



The Washington Coalition For Gifted Education

Funding the Highly Capable Program as Part of Basic Education

“...any program the legislature establishes must be fully and sufficiently funded from regular and dependable State, not local revenue sources.”

“...the State may not constitutionally rely on local levies to pay for basic education generally.”

“...the State has not shown how it will achieve full funding of all elements of basic education by 2018.” [Emphasis added.]

http://www.courts.wa.gov/content/publicUpload/Supreme%20Court%20News/843627_081315McClearyorder.pdf



Highly Capable Programs (HCP) were established in 1985 as a voluntary categorical program and became a part of basic education in ESHB 2261.

Sec. 104(1) The program established under this section shall be the minimum instructional program of basic education offered by school districts.

Sec. 104(3) The instructional program of basic education provided by each school district shall include: (g) Programs for highly capable students under RCW 28A.185.010 through 28A.185.030.

Sec. 708(1) The legislature finds that, for highly capable students, access to accelerated learning and enhanced instruction is access to a basic education.

“Even assuming the funding formulas represented the actual costs of the basic education program when the legislature adopted them...the same is simply not true today.”

McCleary, et ux., et al. v. State of Washington, 84362-7, January 25, 2012, page 60

State documents show that the program was underfunded long before it became part of basic education. Districts covered the difference between actual costs and state funding with local funds. The underfunding continued when the formula was cross walked into EHB 2776. See chart on page 2. The legislature continues to use that formula in its budget appropriations.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction estimates that full state funding of HCP should cost about \$66,348,000 for 2015-2016. The legislature appropriated \$10,002,000.

We urge the legislature to fully fund the Highly Capable Program in line with the estimates of the SPI in the plan they are required to produce to meet the court order of August 13, 2015, and that they reach full funding by the 2018-2019 school year. You cannot demand students and districts meet certain standards

and then purposely stay blind to what it costs to meet those standards. As SPI Dorn states in his July 28, 2015, brief to the court, “‘the legislature may not eliminate an offering from the basic education program for reasons unrelated to educational policy.’ This rationale applies equally to the Legislature’s refusal to adequately fund a program, which is a back handed way of eliminating it.”

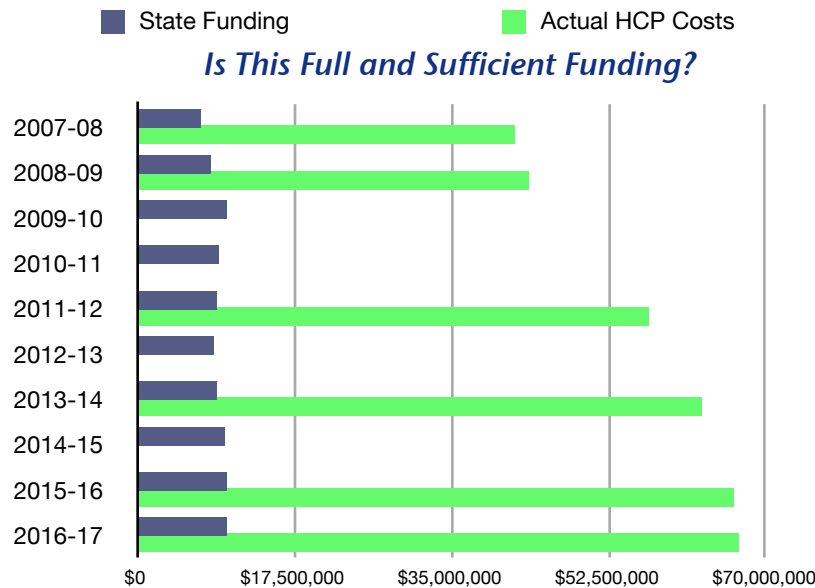


Chart Data
 From Public State Documents

Year	State Funding*	Actual HCP Costs*	State %
2007-08	\$7,167,000	\$41,989,767	17.10%
2008-09	\$8,367,000	\$43,471,005	19.20%
2009-10	\$9,967,000		
2010-11	\$9,058,000		
2011-12	\$8,926,000	\$56,817,841	15.90%
2012-13	\$8,745,000		
2013-14	\$9,009,000	\$62,912,067	15.20%
2014-15	\$9,677,000		
2015-16	\$10,001,000	\$66,348,935	15.10%
2016-17	\$10,189,000	\$67,106,470	15.10%

* 2013-14 forward is appropriation from budget; prior years from fiscal records

*2015-16 forward is OSPI estimate; no data available for cells left vacant