



## MISSION

In partnership with parents and community, we will provide a comprehensive educational experience that is rigorous, individualized and enables students to contribute to a changing and diverse world.

## VISION

We will be an outstanding school district in which all students exhibit high standards of achievement and critical thinking skills, and are socially responsible, contributing members of our society.



Every Student. Every Day.  
**Tacoma**  
Public Schools

## GOALS

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

All students will perform at or above grade level, and we will eliminate disparities among all groups of students.

### PARTNERSHIPS

We will fully engage our parents, community and staff in the education of our children.

### EARLY LEARNING

We will focus on early assessment and intervention at the Pre-K through third grade levels to ensure early academic success.

### SAFETY

All schools will create and maintain safe learning environments that promote excellent academic achievement.

Tacoma Public Schools

#### School Board Members

CATHERINE USHKA-HALL, PRESIDENT  
DEBBIE WINSKILL, VICE PRESIDENT  
KURT MILLER  
KAREN VIALLE  
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# 2011-2012 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

# 2011-2012 Legislative Agenda

TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- No mid-year cuts.
- Do no harm.
- Equitable reductions that affect the poorest and wealthiest districts equally.
- Protect resources for the most vulnerable students.
- No unfunded mandates.
- Do not force districts to negotiate legislative cuts in staff salaries or class size funding on the local level. If the legislature makes cuts in those areas, it should declare an emergency so local labor agreements are automatically reopened.



The Governor's preliminary recommendations for cuts to K-12 funding would mean an estimated loss of \$12 million a year for Tacoma Public Schools. This cut on top of cuts over the past two years would have a devastating effect on the school system.

## Legislative Priority Issues

### 1. LEVY EQUALIZATION ASSISTANCE (LEA) \$4.5 MILLION IMPACT

Continue LEA. LEA provides a level-playing field for education funding for "property poor" districts – those district that have below average assessed valuation. Because property poor districts such as Tacoma also have some of the most diverse and low-income families, eliminating LEA harms the districts' ability to provide the extra resources those populations demand. The loss of LEA would equal a \$4.5 million budget cut.

### 2. ALL DAY KINDERGARTEN \$3.9 MILLION IMPACT

Continue state funding for All Day Kindergarten in the highest poverty schools. The loss of funding for All Day Kindergarten would equal a \$3.9 million cut. Helping chil-

dren to achieve grade-level learning by third grade has proven to be the most valuable benchmark for future success, and All Day Kindergarten has clearly and statistically made the most significant difference in student achievement by that third-grade mark.

### 3. INSTRUCTIONAL TIME/ SCHOOL YEAR

Maintain instructional time – if the school year must be reduced – to maintain equity.

### 4. INNOVATION SCHOOLS

Support Legislative action to provide school districts with greater latitude in the establishment and operation of specialty, innovative public schools tailored to the unique needs of students in each district.

### 5. AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE

Retain the current funding formula for per-student funding. Shifting the state formula to one based on how many students attend school on an average day creates a costly new, unfunded data-keeping nightmare for districts and penalizes poorer districts with challenged, highly mobile populations. Operating a school requires a host of fixed costs in facilities, transportation and staff that a district cannot alter if student attendance changes from day to day or week to week.

### 6. REVENUE CREATION

The Board of Directors for Tacoma Public Schools supports the creation of revenue to avoid an all-cuts budget to K-12 education.



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GOOD WORK ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS, AND ESPECIALLY THE STUDENTS OF TACOMA. WE UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEXITY OF ALL THE ISSUES SO WE OFFER OUR OPINION AND EXPERTISE ON THE EDUCATION ISSUES BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE. PLEASE CONTACT US FREELY.