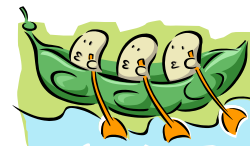


# P.E.A. Patch



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## What part of fully funded don't they get

In the McCleary ruling, the state Supreme Court ordered the Legislature to fully fund its paramount duty under the Constitution-K-12 public schools.

That means increasing educator compensation, reducing class sizes and adding support staff, in addition to other important investments in our student's future.

Even though educators— and WEA—have clearly highlighted the need to invest in educator compensation and smaller class sizes, and even though doing so is required by law, Sen. Andy Hill and Sen. Jim Hargrove are asking educators to complete an online survey about school funding priorities....**go to [ourvoicewashingtonea.org](http://ourvoicewashingtonea.org).**

Hill (a Republican) and Hargrove (a Democrat) serve on the Senate budget committee. They helped write the current state budget, which suspended the voter-approved cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for educators, a loss of \$320 million taken directly from the paychecks of public school employees. Restoring the educator COAL is a top WEA priority-especially since the Legislature has failed to fund it for nearly six years in a row. **(Did you take the survey?)** Reducing class sizes and caseloads is another crucial budget need. Washington's class sizes are ranked 47th out of 50 states. Unfortunately, the budget Hill and Hargrove wrote does absolutely nothing to reduce class sizes for the vast majority of our state's 1 million students. At the pace set by Hill and Hargrove, there's no way the Legislature will meet the Supreme Court's 2018 deadline for fully funding K-12 public schools. Our message is clear-there's no time for more delays. **Our students deserve a quality public education now!**

**Take the online survey now ... your voice is important!**

## Have you checked your pay stub?

There have been changes in the payroll office. The hard working staff are making sure you are getting paid for work done but glitches do occur. Be aware of changes. If you have any questions please call payroll and the staff will assist you.

*Unions have raised wages, shortened hours and provided supplemental benefits. Through collective bargaining and grievance procedures, they have brought justice and democracy to the work place.*

*John F. Kennedy*

### Peninsula Education Association – Affiliated with the WEA and NEA

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Vice President	Carol Rivera (Goodman Middle School)	530-1600
Secretary	Jennifer Prince (Gig Harbor High School)	530-1400
Treasurer	Karin Ashabraner (Goodman Middle School)	530-1600

Visit the [Peninsulaea.com](http://Peninsulaea.com) for more information

**Know your contract.....****Section 5.4 Consecutive Minutes**

An employee shall not be required to teach more than one hundred eighty (180) consecutive minutes without a break or lunch or recess.

While the five minute passing time may be considered a break, secondary principals will attempt to schedule teachers so that planning periods or lunch periods are provided to avoid teaching more than three (3) consecutive periods.

Whenever possible, elementary principals will schedule five minutes of passing time in between specialist classes. **View contract at [Peninsulea.com](http://Peninsulea.com)**

**Top ten reasons to join WEA/PAC**

1. Local dues are **not** spent on political issues that affect our working conditions.
2. The reality is, the quality of education for our students and the quality of our profession are interwoven with politics. Funding dictates the quality of education in our schools. Elected officials control that funding.
3. You can be involved monthly for less than the cost of a small latte.
4. We worked hard to get pro-education people elected. Now we need to hold them accountable.
5. We **do not** want to be another Wisconsin or Ohio!
6. A percentage of PAC money goes toward local elections, including local school board elections.
7. PAC endorses pro-education candidates, **both democrats and republicans.**
8. Anti-union, anti-collective bargaining ed-reform groups have big business and big money behind them.
9. Automatic payroll deduction makes the \$2.25 a month relatively painless.
10. **JOIN TODAY!** Call office for more information 851.8710

**It's never too late...recognizing psychologists**

School psychologists help students succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. They collaborate with educators, parents, and other professionals to create a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments that strengthen connections between home, school and the community for all students. Thank you for all you do!

**Employee Assistance Program 1.800.424.4039**

Child and Elder Care Services

Legal Consultation Services

Healthroads

Magellan Life Management Resources and Referrals

Financial Consultation Services

[MagellanHealth.com/member](http://MagellanHealth.com/member)

**NEA Member Benefits**

Auto Purchase Program

NEA Hearing Care Program

Hertz Alamo Enterprise

NEA Academy Continuing Ed

Lesson Planet

**1.800.647.4636**

## Washington legislature increases student contact hours to 1080 per week.

In its 2013 session, required student contact hours were increased to 1080 per week...we now have 1040 contact time in grades 7-12. This goes into effect in the 2014-15 school year. The change represents an average weekly increase of 2.2222 hours of instruction per week. The legislature also provided a related funding increase for state-funded staff, but will not be adequate to fully fund the increased time for non-state funded educators, classified, para, and other non general education staff.

### **Bargaining implications:**

Working hours is a mandatory subject of bargaining. So is additional pay for additional time. The district is not authorized to make a unilateral decision to add the time and they continue to have an obligation to bargain any change with the association. How the changes will be written into the contract of an LOA (Letter of Agreement) depends on discussions at DAC.

### **Possibilities include but are not limited to:**

Lengthen the student contact day by whatever amount is necessary to reach 1080.

Increase the per diem rate.

Lengthen the total work day

Add days to the school year

Eliminate early release/late start days of professional development days.

Shorten prep time

Add an additional period and hire more teachers.

### **Additional Complications:**

Disparity between elementary and secondary staff.

Classified employee considerations

It will be a challenge to implement this well-intended but poorly conceived piece of legislation. The District and Association Committee will be meeting to find a solution to this underfunded mandate.

“Instructional hours” is defined in RCW 28A.150.205 as follows:

“Instructional hours” means those hours students are provided the opportunity to engage in educational activity planned by and under the direction of school district staff, as directed by the administration and board of directors of the district, inclusive of intermissions for class changes, recess, and teacher/parent-guardian conferences that are planned and scheduled by the district for the purpose of discussing students’ educational needs or progress, and exclusive of time actually spent for meals.

....and the fun begins...we will keep you informed of the progress and solution to this issue.

*“ It is the paramount duty of the State to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders.”*

Article IX, Section 1, Washington State Constitution