



A Way Forward

Presentation to the
Basic Education Finance Task Force

LEV Foundation

June 10, 2008



Workgroup

Washington School Leaders

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Vision

- Every child can read by 3rd grade
- There is a great teacher in every classroom
- Every student is motivated by a personal education goal and plan after high school
- Every student graduates from high school ready for college or work



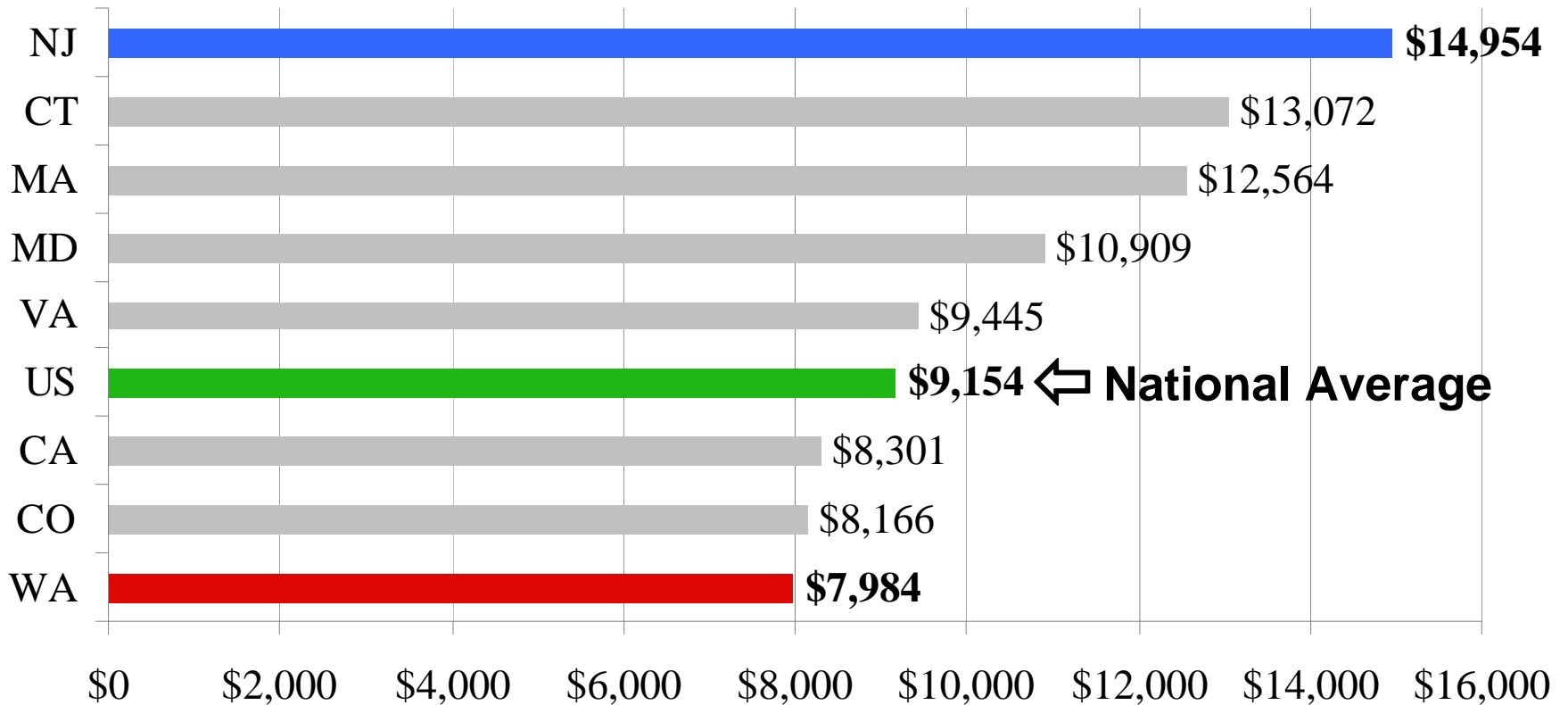
Threshold Question

Do we aim for major reform
of the current system or
are we just trying to patch it?



Serious Funding Problem

Washington Ranks Last Among Global Challenge States in K-12 Per-Student Funding, 2005-06



Source: National Center for Education Statistics



Core Principles

1. The state is responsible for providing every student reasonable opportunities to meet the state's high school graduation requirements
2. The new finance system is organized to drive improvements in student achievement



Core Principles

3. The funding responsibilities of the state and local school districts are clearly delineated and separated
4. Local decision makers are given flexibility to determine the best use of money while being held accountable for results
5. Revenue distribution is simplified and school budgets are transparent



“A Way Forward”

- Redefine Washington’s basic education commitment
- Strengthen accountability
- Create a new Core K-12 Education Fund
- Create a new Targeted Interventions Fund
- Build a better compensation system for teachers and staff



Redefine Washington's Basic Education Commitment

- Give every student reasonable opportunities to meet the state's achievement standards and graduation requirements
- Ensure quality early learning for low-income children
- Guarantee a 13th year



Strengthen Accountability

- Revamp the accounting structure and overhaul the state's chart of accounts
- Build an integrated P-20 data system
- Establish benchmark spending and achievement targets



Core K-12 Education Fund

- New budget development process
- Consolidate our numerous categorical programs into a new Core K-12 Education Fund
- New allocation model with more flexibility
- Weighted student funding



Targeted Interventions Fund

- New state fund for research-proven gold standard programs
- Targeted implementation of innovative programs that would then be rigorously evaluated



Better Compensation System

- Teacher quality matters more than anything else
- Develop and pilot new salary schedule with three levels of responsibility: entry, professional, and lead
- Conduct a compensation survey to make teaching more competitive and more in line with comparable professions



Better Compensation System

- Rigorous teacher induction program
- Higher compensation for hard-to-staff positions
- Renewable, rolling contracts for teachers and principals
- New state role in bargaining



Resources + Reforms = Results