



# 61st Washington State Legislature The Plan for 2010: Tell Your Story

## Superintendents! Come to Olympia During the 2010 Legislative Session and “Tell Your Story”.

This will be the most difficult legislative session in decades. The state has a cumulative \$13 billion deficit. \$2.6 billion in lost revenue must be accounted for in the 2010 Supplemental Budget in order to balance the 2009–11 Biennial Budget.

As budget cuts are discussed, who can tell legislators how districts have been and will be affected? Who manages and leads the whole district? Superintendents!

Legislators need to hear your district’s “story”. They need to hear:

What you’ve been doing to improve your classrooms, schools, districts, and student learning.

What you’ve had to do to adjust to budget reductions. Higher class sizes; loss of: staffing positions, professional development enrichment programs, student/family support services; and problems just keeping the lights on and the buses moving, ending up in binding conditions, etc. and what you will have to do when the stimulus dollars disappear and there are even more budget cuts. See OSPI’s School District Budget Impacts 2011, 12/2, page 6 at [www.wasa-oly.org/QECUpdate1209](http://www.wasa-oly.org/QECUpdate1209).

That they need to seriously consider new state revenue options. Go to Funding Formula Technical Working Group, Quality Education Council, December 1, 2009, Final Report, Appendix 12, page 7 at <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/k12funding/> and Economic Opportunity Institute at [www.eoionline.org](http://www.eoionline.org).

Our goal is to have every single legislator hear “the story” from the experts. They need to hear what is happening in the 295 school districts across the state.

Come to Olympia during the 2010 session-weekdays January 11 through March 11.

### BE PREPARED:

- Call or email to make an appointment. During session, this is usually 15-30 minutes. Legislator’s phone numbers and emails can be found at [www.wasa-oly.org/09sessionguide](http://www.wasa-oly.org/09sessionguide).
- Allow for parking challenges. For more information go to [www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/visitingthelegislature.aspx](http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/visitingthelegislature.aspx).
- Legislators are busy and sometimes get caught up in last minute emergency meetings. They often rely on their legislative assistants to meet with visitors if necessary.
- Leave a one page summary of what you came to say.
- Let them know how they can contact you when they have questions about the affects proposed budgets and bills will have on your school district.
- Bring your board president and let Barbara (800-859-9272; [bmertens@wasa-oly.org](mailto:bmertens@wasa-oly.org)) and Dan (360-252-3010; [d.steele@wssda.org](mailto:d.steele@wssda.org)) know you’re coming.
- Check out TWIO (This Week in Olympia), [www.wasa-oly.org](http://www.wasa-oly.org) to see which committees are meeting when you come to Olympia so you can sit in on them and even testify if the opportunity arises.

If you can’t come to Olympia, arrange for a meeting by phone. If all else fails, mail or email your one page summary with your contact information.

Email your one page summary to Barbara ([bmertens@wasa-oly.org](mailto:bmertens@wasa-oly.org)). A running tally of legislators who have been visited/contacted will be provided each week in TWIO.

Our goal is 100%