Equal is not equitable

Seattle Public Schools is the largest K-12 school system in Washington state, serving nearly 52,000 students in 97 schools with a staff of 9,000, including about 3,100 teachers. Until the Legislature takes action to address school funding, the district has a projected deficit of $50 million for 2017-18.

McCleary requires an increase in school funding, but also presents an opportunity to change the way Washington allocates it. Just pouring more money into a system that distributes it inequitably could deepen the opportunity gap. Because high-poverty districts tend to employ less experienced teachers, the state formula actually directs money away from students with the greatest needs, and they don’t get what they need to catch up. Equity means leveling the playing field between districts – and schools within that district – rather than treating all students the same. Learn how Washington’s current education system hurts poor and high-needs schools at st.news/inequity.

Fully funding basic education and conducting racial imbalance analyses for several schools are among the Seattle School Board’s 2016-17 resolutions. Talk to your School Board about funneled more money to the schools in greatest need.

“Right now, we treat all students the same. But that sort of misses the fact that all kids do not start on a level playing field.”
— Neil Strege, Washington Roundtable

Key player

Sue Peters, Seattle School Board President
Peters leads the Seattle School Board, an elected body of seven directors who represent geographical districts in the city of Seattle. The School Board maintains fiduciary and legal responsibility for the district. It allocates money to schools, hires the superintendent, develops and balances a budget, and negotiates supplemental salaries for teachers. The School Board also represents the community. Learn more about the School Board, find your district and contact your director at bit.ly/SPSschoolboard.

What can you do?

Proposals are on the table. Tell your representatives to solve McCleary now.
http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/

Find your district and school board. Ask where the money goes and why.
http://k12.wa.us/maps/sdmainmap.aspx

Attend a school board meeting

Local action is the best way to create change. Advocate for your community.
https://www.seattleschools.org/directory