

# TO: ALL 609 MEMBERS

January 31, 2014

## SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

One year ago this Wednesday, the House Education Committee heard moving testimony from James Harvey of the National Superintendents Roundtable, pointing out *“evidence on poverty and its educational correlates”* calling for *“broader and bolder approaches”* to issues such as early childhood nutrition and its impact on students. He cited a research that showed that for every dollar spent on a program that addressed such issues returned \$17 to public coffers and individuals. I sent that out to the Seattle School Board in hopes that some of these *“broader and bolder approaches”* might be tried here. Unfortunately we have not seen such attempts locally. As we all know, the Nutrition program continues to decline here.

Recently, a coalition calling itself [“Washington Appleseed”](#) has distributed a comprehensive report which shows the cost benefit analysis of investing in nutrition programs as suggested by Mr. Harvey and many others (*before and since*). We have long contributed financially to these efforts through the [Children’s Alliance](#) as well as others in the coalition.

This report has caused bills to be introduced in both legislative houses which will be *“heard”* next week. These bills would advance the notion of **“Breakfast after the bell”** in high needs schools throughout Washington (*the report states 23 schools in Seattle would be potential sites*).

[SB 6444](#) and [HB 2536](#) will have hearings in their respective Education Committee’s on Monday and Wednesday and we will be there to support them and (*hopefully*) provide testimony (*if time allows*).

Please [download](#) and review the report, then **contact your legislators to urge their support for these bills (SB6444 & HB2536)**. Legislative “Hotline”: **1-800-562-6000**

Remember, our unified strengths in the areas of legislative actions are our communicating our priorities to elected leaders and holding them accountable. Each and every one of us needs to communicate our positions to policy makers (*via the Legislative Hotline 1-800-562-6000*) or click this link: [Find Your Legislator](#) link (*type in your address and a map will appear of your district, click on a legislator and their home page will appear, click email and follow instructions*) frequently. Please take the time to do so on the above issue. It makes everything we do in the halls of the capital much more effective.