

## Restoring the Commitment to Public Education

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3 **WHEREAS** Washington's Public schools are under funded, yet our academic standards  
4 are among the highest in the nation. Article IX of the Washington State Constitution  
5 makes public education the state's "paramount duty"; It's time to take the lead and  
6 ensure that our public schools receive the funding they need to educate all children;

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8 **WHEREAS**, Washington's public schools are 46<sup>th</sup> in class size out of 50 states and  
9 Washington D.C.; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, Washington's public schools are 42<sup>nd</sup> in education spending per student,  
12 adjusted for regional cost differences; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, Washington's public schools have \$2 billion less to spend because funding  
15 hasn't kept pace. Twenty-five years ago, Washington spent 50.4 percent of the state  
16 operating budget on K-12 schools; now we spend just 42.1 percent; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, Washington's public schools are spending \$548 less per student compared  
19 to 1992; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, Washington's public schools are dead last in teacher pay among the five  
22 West Coast states; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, Washington's public schools, regardless of location or population, must  
25 have the resources to allow every child the opportunity to succeed;

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27 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Washington State Democratic Party require  
28 our elected leaders to restore Washington's commitment to quality education by  
29 increasing funding for public schools so that all children receive the well-rounded  
30 education they need to compete for good jobs in the global high-tech economy.

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33 Submitted by the 2006 Clallam County Democratic Convention to the Washington State  
34 Democratic Party for consideration at its June 3, 2006 convention in Yakima (Date  
35 Submitted 04/04/2006)

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37 The Washington State Democratic Party at its State Convention on June 3, 2006 in  
38 Yakima referred this resolution to the WSDCC Resolutions Committee for review at its  
39 September 9 - 10, 2006 meeting in Ellensburg.

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41 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee amended this resolution and recommended a  
42 "Pass" at its September 10, 2006 meeting in Ellensburg. The resolution will be  
43 forwarded to the WSDCC at its next meeting on September 29 - 30, 2006 in Tacoma.  
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- 1 The WSDCC passed this resolution as amended at its September 30, 2006 meeting in
- 2 Tacoma.