



RESOLUTION for Capital Gains Tax/Fully Fund Public Education 2019

WHEREAS the 2017 McCleary settlement state budget fix for public education is still inadequate, relies too heavily on regressive property tax, and arbitrarily caps school districts' local property tax levy capacity at too low a level to make up for inadequate state funding, failing to fund such basics as special education, libraries, nurses, counselors, and mandated health benefits for staff; and

WHEREAS Washington State PTA supports progressive funding sources that are sufficient, sustainable, and equitable, and do not cut services that support the whole child or rely on redistributing existing education funds¹, and members voted Closing Gaps for K-12 Education a Top Five Legislative Priority for 2019²; and

WHEREAS we are in alignment with numerous other grassroots advocacy organizations in WA in support of reforming our state's inequitable tax code to meet the needs of public school students and families, including [Washington Budget and Policy Center](#), Equity in Education Coalition, [All in for Washington](#), Children's Alliance, Washington's Paramount Duty; and

WHEREAS Seattle voters on Feb 5, 2019 overwhelmingly approved³ local operational and capital levies by 69% and 73% margins, respectively, demonstrating strong continuing public support for ample funding of public education in Seattle Public Schools, rather than claw backs of recently negotiated long overdue teacher salary increases, or other school budget cuts, including about 1,000 jobs to close the \$40M budget gap;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Seattle Council PTSA urges our state legislators to support legislation to remedy this situation immediately to prevent the unconscionable layoffs of school staff, drastic cuts to needed programs and services to students, including a District-estimated \$40M shortfall for Seattle Public Schools for Fall 2019, through measures such as:

¹ WSPTA Resolution 18.26 Levies and Local Effort Assistance; WSPTA Legislative Principle on Budget, Revenue and Funding – "The WSPTA shall identify and initiate education and action on public policy affecting tax policies that are fair, equitable, and provide stable, adequate revenues for public education and for programs that benefit children and youth. The association shall: Support equitable levy and local effort assistance (LEA) funding per student"

²<https://www.wastatepta.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Strategic-K-12-Investments-to-Close-Gaps-1-pager-FINAL.pdf>

³ <http://results.vote.wa.gov/results/20190212/king/>

1. Increase progressive revenue for public education by implementing a Capital Gains Tax and restructuring our state's regressive tax code that over-burdens low- and middle-income families
2. Lift the Levy Caps and allow districts to collect local voter-approved funds needed⁴
3. Increase the multiplier (dollar allocation) per student for Special Education funding to meet Federal guidelines and actual district costs
4. Re-evaluate the Prototypical School Model with allocations that realistically address actual needs for District staffing. A model that includes more for schools that serve communities of color, students living in poverty and homelessness, and includes staffing sufficient to meet the health needs (including mental health) of all students, thereby eliminating the need to supplement basic staff costs with local levy dollars.
5. Fund SEBB - increase funding to meet the requirements for school employees of paid sick and medical leave, and full benefits for part-time staff.

ADOPTED by Seattle Council PTSA at a regular open general membership meeting thereof, held **April 1, 2019**.

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Resolution prepared by: SCPTSA Communications and Outreach Chair Liza Rankin

⁴ [Read the context](#) for SCPTSA endorsement of the 2 Seattle Public Schools Levies