



## Capital Region ESD 113

Dear [Senator/Representative Name]:

The superintendents within Capital Region Educational Service District 113 are writing to express our concerns about the cost of implementing the **School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB) program** on January 1, 2020. The projected local and state costs of the program needlessly reduce our capacity to focus on our first priority, educating students.

School employees currently have access to excellent, affordable health care benefits. However, estimates show the new SEBB program is too expensive. It will cost the state more than \$900 million in the coming year. That cost will increase to \$1.15 billion over the next biennium. At a local level, school districts must cover an *additional* \$250 million to \$350 million. To absorb the additional cost, our districts will be forced to reduce jobs and cut valuable programs that support students.

Please consider these four options to solve this problem:

1. **FULLY FUND** the total cost of the SEBB program. That means the State should pay this year's \$900 million (and the next biennium's \$1.15 billion) in state costs, as well as the \$250 million to \$350 million dollars needed locally for all eligible employees.
2. **DELAY** the implementation of the SEBB program for at least two years. This would allow for a better understanding of the full costs of SEBB and give school districts time to adjust staffing to mitigate the increased local cost.
3. **CHANGE** the eligibility requirements. Increase the number of hours an employee must work to qualify for benefits from the current 630 hours to 1000 hours. Allow districts *not* to pay for people who choose *not* to take coverage.
4. **REJECT** the negotiated SEBB program agreement outright. Work to identify — and agree upon — other, more cost-effective solutions.

Local levies are *not* a viable solution to offsetting increased local costs of the SEBB program. We need the Legislature to increase our levy capacity to sustain *current* programs and staffing levels. We cannot absorb the additional cost of the SEBB.

Please contact your local superintendent to learn the true cost of SEBB implementation. Thank you for your consideration and all that you do to support our public schools.

Sincerely,

The Superintendents of Capital Region ESD 113:

- [Dr. Alicia Henderson](#) (ABERDEEN)
- [James Forrest](#) (ADNA)
- [Christopher Clark](#) (BOISTFORT)
- [Mark Davalos](#) (CENTRALIA)
- [Edward Rothlin](#) (CHEHALIS)
- [Cherie Patterson](#) (COSMOPOLIS)
- [Kevin Acuff](#) (ELMA)
- [Kyle MacDonald](#) (EVALINE and PE ELL)
- [Dr. Ellen Perconti](#) (GRAPEVIEW and MARY M. KNIGHT)
- [Greg Woods](#) (GRIFFIN)
- [Shawn Batstone](#) (HOOD CANAL)
- [Dr. Mike Villarreal](#) (HOQUIAM)
- [Rich DuBois](#) (LAKE QUINAULT)
- [Shannon Ramsey](#) (McCLEARY)
- [Daniel Winter](#) (MONTESANO)
- [John Hannah](#) (MORTON)
- [Dr. Lisa Grant](#) (MOSSYROCK)
- [Geoff Parks](#) (NAPAVINE)
- [Andrew Kelly](#) (NORTH BEACH)
- [Dave Pickering](#) (NORTH RIVER)
- [Dr. Debra Clemens](#) (NORTH THURSTON)
- [Rich Staley](#) (OAKVILLE)
- [Kurt Hilyard](#) (OCOSTA)
- [Dr. Patrick Murphy](#) (OLYMPIA)
- [Jeff Davis](#) (ONALASKA)
- [John Gummel](#) (PIONEER)
- [Bryon Bahr](#) (RAINIER)
- [Dr. Stephen Holland](#) (RAYMOND)
- [Kim Fry](#) (ROCHESTER)
- [Marsha Hendrick](#) (SATSOP)
- [Dr. Alex Apostle](#) (SHELTON)
- [Dr. Jon Tienhaara](#) (SOUTH BEND)
- [Doris Bolender](#) (SOUTHSIDE)
- [Kathleen Werner](#) (TAHOLAH)
- [Joe Belmonte](#) (TENINO)
- [Chris Rust](#) (TOLEDO)
- [John Bash](#) (TUMWATER)
- [Dr. Paul Farris](#) (WHITE PASS)
- [Nancy Morris](#) (WILLAPA VALLEY)
- [Dr. Richard Serns](#) (WINLOCK)
- [Wally Lis](#) (WISHKAH VALLEY)
- [Brian Wharton](#) (YELM)

**Dr. Dana Anderson**

Superintendent

Capital Region ESD 113

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[www.esd113.org](http://www.esd113.org)

Pronouns: he/him

*Your goals, our reason*

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