



March 30, 2021

Senator Rolfes and Representative Ormsby,

Thank you for your continued investment in students and our public schools through the state's operating budget. We are thankful for the supports and investments in both budget proposals. As you work toward a final budget, we respectfully ask for your consideration of these priorities from both the Senate and House budgets:

- **Enrollment Stabilization/Base Funding:** The Senate proposal provides \$192 million for a \$1,500 per pupil floor. This additional state funding would supplement the federal funds. This funding floor approach provides a base level of added funding for schools and helps those districts that receive little or no ESSER funds. Our hope is that this baseline amount provides enough funding for districts that lost enrollment and as a result will lose funding for all of those enrollment-based programs (LAP, TBIP, special ed, etc.). We appreciate the House language from HB 1476 (enrollment stabilization) that corrects future funding formula problems related to pandemic enrollment numbers. As you reach a compromise, please allow districts discretion on how best to meet student needs using this one-time funding. **We prefer the Senate approach of providing a base level of state funding to support all school districts and the House language fixing future year funding formulas.**
- **Transportation Stabilization Funding:** The Senate provides \$356 million for transportation, subject to the passage of SB 5128. This investment in state funds allows school districts to maintain a viable transportation system as we work to get all of our students back to in-person learning. There were many concerns about SB 5128 as it passed off the Senate floor and some of those issues are reflected in the restrictions identified in the budget. We would like to work with you to address the concerns with SB 5128 and the budget language to ensure transportation stabilization dollars are available for districts that need it. **Please consider funding at the Senate level and clarifying the implementation process for OSPI to distribute funds.**
- **Learning Recovery and Acceleration Support:** The House provides \$143 million of federal funds for OSPI grants to address learning loss and for summer and after school programs. The House budget also provides \$72 million is provided for grants from OSPI to community-based organizations, dual language programs, balanced calendars, CTE, and other items. **The House proposal provides the most flexibility and allows OSPI to prioritize highest priority needs. We support this approach.**

Thank you for your consideration,

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