



POLICY CORNER

Community Budget Gap

Meetings sponsored by Seattle Public Schools. Reprinted from [Dr. Nyland's Letter to Families Regarding 2017-18 Potential Budget Deficit](#), posted 12/01/2016.

- **Tues., Dec. 13, 6:30 - 8 p.m.**
Ballard High School
1418 NW 65th St.
- **Thurs., Dec. 15, 6:30 - 8 p.m.**
South Shore PreK-8 School
4800 S Henderson St.
- **Tues., Jan. 3, 6:30 - 8 p.m.**
Franklin High School
3013 S Mt Baker Blvd.

Interpretation will be available. To request interpretation please contact with your requested needs.

Additional details regarding the budget deficit, budget development timeline, and actions you can take are posted on our budget webpage.

If you have specific questions or concerns about the budget shortfall please email the Budget Office at budget@seattleschools.org.”

Fiscal Cliff Budget Shortfall —Who To Contact

Below are the names and phone info for those that represent Gatewood in the Washington State government.

Legislative District Number 34:

- Sen. Sharon Nelson—206-435-7032
- Rep. Eileen Cody—206-389-2590
- Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon—206-435-7034

Governor's Office:

Gov. Jay Inslee—360-902-4111

POLICY CORNER is a new addition to the Gatewood PTA Newsletter designed to inform readers of current Advocacy Needs. As Members of the Washington State PTA (WSPTA), Gatewood PTA advocates the adopted legislative priorities and other supported issues of the WSPTA, reviewable [HERE](#). Gatewood PTA advocates contacting State Representatives, Senators, and the Governor's Office to express your support for Fully Funding Education.

Despite the WA State Supreme Court's ruling in 2012 (McCleary v. State), the WA State Legislature has failed to meet its obligation to fully fund education. Further, the WA State Legislature has restricted the amount of money that can be collected locally via levies. The result is a \$74M shortfall, aka 'Levy Cliff'.

Sample Discussion Points when talking to State Government Representatives*:

- I urge you to take two actions as soon as the 2017 legislative session convenes:
 - (1) fully fund public education with new progressive revenue and
 - (2) delay the levy cliff to January 1, 2019.
- The levy cliff means that many school districts' budgets will be reduced by millions of dollars from January 1, 2018 until September 1, 2018.
- The levy cliff threatens about \$500 million per year in K-12 funding in Washington's 295 school districts. In many districts, these cuts will likely require numerous educator and staff layoffs.
- The levy cliff is already affecting school districts because districts budget based on the school year, and not on the calendar year. Districts are already preparing their 2017/18 school year budgets.

Sample Discussion Point when talking to the State Governor's Office*:

- Please put pressure on the Legislature to have a one-day special session to extend the levy deadline from 2017 to 2018. Until the Legislature completes McCleary work, districts should not suffer even more from a lack of fully funded schools.

*Reprinted from SaveSeattleSchools.blogspot.com

Gatewood PTA General Meeting

▶ **SAVE THE DATE** ◀

Monday, January 9, 2017

Special Guest Speaker to Discuss Levy Cliff