



Capital Region
ESD 113

2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

for the 44 public school districts
and one tribal compact school in Thurston, Mason,
Lewis, Grays Harbor, and Pacific counties

SEBB



The state's new **health insurance program** for school employees, known as School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB) Program, comes with increased, unsustainable costs to school districts.

RECOMMENDATION: Clarify that substitutes and coaches who work part-time are not benefit-eligible and eliminate school districts' required payments for employees who opt-out of coverage.

SPECIAL EDUCATION



Last year, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) identified about a \$350 million shortfall in special education funding. The 2019 Legislature adjusted the funding formula, which reduced that shortfall by \$155 million. However, school districts must continue to use **limited levy dollars** to cover the deficit.

RECOMMENDATION: Fully fund the cost of special education.

SAFETY



In 2019, the Legislature passed 2SHB 1216, designed to increase school safety and student well-being. To realize the full potential of that legislation, school districts need more **counselors, nurses, and safety personnel** to meet the needs of students and keep schools safe.

RECOMMENDATION: Fully fund the recommendations laid out in 2SHB 1216 to provide personnel to meet the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students.

EQUITABLE FUNDING



Our state's new **salary allocation model** does not take into account how much salaries *actually* cost school districts. The "experience factor," adopted in 2018 to address the problem, failed to help 36 out of the 44 districts in our region.

RECOMMENDATION: Expand "experience factor" eligibility, to further lessen inequities among school districts.

Our state's new **regionalization factor** implemented through EHB 2242 in 2017, increases state funding to "property-rich" districts, and have again increased the disparity between districts.

RECOMMENDATION: Maintain current district support and recalculate the regionalization factor to prevent a further widening of the funding gap between school districts.