

WFIS eMemo

February 2011

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STATE BUDGET SHORTFALL LOOMS OVER THE 2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

It is certainly no surprise to anyone at this point that our state's financial condition is a potential crisis of epic proportions. Yet, our State Legislature is soldiering on to find as many ways as possible to streamline governmental operations, cut unnecessary services, and eliminate potentially wasteful programs. While there are some statutory constitutional mandates that cannot be cut, many lawmakers are looking at ways to mitigate their impact on our state's bottom line.

Both House and Senate Education Committees in their various iterations, are looking at ways to re-evaluate teacher compensation, retirement programs as well as educational programming changes at all levels, from Early Childhood Education to Higher Education. Governor Gregoire has also introduced legislation to eliminate the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction as a voter elected office to become a Governor appointment as well as a Cabinet position. If this measure is approved by both Houses of the Legislature, then it will go to the voters to decide, because it would require a change in our State's Constitution. Predicated on the voters' approval, she is also proposing a move to consolidate the Early Learning Department, K-12 and Higher Ed into one Department of Education overseen by her appointed Director. This would certainly be a significant change to the future of educational policy and practice in Washington. WFIS will be monitoring the movement of these pieces of legislation as they move through the process to ensure that private schools and their current representation and relationship to these entities will not be negatively impacted.

WFIS has already been present in testifying to proposed legislation. HB 1364/SB 5269 were heard in both House's Early Education committees this week. WFIS Director, Judy Jennings, testified in support of an increase to child subsidies for all early learning providers. While it is difficult to predict it will pass, it was important for all of our schools to underscore the need for support of the policy contained within the bill. WFIS also testified in support of maintaining the confidentiality of all underage children in the exchange of records amongst early learning providers and governmental agencies.

WFIS has worked all year in researching issues, speaking to constituency



www.secuwa.org

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groups, updating information and meeting with key individuals to prepare for this Legislative Session. Even though, in comparison with the 2010 legislature, there are significantly fewer proposed pieces of legislation being introduced, our role in advocating for the interests of private schools is even more crucial with the potential for sweeping governmental change looms large. Working with other organizations that reflect our interests in the private-independent schools sector, WFIS will continue to monitor, support and speak out on behalf of our membership.

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WHAT CAN YOU DO?

The Washington Federation of Independent Schools is a membership driven, grassroots organization. In order to be effective as that type of entity, WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION. Here's how you can help:

- Make calls to your local legislators, both in the legislative district where your school(s) reside and in the district where you live. If you do not know what those are, we can provide you with that information.
- Write to your legislators. When we send out an alert, we will include their email addresses with the request for action.
- Come to the capitol and attend or volunteer to testify at a hearing on a bill that could impact you. This is powerful to legislators, especially if you have a human interest story to illustrate your position.
- Let us know if you or any of your constituents are close friends with any legislators, either state or federal. These kinds of connections are called "Grass tops" and can also be a strong source of support for getting needed access to legislators on issues.

In a recent National Webinar of State CAPE (Council for American Private Education) State Executives attended by WFIS Executive Director, Judy Jennings, a discussion of common elements to a private school message, yielded the following summary:

Stress the importance and value of private schools to our country

- They educate citizens, including many prominent leaders
- They save taxpayers over \$ 48 Billion dollars annually (In Washington State, over \$800 Million annually)
- They contribute to the economy and employ many individuals
- They provide parents with excellent options

The Heritage Foundation

WFIS 2011
Calendar:

January 10,
2011

Legislative
Session Begins

February 10,
2011

Winter Dinner
and Best of
Washington
Awards

February 11,
2011

Seattle Public
Schools Federal
Programs
Workshop

April 14, 2011
WFIS Board
Meeting

June 2011
Statewide
Private Schools
Conference

October 21,
2011
WFIS/PSESD

- They educate the whole child, including the spiritual side
- They produce well-educated citizens for less money

Rational for equitable treatment in legislation

- Fundamental Fairness
- Parents pay twice for their child's education
- Private schools save state money and secures more productivity from educational spending
- They level the economic playing field
- They are a great investment in the education of citizens
- When private schools close or are under-enrolled, it is a loss to the neighborhood or community and an added burden to taxpayers.

These elements are always important to use as background information in advocating with your legislators around any given issue. Thank you on behalf of WFIS for your continued participation in our legislative advocacy efforts. We exist to serve the private schools community.

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WFIS Winter Dinner

Thursday, February 10, 2011, 6:00 pm
The Liberty Theater, Puyallup, Washington

Guest Speaker for the evening

Maureen Dowling, Ed. D.

**Director of Non-public Education
U. S. Department of Education**

\$65.00 per person

*For further information and reservations please contact
Jan Morrison at jmorrison@wfis.org or 253.912.9347*

Don't forget to register for this FREE workshop!

Seattle School District will be hosting Maureen Dowling, Director of the Office of Non-public Education (ONPE), at the US Dept of Ed, in WA DC, for a workshop on Feb 11, 2011, 9:00 AM to Noon, at Puget Sound ESD in Renton, WA.



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Washington
Federation of
Independent
Schools
P. O. Box 449
DuPont, WA
98327
253.912.WFIS(93
47)

www.WFIS.org

Judy Jennings
Executive
Director
jjennings@wfis.org

Jan L. Morrison
Assistant to the
Director

The workshop will cover such things as:

- Role of the ONPE
- Federal Education Services available under ESEA
- Promising Practices
- Other USDE programs
- Questions and Answers

The workshop is for both public and private school staff interested in attending. It is your opportunity to ask questions, and to hear any updates (if available) to NCLB reauthorization and how it might affect private schools.

There is no cost for this training, but space is limited.
Please email kngy@seattleschools.org to reserve your spot.

If you have questions please contact Barbara Quick, Private Schools Coordinator, Seattle Public Schools at bequick@seattleschools.org

Barbara Quick, Private School Coordinator
Seattle Public Schools
P. O. Box 34165
Seattle, WA 98124-1165
bequick@seattleschools.org
Phone: (206) 252-0829
FAX 206-252-0016

Bonnie Campbell Hill Washington State Literacy Teacher Leader Award

Through the Bonnie Campbell Hill Washington State Literacy Teacher Leader Award, the Washington Organization for Reading Development (WORD) will honor two outstanding teacher leaders each year. These may include classroom teachers, literacy coaches, or teacher educators dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of reading and writing in real world contexts in grades K - 8. The US \$2,500 grant for each teacher leader is

jmorrison@wfis.org



The Washington Federation of Independent Schools (WFIS) is the umbrella organization for private education in Washington State. With seventy percent of the independent student population enrolled in member schools, WFIS is the only statewide vehicle for regular communication and strategic development between the many different constituencies. WFIS schools are affiliates of the Catholic dioceses in the state; the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI); the Christian Schools International (CSI); Lutheran Schools; Montessori schools; the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools (PNAIS); the Seventh-day Adventist Schools (SDA); and

intended to be used for professional development (not for materials, except professional books for a book study). The award is supported by Bonnie Campbell Hill and her family and colleagues. Application information is available at www.bonniecampbellhill.com or <http://www.wordreading.org/Bonnie%20Campbell%20Hill%20State%20Literacy%20Award.doc>.

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Washington State Department of Health

2011 ZOONOTIC & VECTOR-BORNE DISEASE WORKSHOP

Friday, March 11

Labor and Industries Auditorium

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Tumwater

Tuesday, March 15

Big Bend Community College

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Moses Lake

Special Note

One of the goals of this workshop is to share the recently adopted state zoonotic disease rules. These rules go into effect January 1, 2012. Please attend to see how the rule changes will affect you and your role in protecting public health.

Registration and More Information

Registration and agenda will be available in February. Please check our [website](#) for more information.

Contact the Zoonotic Disease Program at zd@doh.wa.gov with your questions.

Public Health - Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Washington

The deadline for the 2011 **Colonial Dames of Washington Program Improvement Grants** applications is quickly approaching. The following grant amounts are available to you and your support personnel to enhance your programs:

- Up to \$1,000 contribution for continuing education relating to American history.
- Up to \$1,000 contribution for curriculum development.
- Up to \$1,000 contribution for travel and tuition to attend educational seminars relating to American history.

numerous other religious and independent institutions, including the Waldorf Schools, Hutterian Brethren, and those institutions with sponsorship within the Jewish and Islamic communities. The WFIS Board of Directors consists of eighteen school heads representing the major constituencies chosen regionally by their respective bodies. WFIS is networked with similar organizations in other states through the Council for American Private Education (CAPE).

- Up to \$1,000 contribution for teacher enrichment project/program.

Applications must be in by March 4th. Don't delay. Please log on to www.coldameswa.net to access the application and instructions.

If you have questions regarding this application you may e-mail Dorothy Kehres dpkehres@comcast.net, or any one of the contacts at our website.

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EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection Solicitation for Grant Proposals to Address Children's Environmental Health

EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection is pleased to announce the release of a solicitation for grant proposals to address children's environmental health in underserved communities by building capacity for these communities to reduce environmental exposures in child-occupied settings (e.g. homes, schools and child care centers). Funds available for award are expected to total approximately \$1.5 million, and EPA intends to award approximately 15-20 awards, each for an amount not to exceed \$100,000. The due date for initial proposals is February 18, 2011.

Assistance under this competition is available to:

States or state agencies,
territories,
city or township governments,
county governments,
the District of Columbia,
federally recognized American Indian Tribes,
possessions of the U.S.,
public and private universities and colleges,
hospitals,
laboratories,
other public or private nonprofit institutions,
and 501(c)(3) organizations.

For complete information regarding this Request for Initial Proposals, see: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/grants.htm>.

The Professional Photographers of Washington is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the **2011 Student Photographer of the Year Award**, which is open to all high school seniors in Washington State, graduating in the year 2011. One Student will receive the \$2000 scholarship grant, which will be used to further the applicant's study in the photographic arts.

A panel of professional photographers who are members of the Professional Photographers of Washington will select the finalists. The Student Photographer of the Year will be chosen based upon photographic and scholastic studies, and the student's wish to continue their studies in the photographic arts.

The Application postmarked deadline is April 1st, 2011 and the winner will be announced in June of 2011. For more information or to receive an application, contact Anita Weston 425-776-4426. Applications, information, and past Student Finalists are also available online at <http://www.ppw.org>.

The Professional Photographers of Washington was founded in 1952, "To create, foster and promote the exchange of thoughts and ideas freely, among photographers, so as to advance the art and profession of photography" and is an affiliate organization of the Professional Photographers of America.