

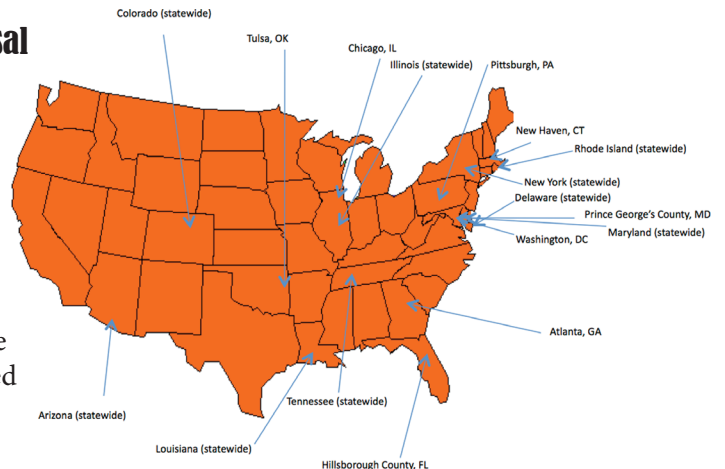
Our Schools Coalition

TEACHER CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS IN SEATTLE: WHY IT MATTERS FOR OUR STUDENTS

Seattle Public School parents, local employers, community volunteers and taxpayers came together this spring to form the **Our Schools Coalition**. We united to express the community's voice in teacher contract negotiations, to advocate for our children, and to support teachers as professionals. Public opinion research shows overwhelming support for these reforms.

Top 3 Reasons To Support Seattle Public Schools' Proposal

1. Research is clear: Teachers make the biggest difference in a child's education.
2. These reforms are common sense: Seattle Public Schools' proposed reforms are common sense ideas that are being utilized across the country. **See Map** ⇨
3. Reforms are VOLUNTARY. Yes, that's right -- the Seattle Public Schools' proposal is voluntary. Current teachers will have the chance to decide if and when they want their evaluations tied to student growth and teacher and student feedback. In similar systems, such as Denver's, these voluntary reforms have helped attract, retain and reward good teachers.



What People Are Saying:

"Seattle's proposal makes an appropriate connection between teacher quality and student achievement goals...Enacting them would put Seattle on the forefront of reforms and make it a national model for improving teacher quality."

- The National Council on Teacher Quality, a nationally recognized research group

"We have an education system based on measuring how well students learn. Why shouldn't our children's progress be considered when assessing how well teachers teach?"

- Norman B. Rice, president and chief executive officer of The Seattle Foundation and former mayor of Seattle

"Public opinion matters...Families want good teachers, a fair way of evaluating them and an overall system that looks beyond the number of years a teacher has sat in a classroom... A group of concerned citizens rightly seeks to add the weight of its influence."

- Seattle Times Editorial Board

"[Denver's system] will give teachers more control over their financial destiny while closely aligning their work to the district's goals of improving student learning and attracting, retaining and rewarding the best teachers."

- Becky Wissink, president of Denver Classroom Teachers Association (Denver put in place a similar system in 2005)

What You Can Do To Help. **MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD:**

These changes are vital for Seattle students. Negotiations are scheduled to conclude by September 2nd.

- **Attend the September 1st School Board Meeting:**
5:30pm at the John Stanford Center, 2445 Third Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98134.
- **Get Involved: Visit www.ourschoolscoalition.org for more information and ways to help.**

Make your voice heard on behalf of our children and our community's future!

Members of Our Schools Coalition currently include the African American Parent Community Coalition, African American Men's Group, African American Parent Community Coalition, Alliance for Education, Central Area Motivation Program, Coalition for Equal Education Rights, Community Center for Education Results, Cheryl Chow (former Seattle School Board President), Councilmember Richard Conlin, Councilmember Tim Burgess, East African Community Services, El Centro de la Raza, Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Horn of Africa Services, Kevin C. Washington (Chair of Tabor 100 Education Committee), King County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, League of Education Voters, Mona H. Bailey (Retired Seattle Public Schools District Administrator), The New School Foundation, Partnership For Learning, Powerful Schools, Rainier Scholars, Seattle Breakfast Group, Somali Community Services of Seattle, Stand for Children, Technology Access Foundation, Technology Alliance, Urban Enterprise Center, Urban Impact, Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle, Washington Policy Center, Washington Technology Industry Association and Youth Ambassadors