

July 24, 2020

Dear Governor Inslee,

The purpose of this communication is to request that you, as the Governor, issue an Executive Order protecting schools from COVID-19 liability. The Educational Service Districts (ESDs) and public schools of Washington State agree with your message that in the face of this COVID-19 pandemic, we are all in this together. When you ordered all schools to close in March, you also called on ESDs and public schools to step up in extraordinary ways during that closure to meet emergency community needs. We did step up, from becoming overnight daycare centers so healthcare workers and first responders could go to work and save lives, to finding creative ways to feed hungry families throughout our school districts. At the same time, we were developing online learning systems and working to improve equity and access gaps. Now we face even greater challenges as we thoughtfully plan to return to school in September. If you want us to provide an equitable opportunity to a quality K-12 education, as safely as we can in the midst of a pandemic, then we need your help.

Everything we have done to meet community needs since schools closed in March has cost substantial money and has exposed us to substantial new legal liability exposure. In planning for school year 2020-21, we are being asked to do the impossible—provide an equitable quality education and related services to every student, while keeping all students and staff safe in the midst of a pandemic, all without meaningful financial assistance from the State. We need substantial financial assistance, and every critical dollar allocated to schools must be used to fulfill the State's paramount duty to educate the children of Washington State as safely as we can in the midst of a health crisis. These limited public funds cannot be diverted to costly new litigation and liability exposure arising from the COVID-19 pandemic without sacrificing equitable education and safety. That's why we are calling on you, Governor Inslee, to issue an emergency Executive Order protecting schools and ESDs from COVID-19 liability.

Please Governor Inslee, provide us with the tools and resources we need to meet the current crisis, and make sure that all of those precious resources can be directed toward providing the students of Washington State equitable access to a quality K-12 education while keeping our students and staff as safe as we can during the COVID-19 health emergency. Please show us that we are all in this together, by finding emergency resources for ESDs and public schools and by entering an emergency Executive Order protecting our limited resources while we are carefully coordinating our 2020 school reopening plan with local health officials and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

In service to you,



Deborah Callahan
Executive Director
WASHINGTON SCHOOLS RISK MANAGEMENT POOL



Richard McBride
Director Risk Management
CLEAR RISK SOLUTIONS

District	Name	Title
Puget Sound Educational Service District	John Welch	Superintendent
NorthEast Washington ESD 101	Michael Dunn	Superintendent
OESD 114	Greg Lynch	Superintendent
ESD 123	Darcy Weisner	Superintendent
North Central ESD 171	Michelle Price	Superintendent
Aberdeen School District	Dr. Alicia Henderson	Superintendent
Almira School District	Shauna Schmerer	Superintendent
Bainbridge Island School District	Peter Bang-Knudsen	Superintendent
Battle Ground Public Schools	Mark Ross	Superintendent
Bethel School District	Tom Seigel	Superintendent
Blaine School District	Dr. Christopher Granger	Superintendent
Cape Flattery School District	Michelle Parkin	Superintendent
Carbonado Historical School District	Jessie Sprouse	Superintendent
Cascade School District	Dr. Tracey Beckendorf-Edou	Superintendent
Cashmere School District	Glenn Johnson	Superintendent
Central Kitsap School District	Dr. Erin Prince	Superintendent
Chehalis School District	Dr. Christine Moloney	Superintendent
Chewelah School District	Rich McFarland	Superintendent
Cle Elum-Roslyn School District	Michelle Kuss-Cybula	Superintendent
College Place School District	Jim Fry	Superintendent
Concrete School District	Wayne Barrett	Superintendent
Conway School District	Jeff Cravy	Superintendent
Cosmopolis School District	Cherie Patterson	Superintendent
Coulee Hartline School District	Jim Evans	Superintendent
Coupeville School District	Steve King	Superintendent
Crescent School District	David Bingham	Superintendent
Curlew School District	John Glenewinkel	Superintendent
Cusick School District	Don Hawpe	Superintendent
Darrington School District	Dr. Buck Marsh	Superintendent
Davenport School District	Jim Kowalkowski	Superintendent
Dieringer School District	Michael Farmer	Superintendent
Eastmont School District	Garn G. Christensen	Superintendent
Eatonville School District	Krestin Bahr	Superintendent
Edmonds School District	Gustavo Balderas	Superintendent
Entiat School District	Miles Caples	Superintendent
Ephrata School District	Tim Payne	Superintendent
Everett Public Schools	Dr. Ian Saltzman	Superintendent
Evergreen School District	Bill Glidewell	Superintendent
Evergreen Public Schools	Mike Merlino	Superintendent
Federal Way Public Schools	Dr. Tammy Campbell	Superintendent
Fife School District	Kevin M Alfano	Superintendent
Franklin Pierce Schools	Lance Goodpaster	Superintendent

Freeman School District	Randy Russell	Superintendent
Grand Coulee Dam School District	B Paul Turner	Superintendent
Granite Falls School District	Dr. Josh Middleton	Superintendent
Grapeview School District	Kurt Hilyard	Superintendent
Harrington School District	Wayne Massie	Superintendent
Hockinson School District	Steven Marshall	Superintendent
Hood Canal School District	Nikki Grubbs	Superintendent
Inchelium School District	Kim Spacek	Superintendent
Index School District	Brad Jernberg	Superintendent
Issaquah School District	Ron Thiele	Superintendent
Keller School District	Steve Gaub	Superintendent
Kennewick School District	Dr. Traci Pierce	Superintendent
Kettle Falls School District	Michael Olsen	Superintendent
LaConner School District	Rich Stewart	Interim Superintendent
LaCrosse School District	Doug Curtis	Superintendent
Lake Chelan School District	Barry P. DePaoli	Superintendent
Lake Quinault School District	Keith Samplawski	Principal
Liberty School District	Brett Baum	Superintendent
Lind-Ritzville School District	Don Vanderholm	Superintendent
Lynden School District School District	Jim Frey	Superintendent
Mary M. Knight School District	Matt Mallery	Superintendent
Mary Walker School District	Rick Winters	Superintendent
Marysville School District	Jason Thompson	Superintendent
Mead School District	Shawn Woodward	Superintendent
Mercer Island School District	Donna Colosky	Superintendent
Meridian School District	Dr. James Everett	Superintendent
Methow Valley School District	Tom Venable	Superintendent
Mount Vernon School District	Dr. Ismael Vivanco	Superintendent
Mukilteo School District	Dr. Alison Brynelson	Superintendent
Naches Valley School District	Robert Bowman	Superintendent
Napavine School District	Shane Schutz	Interim Superintendent
Nine Mile Falls School District	Brian Talbott	Superintendent
Nooksack Valley School District	Mark Johnson	Superintendent
North Kitsap School District	Dr. Laurynn Evans	Superintendent
North Mason School District	Dana G. Rosenbach	Superintendent
Northport School District	Don Baribault	Superintendent
Ocosta School District	Heather Sweet	Superintendent
Orcas Island School District	Eric Webb	Superintendent
Orient School District	Sherry Cobrough	Superintendent
Orting School District	Dr. Tony Apostle	Superintendent
Palouse School District	Calvin L. Johnson	Superintendent
Pateros School District	Greg Goodnight	Superintendent
Peninsula School District	Arthur O. Jarvis	Superintendent

Pioneer School District	Jill Diehl	Superintendent
Port Townsend School District	Sandy Gessner-Crabtree	Superintendent
Puyallup School District	Dr. John A. Polm	Superintendent
Quilcene School District	Frank Redmon	Superintendent
Quillayute Valley School District	Diana Reaume	Superintendent
Reardan-Edwall School District	Eric Sobotta	Superintendent
Renton School District	Dr. Fred R. Maiocco, Jr.	Assistant Superintendent
Republic School District	Kevin Young	Superintendent
Riverside School District	Ken Russell	Superintendent
Riverview School District	Dr. Anthony L. Smith	Superintendent
Royal School District	Roger Trail	Superintendent
Seattle Public Schools	Denise Juneau	Superintendent
Sedro-Woolley School District	Phil Brockman	Superintendent
Sequim School District	Robert Clark	Superintendent
Skykomish School District	Thomas Jay	Superintendent
Soap Lake School District	Sunshine Pray	Superintendent
South Bend School District	Jon Tienhaara	Superintendent
South Bend School District	Jon Tienhaara	Superintendent
South Whidbey School District	Dr. Jo Moccia	Superintendent
Spokane Public Schools	Dr. Adam Swinyard	Superintendent
Stanwood-Camano School District	Dr. Jean Shumate	Superintendent
Steilacoom Historical School District	Dr. Kathi Weight	Superintendent
Steptoe School District	Eric Patton	Superintendent
Sumner-Bonney Lake School District	Laurie Dent	Superintendent
Sunnyside School District	Kevin McKay	Superintendent
Tenino School District	Joseph Belmonte	Superintendent
Thorp School District	Andrew Perkins	Superintendent
University Place School District	Jeff Chamberlin	Superintendent
Vancouver School District	Dr. Steven Webb	Superintendent
Vashon School District	Dr. Slade McSheehy	Superintendent
Waitsburg School District	Mark Pickel	Superintendent
Waterville School District	Tabitha Mires	Superintendent
Wellpinit School District	John Adkins	Superintendent
West Valley School District-Spokane	Kyle Rydell	Superintendent
West Valley School District-Yakima	Angela Von Essen	Assistant Superintendent
West Valley School District-Yakima	Dr. Michael Brophy	Superintendent
White River School District School District	Janel Keating Hambly	Superintendent
Wilbur-Creston School District	Chuck Wyborney	Superintendent
Willapa Valley School District	Nancy Morris	Superintendent
Wilson Creek School District	Laura Christian	Superintendent