTION:**

Amend RCW 28A.150.412 and 2018c 266s 203 to reflect island cost of living in San Juan County.

### FULL FUNDING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SEBB

#### **Summary:**

Special Education services are mandated by both state and federal laws but the funding provided for these services does not begin to cover these mandated costs.

SEBB is a new mandated expenditure that provides full benefits for most employees but is funded for only half of the employees for whom we are required to provide benefits.

#### **Problem:**

Without full funding, districts must tap into basic education funding intended for general education thus reducing educational opportunities for general education students.

#### **Effect:**

SJISD was forced to spend over \$500,000 to support Special Education needs unfunded by either state or local funds. General Education programs were reduced to meet these unfunded mandates. Going forward, SJISD will have to tap into general education funds by approximately \$200,000 more than the funding provided.

#### **SOLUTION:**

Create legislation that fully funds Special Education and SEBB mandates.

*Presented by: Kari McVeigh, Superintendent of San Juan Island School District #149*

*June, 2019*