



www.fundourfuturewashington.org

Washington Coalition for School Libraries and Information Technology (WCS-Lit)

PETITION SIGNATURE GATHERING INSTRUCTIONS

World-Class Education for Washington: Support School Libraries & Information Technology

This petition was launched online in November, 2007. To date, the petition has been a powerful tool in our advocacy efforts. The 'Washington Voices' that have spoken to this issue through petition comments were critical to the legislative effort this past session. We think they'll be instrumental in working with the Joint Task Force and during the next legislative session as well. As of now (June 2008) we've got just under 6,000 signatures. It is crucial that **we hit the 10,000 mark before the end of the summer**, as this number will signify a strong mandate and give a compelling voice to the importance of this issue to WA citizens.

In order to reach more people across the state, we are now circulating this paper version of the petition. Thank you, in advance, for your help gathering signatures. If everyone pitches in, we should hit the 10,000 mark in a matter of weeks!

A few important things:

1. **Sign only once.** If folks already signed online, please do NOT have them sign again.
2. **Encourage people to include a comment!**
3. **Please have people ✓ the box** so we can add their name to the online petition.
4. **Washington residents only.** Signatories do not have to be of voting age.
5. When you've got a stack of completed signature sheets, please:
 - Photocopy the pages and keep the photocopy.
 - Mail the originals to: Susan McBurney
2308 S. Manito Blvd.
Spokane WA 99203
 - Send an email to let us know you've sent them off: susan@fundourfuturewashington.org
6. Be sure to **have a copy of the full petition text on hand** for signers to read if they want.

THANK YOU AGAIN for stepping in to help in this way. We are confident that our efforts will pay off in the coming months, and that WA state leaders will, ultimately, take action to ensure that school libraries, information literacy, and 21st century skills receive adequate and sustained funding.

For more information and other ways to get involved in this effort, please see our website: www.fundourfuturewashington.org Questions? Contact us: info@fundourfuturewashington.org



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Washington Coalition for School Libraries and Information Technology (WCS-Lit)

Champions for strong school library media programs and equal access to 21st century skills

JUNE 2008 UPDATE

The Coalition has seen some amazing accomplishments in the past seven months! Thousands of Washington citizens have signed the petition, and hundreds of you have taken action by writing and calling your legislators, the Governor, and members of the Joint Task Force (JTF).

Together, we have:

- Successfully lobbied for a \$ 4 million dollar, first-ever line item for school libraries in Washington State.
- Convened a national summit, *Read – Connect – Think – Grow: Why School Libraries Matter*, which featured experts from around the country. Among the guests were the American Library Association (ALA) president, the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) president, and the AASL executive director.
- Mounted an effective campaign to have the issue of school library funding and 21st century skills considered by state legislators, education reform leaders, and the JTF. In the words of Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown, because of the work of the Coalition, “the issue of library funding is now sure to be addressed by the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance. This bipartisan committee is working to redefine basic education – an issue that hasn’t been tackled since 1977.”
- Come together and grown a movement! Our message – that school libraries and 21st century skills matter — has resonated far beyond our own backyard. Two other states have launched sister movements – FundOurFutureOregon and FundOurFutureArizona. Our story was covered by the *Los Angeles Times* and syndicated from Boston to Honolulu.

THANK YOU to all who have worked so hard to get us here!

The \$ 4 million allocation is a great first step in addressing the school library funding crisis, but a long-term solution to the problem will have to come from the work of the Joint Task Force on Basic Education Finance and our state legislature. It is crucial that the Joint Task Force members include school library programs and information literacy in the revised definition of basic education and ensure that they are funded within the new funding formulas.

PLEASE STAY ENGAGED AND TAKE ACTION HELP GATHER SIGNATURES!!

Help us ensure that education reform reflects a 21st century vision for integrating 21st century skills into Washington education.