

EHB 2242 Frequently Asked Questions (v1.1)

Salaries

1. I have heard that there is a districtwide salary cap on certificated instructional staff (CIS) salaries. I saw that from a WEA communication. Do you have any information on what that looks like? Is the \$90K a hard cap on CIS salaries?

Answer: The \$90K represents the maximum base salary that can be paid to a CIS employee. This figure must be adjusted for inflation and regionalization, as applicable. CIS salaries may also be adjusted for certain duty assignments (science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM); transitional bilingual; or, special education); extracurricular activities, extended school days, and extended school years.

2. Please confirm that the 2.3% raise for staff is on top of the 1.8% from the past year?

Answer: Yes, the 2.3% increase for 2017–18 is on top of the 1.8% increase that was provided in 2016–17.

3. The bill states that the district may pay an additional 10% for certificated STEM teachers. What is the source of funds for this? What is the process for identifying funding for STEM and special education 10% above base?

Answer: This is an allowable use of state funds.

4. Does the special education increase include funds for the 10% bonus?

Answer: The special education increase is intended to fund services to a greater number of students, not to pay for the 10% increase that is permitted for this duty assignment. The 10% increase is not considered to be a bonus.

5. Are professional learning days included in the base contract?

Answer: No, the professional learning days are not included in the base salaries, however, the funding for the professional days is included in the salary allocations.

6. Will districts still have to report service years?

Answer: Yes. We will need this information to calculate apportionments for 2017–18 and hold harmless funding in 2018–19. It will also be needed for audit purposes once all of the provisions in the bill are fully implemented.

7. Does the average salary include the staff mix when computing the increase for inflation?

Answer: No, when we shift to average salaries there will no longer be a staff mix.

8. What will be the purpose of the new salary grid?

Answer: It is intended as a resource for districts.

9. I've heard there is a hold harmless. If this is true, does it apply if 2017–18 salaries are greater than the 2018–19 allocation?

Answer: Yes, there are two hold harmless provisions that will apply to salary allocations to districts. In 2018–19, Section 101 of the bill that provides a district's salary allocation will be the greater of the district's 2017–18 salary allocations adjusted for inflation or the district's

allocation based on the new statewide average salaries. Section 104 of the bill provides a hold harmless that will apply to salary allocations when the regionalization factors are updated in the future. The regionalization factors will be adjusted each year through 2022–23 as set forth in the budget bill. The hold harmless provision ensures that districts will not receive smaller salary allocations from one year to the next due to the annual regional adjustments. The provisions hold district allocations harmless; they do not create individual entitlements to salaries.

10. Is the \$95K a hard cap on administrator salaries?

Answer: No. Starting in the 2018–19 school year, the state allocation for administrators in the basic education program will be based on a minimum statewide average of \$95,000, adjusted for inflation and regionalization. The funded salary is for allocation purposes. Districts may also expend local revenue on administrators' salaries. However, beginning with the 2019–20 school year, the proportion of administrators' salaries that are attributable to enrichment may not exceed the proportion of local revenue to other revenues.

11. What denominator will be used to determine hourly rates – a statewide average or individual district determination?

Answer: Hourly rates will be based on contracts negotiated by districts. We will modify the S-275 report to include a field for reporting contract hours.

Levies

12. Levy calculation: \$2,500 per pupil to be increased by inflation. ALL students? We have district-funded preschool and a non-high. Will levy ONLY be generated from our K-8 enrollment or include preschool and non-high enrollment?

Answer: The levy calculation will be based on the average annual resident full-time equivalent students enrolled in the school district in the prior school year. PreK students will not be included in that count.

13. Will the \$1.50 per thousand/\$2,500 per pupil be calculated on the PY student FTE, October 1st snapshot FTE, or a moving FTE target during the current year?

Answer: This has yet to be determined.

14. Will F-780 be modified early this fall?

Answer: Yes, we will modify the F-780 as soon as possible.

15. Given that we get final AV numbers in February of the year we are taxing, how can OSPI approve the levy amount via F-780 in the November timeline?

Answer: We are working on details and will let you know as soon as they become available.

16. Can you run a capital levy in addition to an enrichment levy?

Answer: Yes, the capital levy is separate and apart from the enrichment levy.

17. What is a transportation enrichment levy? Is this a new levy authority in addition to the transportation vehicle levy?

Answer: The transportation enrichment levy replaces the transportation vehicle levy.

18. Limits on levies don't pertain to capital or transportation levies?

Answer: Correct. The limits on enrichment levies do not apply to capital or transportation enrichment levies.

19. Do we run levies based on a specific rate like \$1.50 per thousand? Or do we run a levy for a specific dollar amount like we do now?

Answer: The statute that prescribes ballot language ([RCW 84.52.054](#)) did not change. Your ballots will continue specific dollar amount and an estimated tax rate for each year of the proposed levy. Rollback provisions will still apply.

20. When does the new property tax start getting collected? When does the new statewide levy take effect?

Answer: The new state levy begins in 2018. The new local levy structure begin with taxes collected in calendar year 2019.

21. For districts that already have levies approved for 2019 and 2020, how does the new maximum levy affect them? For example, do we just roll back the excess and not go out for levy and then submit an enrichment plan to OSPI for spending?

Answer: Rollback provisions will apply based on the new limits. OSPI will not conduct the approval process for expenditure plans for levies that were previously authorized by voters.

22. Is the amount of enrichment levy impacted by a district's receipt of impact aid?

Answer: No, the enrichment levy computation is not impacted by impact aid.

23. Can someone explain the LEA computation in a way that makes sense?

Answer: The LEA is intended to ensure that all districts have access to the state local effort assistance threshold of \$1,500/student.

State local effort assistance threshold = \$1,500/prior year (PY) students

Maximum local levy = Lesser of \$1.50/\$1,000 of assessed value (AV) OR \$2,500/prior year enrollment

Examples based on school districts that have 1,000 PY students and local levies that generate \$1,200/PY students:

District A (maximizing LEA)

Local levy = Equates to a tax rate of \$1.50/\$1,000 AV

Maximum local effort assistance = (\$1,500 - \$1,200) x (\$1.50/\$1.50) x 1,000 = \$300,000

District B (not maximizing LEA)

Local levy = Equates to a tax rate of \$1.25/\$1,000 AV

Maximum local effort assistance = (\$1,500 - \$1,200) x (\$1.25/\$1.50) x 1,000 = \$250,000

24. How is local effort assistance (LEA) eligibility determined under new definition? Will all districts get it?

Answer: Not all districts will receive LEA. Only those districts that have local levies where the maximum allowable levy per student is less than the state threshold of \$1,500 per student will receive LEA funds.

25. When will the preballot approval process begin?

Answer: The preballot approval process will begin in the fall of 2018 to ensure that “taxes levied for collection beginning in calendar year 2020 and thereafter” have been subject to the approval process.

Programs

26. How are we going to pay for special education costs that exceed our allocations from the state and feds?

Answer: Section 501 of the bill permits school districts to use enrichment levies to provide staffing ratios, program components, and class size reduction beyond those allocated in the prototypical school model. Although the question assumes that special education costs will exceed the basic, excess cost, safety net and federal allocations, if that occurs, school districts should ensure that they are providing a free appropriate public education in accordance with state and federal law.

27. Can we take the indirect on the LAP poverty enhancement?

Answer: Yes, you can take the indirect cost rate on the LAP poverty enhancement.

28. There has been some confusion about MSOC increase per student. Are the increases for all students or just skill center students?

Answer: The MSOC payments for skill centers were changed to align with the MSOC for CTE. The regular MSOC was adjusted for inflation only.

29. Are you saying on K-3 to budget to 17:1 for 2017–18 and not our actual class size?

Answer: Yes. However, compliance is suspended only for 2017–18.

30. Will OSPI still implement FTE change to align with instructional hours?

Answer: We are planning to implement this change for the 2018–19 school year.

31. Is MSOC compliance still required?

Answer: Yes, MSOC compliance is still required.

32. There was nothing for iGrants. Do you plan to go forward with that project?

Answer: We are issuing a Request for Proposals to determine how much work we can accomplish with a small amount of funds we have available.