



## Rural Education Center - 2015 Legislative Platform

Established in 1987, the Rural Education Center is a statewide cooperative of small and rural school districts committed to achieving the highest quality of learning on behalf of children in our schools. REC is committed to provide support services to small and/or rural school districts in the State of Washington and to assist them in carrying out their individual district missions.

### We request that the 2015 Washington State Legislature commit to the following:

- ◆ Support the continued implementation of the new basic education finance system as adopted in ESHB 2261 (2009) and maintain the funding phase-in schedule as adopted in SHB 2776 (2010), ensuring the new system will be completely implemented - with full and equitable funding - by 2018.
- ◆ Maintain local effort assistance (levy equalization) to protect students who reside in property poor districts.
- ◆ Acknowledge current innovations and cooperative efforts on the part of school districts and take actions that incentivize innovation and cooperation moving forward.
- ◆ Recognize and support the important contributions that small and rural school districts make to local communities and to local, and the State's, economies. The small investment that the State makes to provide a small school funding factor assures equitable opportunities for students that help prepare them for success at the postsecondary level and in the world of work.
- ◆ Provide full funding for any and all new requirements or mandates, including those from the State Board of Education. The legislative action to include Highly Capable into basic education without adequate funding is another example of an unfunded mandate.
- ◆ Recognize the importance of local control of school calendars and the needs of districts to provide some professional development during school days. Provide adequate state funding for staff development to restore and eventually increase Learning Improvement Days.
- ◆ Provide sufficient core funding to Educational Service Districts, and additional funding as needed, to assure the ESDs can provide continued support to school districts in key areas of current focus including TPEP, Common Core State Standards (math, science, STEM, and literacy), and data coaching.

**The Rural Education Center**  
Housed at Davenport School District  
801 7th Street Davenport, WA 99122  
Mr. Jim Kowalkowski, Director  
<http://ruraledcenter.wsu.edu/>

**In partnership with**



# About the Rural Education Center

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## Our Current Members

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### **School Districts:**

Almira, Benge, Boistfort, Bridgeport, Chimacum, Colfax, Colton, Columbia #206, Crescent, Creston, Curlew, Damman, Davenport, Dayton, Dixie, Easton, Eatonville, Entiat, Freeman, Glenwood, Great Northern, Harrington, Inchelium, Kahlotus, Kalama, Keller, Kittitas, La Center, Lacrosse, Lake Quinault, Lind, Mansfield, Manson, Mary Walker, McCleary, Nespelem, Oakesdale, Odessa, Onion Creek, Orient, Orondo, Palisades, Palouse, Pateros, Paterson, Pomeroy, Prescott, Queets-Clearwater, Quincy, Republic, Ritzville, Skykomish, Soap Lake, South Bend, St. John-Endicott, Starbuck, Stehekin, Steptoe, Tekoa, Tonasket, Touchet, Trout Lake, Valley, Waitsburg, Wilbur, & Wishram

### **Organizations:**

AWSP, ESD 105, ESD 112, ESD 113, ESD 123, NEWESD 101, North Central ESD, OSPI, WASA, WSSDA



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