

Dear Washington State Legislators,

Cascadia Elementary is a public school in North Seattle that serves students from several legislative districts – the 46th, 43rd, 36th, and 32nd. Our school district is facing painful cuts next year. Our PTA finds it necessary to fundraise significant money to pay for critical school staff, and we expect this need to go up next year.

Our state constitution says “It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders...” But as you know, there is an enormous gap between the cost of federally mandated special education, and the funding provided by the state to accomplish it – the Superintendent of SPS said recently that this gap for Seattle is around \$90,000,000. The legislature promised to fix this this year, and we need you to get it done, and fix it completely for next school year – not phased in over multiple years. This is a moral issue as well as a practical one – it greatly impacts the lives of many thousands of children, who need an appropriate education now. Children are our future and so this also greatly impacts the future of our state in myriad ways. Fixing the Special Education funding gap is the most important thing the legislature can do this year – please do it.

Theresa Glatstein, President, Jami Kimble, Communications Co-Director

On Behalf of the Cascadia Elementary School PTA Board of Directors