

## Local educators see court's sanctions as call to quick action

Legislators don't foresee special session on education this year



([http://media.columbian.com/img/photos/2015/08/13/Washington\\_Education\\_Doll3.jpg](http://media.columbian.com/img/photos/2015/08/13/Washington_Education_Doll3.jpg))

The chambers of the Washington state Supreme Court sit empty Thursday in Olympia. The court has issued sanctions of \$100,000 a day against the state for its lack of progress on a plan to fully fund basic education. (Rachel La Corte/AP)

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**[State Supreme Court McCleary order \(/documents/2015/aug/13/state-supreme-court-mccleary-order/\)](/documents/2015/aug/13/state-supreme-court-mccleary-order/)**

Local school superintendents said Thursday that the [state Supreme Court's sanctions against the state](http://www.columbian.com/news/2015/aug/13/court-state-fined-100k-day-education-mccleary/)

(<http://www.columbian.com/news/2015/aug/13/court-state-fined-100k-day-education-mccleary/>) over education funding are a call for legislators to quickly come up with a plan to fully fund basic education. However, local legislators said they doubt a special session on education funding will happen this year.





Hottowe added: "I hope folks will understand that it is a good thing for the Supreme Court to issue the sanction. The legislators who scoffed they were in contempt perhaps are not scoffing today. Perhaps we'll see a more serious tone to move us forward to fully funding public K-12 education."

John Deeder, superintendent of Evergreen Public Schools, Clark County's largest district, said the legislators haven't addressed paying for school employee compensation.

In some districts, more than 50 percent of the local levy money is used to pay for employee compensation, Deeder said.

"My interpretation of the court is that (compensation) is part of basic education," said Deeder. "Until they've addressed that, the Legislature has not met the requirements of the court. The last thing I want to see is a constitutional crisis. Who's going to pay for this (\$100,000 daily sanction) and what kind of difference will that make? The real good news to me is they've been told to fix the problem and to show the plan."

Vancouver Public Schools was the first district in Southwest Washington to support the McCleary lawsuit.

"I applaud the court's decision," said Steven Webb, Vancouver's superintendent. "Although the Legislature has provided additional resources for K-12 education, it still has not fully complied with the court's mandate, and inequities in funding still exist in districts across the state. Our children cannot afford to wait any longer for the state to fulfill its paramount constitutional duty."



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