



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

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June 17, 2013

Contingency Plan

Failure to Pass a State Budget by June 30, 2013

The Washington State School for the Blind (WSSB) provides year-round services to blind and visually impaired (BVI) children through a variety of programs and funding sources. The below plan outlines our attempt to keep minimal services operational should a budget not be passed by June 30, 2013:

Capital Funding:

- During the summer of 2013 (June–September 3, 2013) capital construction work needs to be completed in order to meet the educational needs of students in the Learning Independence for Today and Tomorrow (LIFTT) program. This program falls under the students Individualized Education Program (IEP) process and even though students would not be in the program during the summer, it would be imperative that work is completed by September 3 in order to fulfill IEP requirements for students entering the fall of 2013.
 - Preferred Option:
 - Funding for this work will be coming from re-appropriated capital funds that were provided WSSB during the 2011-2013 biennium with a request for re-appropriation into 2013-2015. The legislative capital committee has taken action showing these funds to be available for the 2013-2015 biennium. **Question:** Would we be able to expend re-appropriated funds to complete this project in order to meet students' needs as per the students IEP.
 - Second Option:
 - Delay construction work, which would cause major problems with student programs beginning September of 2013.
 - Potential additional cost for delay of project with current documents and contractual arrangements for work to be completed by the beginning of the fall school year.

Summer School Program:

- WSSB plans to operate a two week program (July 7–19, 2013) from private local funds that are not appropriated (approximately 20 staff).

Summer School Workshops:

- WSSB's entire summer is consumed by workshops that are designed to help teachers gain the skills necessary in working with students. These workshops are self-supporting with minimal funding from private local funds. No appropriated funding is used to operate these programs (approximately 8 staff).

Ogden Resource Center: Regional Library and Braille Production Center:

- Instructional Resource Center (IRC) for children is primarily funded through Federal Grant dollars that have already been received by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). WSSB draws from these funds throughout the school year.
 - Summer work is imperative due to the fact that all BVI students depend upon the IRC sourcing/producing/shipping materials to each school district throughout our state so students with visual disabilities has the appropriate materials for the start of the school year (IEP driven).
- Braille Access Center (Braille production) this program is a fee-for-service program and falls under “**Private Enterprise**” and is therefore self-supporting and not appropriated. We see this program continuing in order to meet student’s needs for the fall school year. Staff for IRC/BAC: 6.

General School Operations:

- Necessary staff:
 - Business and personnel operations are necessary to carry out payroll functions: 3 staff.
 - We intend to use private local funds to keep minimal services in operation until the legislature votes on a budget.
 - Note: Teachers are paid over 12 months on work they have already completed as of June 15. These payments need to continue in order for teachers to receive the pay they have already earned.
 - Custodial/Food Service/minimal maintenance–necessary to support summer workshops. Note: Plan to pay these staff out of private local funds (8).
 - Minimal Administrative staff:
 - Superintendent, Outreach Director (tied to workshops) and Admin. Assistant. Note: Plan to pay these staff out of non-appropriated private local funds (4 staff).
- Additional staff would be placed on temporary layoffs and/or required to take vacation time in early July, 2013. In the case of union employees, this would need to be in conjunction with each union’s CBA.

As a school/state agency with statewide responsibility for BVI children, our failure to have materials in place for students in the fall of 2013 will result in non-compliance issue under IDEA, violates the premise of the Doran Decision for special education students which defines “Basic Education for Special Education”. The above plan, with the use of fee for service dollars/private local funds and funding under the Private Enterprise System would allow us to continue to provide needed services on a temporary basis until state appropriated funds are once again available.

Failure to have appropriated funding in place for the beginning of the school year would result in the cancelation of school, non-compliance with both state and federal law including mandates as address in the McCleary decision in the Washington Supreme Court.

Submitted by Dr. Dean O. Stenehjem, Superintendent
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