

The Greater Marysville Tulalip Chamber of Commerce

Resolution 2018-1 – Concerning Education and Workforce Training

The Greater Marysville Tulalip Chamber of Commerce (GMTCC) understands and acknowledges the challenges that lie ahead in the 2018 legislative session to fund basic education and comply with the statutory timelines set in House Bills 2261 and 2776.

WHEREAS: GMTCC believes that all education investments should increase student opportunities and develop clear and challenging academic standards to improve student outcomes, and

WHEREAS: our education system must focus not only on funding K-12 but in enhancing all avenues of post-secondary education to support the competitiveness of our state economy; and

WHEREAS: GMTCC acknowledges that there are current and a growing number of unfilled skilled job opportunities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the intent of solidifying a world class education for every student in Washington State, GMTCC supports the following legislative objectives:

- Any investment of taxpayers' dollars directed to fund education programs should be aligned with legislative mandates (including the McCleary decision that requires ample funding of basic education), adopted state standards, and existing measures of accountability.
- Expand Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) programs in all levels of education throughout school districts to ensure that classroom and career/technical education curricula prepare students for pursuing career or post-secondary education opportunities.
- Create comprehensive workforce training strategies for youth that include business and all institutions of higher learning.
- Increase the current higher education funding allotment, including but not limited to: Four-year institutions, community colleges, and career and technical programs beyond the current 9.2 percent of the NGFS+, accompanied by clear expectations for college course availability and timely degree completion. (The NGFS+ combines the general fund-state, the education legacy, and the opportunity pathways accounts.) This will protect student affordability and access, stabilize the post-secondary system for long-term development, secure student outcomes for employment, and provide a skilled workforce for Washington businesses.
- Support work experience and military service credits to advance more students and military veterans through our institutions of higher education and into the job market.
- Addressing funding inequities created by EHB 2242/SSB 5883, including compensation funding problems, inequities between districts, and regionalization factors.
- Adopt a Capital Budget and advance a constitutional amendment to allow school bond issues to be approved with a simple majority vote of the people. New facilities not only help children, but are an economic boon to the local economy via purchasing of materials, and equipment and employment in design and construction.