



Washington Education Association 2014 Legislative Goals

The 82,000 members of the Washington Education Association are proud to be the state's leading advocates for students and the education profession. We stand for union-led, student-centered change, and we believe all students deserve a quality public education. Here are WEA's goals for the 2014 legislative session:

Restore the COLA and Fully Fund Education

- Restore the voter-approved cost-of-living salary adjustments for teachers and other school employees
- Restore state-funded teacher professional development time
- Fully fund Washington's K-12 public schools, community and technical colleges, and four-year regional college and universities

Reduce Class Sizes and Increase Support Staff consistent with state law and Quality Education Council recommendations

- Reduce class sizes to 17 students in grades K-3 and 25 students in grades 4-12
- Fund additional teachers for students in high-poverty schools
- Increase funding for librarians, counselors, psychologists, school nurses and speech, occupational and physical therapists
- Increase funding for education support professionals (classified staff)

Trust and Empower Educators to Define Quality and Improve their Profession

- Ensure student assessments improve student learning in a meaningful way
- Ensure teacher and principal evaluations improve teaching in a meaningful way
- Provide beginning educators with mentors and other necessary support
- Support state policies that promote decision making at the point closest to the student
- Oppose top-down, state-driven, micro-management of teaching and learning
- Recognize educators are a powerful and positive force for excellence and equity in public education

Learn more about WEA's legislative goals — and get involved — at OurVoiceWashingtonEA.org.



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Restoring the educator COLA is the fair thing to do

- Washington educators are urging state House members from both parties to sponsor and sign onto the bill to restore cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for school employees. Restoring the COLA is a top priority for educators. This is urgent and can't wait any longer. We need firm commitments and support from our representatives.
- If the Legislature fails to restore the educator COLA this session, teachers, education support professionals, community and technical college faculty and technical college classified staff will go six consecutive years without a state-funded COLA. It isn't fair.
- Washington educators will have lost approximately 16 percent in buying power during that time.
- Washington teachers are the lowest-paid teachers in the five Pacific states.
- When the great recession hit, we understood the need to hold the line on the COLA. We did our part. With the economy improving, there is no reason public school employees should face a sixth year without a state-funded COLA. This issue affects both K-12 and higher education employees.
- Nearly 63 percent of Washington voters approved the COLA for K-12 educators, technical college employees and community college faculty members. Yet the Legislature has suspended it every year since 2008.
- Restoring the COLA next school year is approximately \$85 million in state funding out of a \$33 billion total state budget. It's about 1.3 percent next year, based on the Consumer Price Index. Restoring the COLA will boost local economies.
- We look forward to working with House and Senate to restore COLA funding this session. We expect the House to hear the bill in committee quickly and take action soon. Voters approved and supported COLAs for our education employees. It's time to restore the educator COLA and stop subsidizing education funding on the backs of education employees.

Go to www.OurVoiceWashingtonEA.org to learn more about the COLA and to take action!