



Keeping our Promise to All Children.

Why supporting NEWS is still critical post-*McCleary* ruling

In the *McCleary v. State* lawsuit, the supporters of an amply funded K-12 public education system won a landmark legal victory. Now, the Network for Excellence in Washington Schools needs your support to ensure that the Legislature heeds the State Supreme Court's ruling to fully fund K-12 schools by 2018. By renewing your support with a financial contribution or joining NEWS for the first time, your organization supports:

- Successful ongoing legal representation with the Washington State Supreme Court to hold the Legislature accountable for ample school funding;
- Activities to engage citizens across Washington through in-person presentations, electronic communications and the news media to build public support for the Legislature's response to the Court order
- Efforts to keep NEWS members informed about the progress of the case and improved funding; and
- Work to educate and maintain relationships with legislators who must implement *McCleary*.

The Supreme Court's decision to retain jurisdiction over the case gives public school supporters a remarkable opportunity – and a remarkable responsibility. NEWS is the only entity entrusted by the Supreme Court to vigilantly monitor and enforce compliance of *McCleary*. **Please support NEWS now.**

There is no specific requirement for the amount of support requested from organizations. Post-*McCleary*, we have asked school districts to consider a contribution equal to \$1 per student. Some districts and organizations have given more, others less. Membership organizations have typically donated between \$1,000 and \$5,000. We encourage each organization to consider its own unique financial circumstances and make a contribution that is as significant as possible to allow NEWS to vigorously continue this critical effort.

How we spend your financial contributions

Since the Supreme Court ruling was issued in January 2012, school districts and education organizations across the state have contributed \$812,355 to NEWS. Our funds are needed to cover the following activities through 2018:

Legal actions*

- Research, draft and file legal briefings in the Washington State Supreme Court to rebut the State's post-budget reports that seek a ruling from the Court that the State is fully complying with the Court's order to be making "steady progress" toward fully and amply funding K-12 public education by 2018. (The State files its reports within 60 days of the Governor's signing of any budget, and the Supreme Court's order requires NEWS' responses 30 days later.)
- Research, draft and file responses to requests from the Supreme Court for additional briefings and information.
- Enforcement actions or other legal proceedings to be determined based on the State's compliance or lack of compliance with the *McCleary* ruling

Ongoing activities

- Hold public meetings and present at other organizations' meetings to educate citizens about the *McCleary* case and the Supreme Court's mandates to the Legislature
- Write and distribute communications to NEWS members about this ongoing effort
- Prepare for and conduct general membership, Board of Trustees, and Executive Committee meetings
- Draft and distribute press releases and notices to media and arrange interviews with NEWS spokespeople relating to the State's lack of constitutional compliance and upcoming steps
- Write op-eds and press releases and manage communications with the media

Every-month activities

- Monitor legislative committee and task force meetings related to *McCleary* both during and outside of legislative sessions (NOTE: NEWS does not testify at hearings or lobby in any way)
- Keep the NEWS website up to date with information for members and the public
- Maintain and update financial and budget information
- Respond to emails and calls from NEWS members, the news media, parents and general public

NEWS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. If you have questions about making a contribution to NEWS, please contact:

Teresa Moore
Network for Excellence in Washington Schools
253-765-7043 (NEWS voice mail)
206-721-9540 (office of Moore Ink.)
news@waschoolexcellence.org

* The teachers and classified members of the Washington Education Association are funding the majority of ongoing legal expenses through a special assessment on their union dues.