

# LAST CHANCE to impact State education funding for this budget cycle!

BSD levies passed but that only covers about 22% of the BSD budget. Proposed cuts from the state will hurt and could be devastating. Take action to minimize cutting education funding this legislative session and continue to support BSF. **WE NEED YOU TO DO TWO THINGS!**

## #1. Send emails NOW! The legislative session is almost over.

The Senate budget cuts \$102.8 million from K-4 while the House budget cuts \$11 million. The House budget also allows local districts to use more of the levy money approved by voters.

- **SEND EMAILS** to your legislators and the governor via the WA State PTA website.
- **CUT AND PASTE** the following email addresses to send the same message to House and Senate leaders and committee chairs:  
[chopp.frank@leg.wa.gov](mailto:chopp.frank@leg.wa.gov) ; [brown.lisa@leg.wa.gov](mailto:brown.lisa@leg.wa.gov) ; [haigh.kathy@leg.wa.gov](mailto:haigh.kathy@leg.wa.gov) ;  
[sullivan.pat@leg.wa.gov](mailto:sullivan.pat@leg.wa.gov) ; [quall.dave@leg.wa.gov](mailto:quall.dave@leg.wa.gov) ; [probst.tim@leg.wa.gov](mailto:probst.tim@leg.wa.gov) ;  
[hunter.ross@leg.wa.gov](mailto:hunter.ross@leg.wa.gov) ; [linville.kelli@leg.wa.gov](mailto:linville.kelli@leg.wa.gov) ; [ericks.mark@leg.wa.gov](mailto:ericks.mark@leg.wa.gov) ;  
[mcauliffe.rosemary@leg.wa.gov](mailto:mcauliffe.rosemary@leg.wa.gov) ; [oemig.eric@leg.wa.gov](mailto:oemig.eric@leg.wa.gov) ; [prentice.margarita@leg.wa.gov](mailto:prentice.margarita@leg.wa.gov)
- BSD stands to lose \$5+million in state funding each year over the next two years.
- Quote from BSD website: "Since we are expecting a significant decline in the revenue we receive from the state, the Superintendent and School Board want your input to help plan district budget reductions for 2010-11." ***This is serious and it is going to be tough.***
- For more information about budgets and advocacy efforts, visit the WA State PTA website (<http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/>)

## #2. Donate to Bellevue Schools Foundation (BSF) - This funding is more important than ever!

- **Click here** to donate to BSF.
- **Click here** to register to attend the Spring for Schools Luncheon on May 27th.
- BSF provides funding in 4 key areas:
  - Academic Rigor -- includes curriculum development, curriculum web, incorporating latest brain research, utilizing technology, and Superintendent Dr. Cudeiro's Differentiated Learning Initiative.
  - Support for Students -- includes the VIBES volunteer program, bridging the achievement gap, AVID, etc.
  - Teaching Excellence -- National Board Certification for teachers and start up grants.
  - Enrichment & Innovation Grants - given to teachers for projects that offer enhanced learning opportunities.
- EVERY BSD CHILD benefits from BSF funding in ways that are possible only at the district level.
- Supports programs in all schools - including the middle and high schools your public school child(ren) will be attend

Your attention and time on these items will truly make a difference to YOUR children and those across the state over the next few years. Education is of utmost important regardless of the economic times. **Please take action and then forward to family and friends and encourage them to do the same.**

Thank you!

Susan Vandament, Legislative Rep  
Chinook Middle School and Bellevue High School  
[susanvandament@hotmail.com](mailto:susanvandament@hotmail.com)

## **Additional Information and Links**

### **Grassroots Connection**

#### **Update/Action Alert by Kim Howard, WA State PTA**

Take Action this Week! This is it...the final days of session. Use your voice now! See alert link below.

We encourage you to take action this week by sending your legislators and the Governor a message about budget priorities. Working out the details of both the budget and the revenue package necessary to support it will continue this week.

The House budget proposal is more favorable to K-12 education with regard to the K-4 classroom enhancement and something called the per pupil inflator. These are explained in more detail in the alert, but involve millions of dollars for districts. We encourage you to talk to your district finance officers about the impact the projected cuts would have in your budgeting process for next year. (Your district will know this information and may be concerned about other cuts as well.) Add a note expressing your personal concerns. Alerts don't work well without your personal note! If you don't have time to talk with your district, still include a personal note of concern about cuts and the need to amply fund public education. <http://capwiz.com/npta2/wa/home/>

Thank you for all of your advocacy efforts! Together, we can make a difference for the 1 million public school children of this state.

### **Revenue Package was heard in House Finance Committee Yesterday**

Yesterday the House Finance Committee held a hearing regarding their finance package proposal [HB 3191](#). Thank you to Novella Fraser, WSPTA Secretary, who came from Federal Way to Olympia to provide our testimony in support of this package, which if passed will provide approx. \$752 million in revenue to offset some of the proposed cuts. In the House Summary of the revenue package, which is linked below, you will see that there are a couple of additional things that they are doing to generate revenue to bring the total to \$858 million.

This is considered to be a modest package, because it only provides enough revenue to address about one-third of proposed cuts. Among other things, the bill applies the B&O tax to non-resident businesses that do substantial business in our state, including large out of state banks. It also broadens the sales tax base to include some things that were not included before; the items that were added are not basic needs, but include things such as candy and bottled water. This package is very similar to what the Governor proposed in her revenue package

and does not include a new general sales tax, which was part of the Senate package. To learn more about the bill without reading the lengthy bill text, see [Summary](#) provided by the House.

Testimony in support came from health and education advocates, who view additional dollars as essential to maintaining critical services. Both sectors sustained cuts last year and will take additional cuts this year. Right now it is estimated that for every \$1 in new revenue resulting from this legislation, there will be \$4 in cuts to education or social services reflected in the budget.

Testimony in opposition generally came from the businesses most affected by these tax changes. For the most part they argued that jobs will be impacted, because they can not absorb or pass on increased costs.

There was also testimony given by the Washington Budget and Policy Center, which supported state spending during a recession, saying that its research shows that for every dollar in state spending, there is a \$1.41 return. They argued that the negative effect of increased taxes is less than the positive effect of increased state spending.

These are very difficult choices to make. Each legislator on the committee spoke before the final vote stressing that they are trying their best to do the right thing, though they may differ in what the right thing is. Some points: Rep. Conway who voted for it, praised the committee saying that this was the first time that the committee had done something about tax exemptions and loopholes. Rep. Orcutt, who voted against the bill, said that the problem is that there are a higher number of people needing state services. He also said that there are other ways to address these issues that have not been exhausted, but did not elaborate. Rep. Hunter, Chair of the Committee, said that after the all cuts budget last year, this year they are choosing to take a more balanced approach. Some obviously were still struggling with parts of the bill and indicated that although they were voting for moving the package forward, they would continue to work on it. Two minor amendments passed and the package was voted out of committee by a 6 to 3 vote.

Kim Howard  
Government Relations  
Washington State PTA  
2003 65th Ave. West  
Tacoma, WA 98466  
253-565-2153 office  
360-951-0174 cell  
[khoward@wastatepta.org](mailto:khoward@wastatepta.org)