

January 22, 2018

Greetings-

Attached is a Follow the Money policy brief commissioned by the Community Center for Education Results on behalf of the Road Map Project. The brief was developed by the consulting firm 3Si.

The brief analyzes some of the major aspects of House Bill (HB) 2242, the McCleary "fix" legislation signed into law in July 2017. We hope you can use it in your K-12 education advocacy work.

The brief posits that the "paramount duty" to fund basic public education in our state is not yet accomplished. More work remains to fully fund basic education costs and to do so equitably and effectively. The legacy of McCleary should be to improve educational attainment, especially for students of color and students in poverty, not just increase state investment levels.

The brief analyzes some of the combined effects of the many changes that were made in HB 2242 and a deeper analysis is urgently needed. There appear to be many unintended consequences that should be corrected soon before they are fully implemented and become even harder to revise. Our education system was supposed to have been changed in the direction of equity, and though that is the right intent some of the actual impacts appear otherwise.

It is essential that the legislature reject any proposals that call for a weakening of the transparency and accountability provisions, key aspects of HB 2242. The state and districts must implement these critical provisions with fidelity. We must once and for all end the overreliance on local district levies to pay for basic education costs and we have to let parents and communities know what money their districts receive and how the dollars are spent.

The next phase of Follow the Money will be focused locally. We will be examining the dollars that the state is investing in the seven Road Map Project region school districts. We want to see investments made where needs are greatest. We see the need for heightened investment in best practices and system improvements that will help close opportunity gaps to improve outcomes for students. We will be "following the money" from this perspective and welcome your active involvement.

Sincerely,



Mary Jean Ryan
Executive Director
Community Center for Education Results