

TO OUR LEGISLATORS:

Thank You

The Yakima School District board of directors wants to THANK the members of our legislative delegation for their support of public education. As a result of support at the legislative level, the students in the Yakima School District have benefitted significantly. Examples of the benefits to our students include, but are not limited to, the following:

✓ **SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION AWARD**

OSPI awarded the following schools in 2016:

- Barge Lincoln Elementary
- Discovery Lab (K-5 grades)
- Robertson Elementary

This is the second year in a row that all three of these schools have earned this recognition.

✓ **On-Time Graduation Rates**

76.2%

Davis HS has a 4 year graduation rate of 76.2% and a 5 year graduation rate of **90.8%**

83.6%

Eisenhower HS has a 4 year graduation rate of 83.6% and a 5 year graduation rate of **91.2%**

✓ **High School Construction**

Recent construction and remodels provide quality high schools for Yakima.

- A.C. Davis High School
- Eisenhower High School
- Stanton Academy

✓ **International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, College-in-the-High School, & Running Start**

College-bound students have access to four programs designed to allow the student to earn college credit while in high school.

✓ **Full-Day Kindergarten**

Each of the school district's thirteen elementary schools provides all-day, every-day kindergarten.

✓ **Non-Traditional Opportunities**

The Yakima School District provides a variety of non-traditional learning opportunities for its students, including, but not limited to: Stanton Academy, Yakima Online, Open Doors, and Contract Education.

Reach Higher Together!



2017 Legislative Priorities

Yakima School District No. 7

As the 2017 Legislative Session nears, the members of the board of directors of the Yakima School District believe that our students will directly benefit from the following priorities:

- Attract and Retain Quality Staff
- Continued Support for Levy Equalization (Local Effort Assistance)
- K-3 Class Size Reduction: Additional Space and Additional Teachers
- Special Education

Attract and Retain Quality Staff

The problem of teacher shortages continues to plague our school district. Possible solutions include:

- 1.0 Incentivize teachers to work in high-poverty school districts, such as Yakima SD:
 - 1.1 Loan Forgiveness in high-poverty school districts.
 - 1.2 Salary differential for teachers serving in high poverty school districts.
 - 1.3 Allowing Retire/Rehire in high poverty school districts.
 - 1.4 Tuition-reimbursement for each of the first four years of teaching in a high poverty school district.
- 2.0 Reciprocity agreements with all states.
- 3.0 Yakima School District-specific certification for out-of-state student teachers who successfully complete their student teaching in the Yakima SD.



Continued Support for Levy Equalization (Local Effort Assistance)

Local Effort Assistance, otherwise known as Levy Equalization, is designed to reduce the disparity in revenues that can be generated locally between school districts with a rich property tax base and those, like the Yakima School District, in high-poverty areas that have a significantly poorer tax base. The use of LEA funds intends to equalize access to learning opportunities for all students. Any reduction in LEA funds only serves to widen the gap between the 'haves' and the 'have nots.' Levy reform must maintain current district funding and mitigate differences in local taxing capacity. According to the OSPI website, the Levy Cliff will reduce Yakima School District LEA funds in 2018 by \$4.155M and in 2019 by \$4.216M.

K-3 Class Size Reduction: Additional Space and Additional Teachers

To further reduce class size, additional classroom space is required. Because we have no additional classroom space, during the 2016-17 school year, we are



piloting one Kindergarten class and one First Grade class in which we have co-teachers. That is, at each of those grade levels we have two teachers in one classroom with a class size in the mid-thirties.

Whether it's co-teaching or additional classrooms, additional teachers are needed. Unfortunately, as noted earlier, our school district, region, and state are experiencing a significant shortage in teachers.

Special Education

The federal and state requirements for students being served in special education have not diminished. The state and federal funds allocated to specifically serve the needs of these students, however, do not meet the needs of those students

YAKIMA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Martha Rice, President
- Raymond Navarro, Jr., Vice President
- John Vornbrock
- Don Davis, Jr.
- Graciela Villanueva
- Dr. Jack Irion, Superintendent

