

# Education funding: Supreme Court right to demand answers

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**The court and the public want to know: How are lawmakers going to pull this off?**

By [Seattle Times editorial board](#)

*The Seattle Times*

THE Washington state Supreme Court has a lot of questions about the Legislature's plan for fully funding basic education by 2018 and its progress toward that goal. That makes sense. Nearly everyone involved in educating more than a million children in Washington's public schools — parents, teachers and community members — has the same questions.

## **The McCleary challenge**

[Read the editorial about what's at stake.](#)

On Thursday, the court gave lawmakers a big summer [homework assignment](#). They have until Sept. 7 to explain how they will finish their school finance reform work, including how to pay for it. Voters can add to this pressure by asking their lawmakers how they are going to answer the court's demands.

The Legislature has been trying to figure out this \$3 billion to \$4 billion problem for years. During the 2016 legislative session, lawmakers passed a "plan for a plan" for answering the Supreme Court's 2012 McCleary decision on school funding.

## **The McCleary Challenge**

Read The Seattle Times editorial about what's at stake: [st.news/McCleary](http://st.news/McCleary)

The court and the public want to know: How are they going to pull this off?

Thursday's order from the court is clear: Bring us the details. No more vague ideas without dollar signs attached.

The justices seem to be giving lawmakers one more chance to make things right before taking a more active role in the process.

*Editorial board members are editorial page editor Kate Riley, Frank A. Blethen, Ryan Blethen, Donna Gordon Blankinship, Brier Dudley, Mark Higgins, Jonathan Martin, William K. Blethen (emeritus) and Robert C. Blethen (emeritus).*