

February 3, 2024

Senator June Robinson
Chair Senate Ways & Means Committee
Washington State Senate

Senator Lynda Wilson
Ranking Member Senate Ways & Means Committee
Washington State Senate

Representative Timm Ormsby
Chair House Appropriations Committee
Washington State House of Representatives

Representative Chris Corry
Ranking Member House Appropriations Committee
Washington State House of Representatives

Dear House and Senate Budget Leaders:

This letter is an appeal to the Legislature to focus attention on the need to provide significant cost relief to school districts in the 2023-25 supplemental operating budget and set aside all policy proposals that could increase school district operating and capital cost expenditures.

Many school districts have raised concerns about the escalating cost increases they are facing this year. The following charts demonstrate a dramatic shortfall in state funding for the actual costs of paying the day-to-day operations of every school district in this state.

Just to be clear, we are asking you to address gaps in state funding that are forcing districts to use local levy “enrichment” funds to cover the **day-to-day operations** costs of basic education. These are **not salary or enrollment** related costs. Our requests are as follows:

- **Increase Materials, Supplies and Operating Costs (MSOC) by approximately \$255 million in a catch-up payment to school districts to cover the 2023 school year, and to cover the expected costs for the current 2024 school year.**
- Adjust the school district MSOC funding levels for the upcoming 2024-25 school year in an amount that covers the actual projected MSOC costs, not the usual Implicit Price Deflator amount that has been used in the past several biennial budgets.

These funding requests are related to the daily costs of operating a school district and maintaining budget stability. These are costs over which districts have absolutely no control, including insurance rate increases, utility rate increases, curriculum cost increases, food and nutrition cost increases, and other costs that are imposed upon us by other entities.

The following charts show the significant shortfall of state funding for utility and insurance rates alone that the Puget Sound area, Grays Harbor County, and Mason County school districts are facing.

They are illustrative of the broader state funding shortfalls in all MSOC categories that are happening all over the state.

Utilities and Insurance State Funding vs. District Costs – Puget Sound

Table 1: Recent Funding and Expenditure Deficits in Puget Sound Region

School District	18-19 Utilities and Insurance Funding (Revenue) vs. Expenditures	19-20 Utilities and Insurance Funding (Revenue) vs. Expenditures	20-21 Utilities and Insurance Funding (Revenue) vs. Expenditures	21-22 Utilities and Insurance Funding (Revenue) vs. Expenditures	22-23 Utilities and Insurance Funding (Revenue) vs. Expenditures	23-24 Utilities and Insurance Funding (Revenue) vs. Expenditures
Auburn School District	\$ 134,853.33	\$(1,133,678.07)	\$ (74,003.70)	\$ (190,177.06)	\$ (1,114,293.49)	\$ (20,367.36)
Bainbridge Island School District	\$ (361,207.84)	\$ (197,906.29)	\$ (541,031.31)	\$ (909,116.26)	\$ (741,399.77)	\$ (1,058,675.80)
Bellevue School District	\$ 595,414.28	\$ 1,146,212.04	\$ 686,843.44	\$ (2,135,864.96)	\$ (1,960,288.42)	\$ 123,031.40
Bethel School District	\$ 131,188.80	\$ 659,789.03	\$ 58,600.68	\$ (346,171.72)	\$ (1,378,197.93)	\$ (1,350,022.00)
Carbonado School District	\$ (24,686.37)	\$ (6,113.19)	\$ (30,589.03)	\$ (73,984.07)	\$ (3,610.77)	\$ (70,737.02)
Clover Park School District	\$ (168,309.49)	\$ (320,898.03)	\$ (1,126,454.25)	\$ (2,123,687.59)	\$ (2,981,847.62)	\$ (3,696,993.30)
Dieringer School District	\$ (163,294.89)	\$ (202,160.78)	\$ (13,863.91)	\$ (295,054.56)	\$ (253,556.48)	\$ (363,998.92)
Eatonville School District	\$ (222,643.01)	\$ (120,402.75)	\$ (306,148.42)	\$ (396,208.29)	\$ (429,111.93)	\$ (563,264.69)
Enumclaw School District	\$ (337,607.99)	\$ 248,226.09	\$ 149,820.85	\$ 144,984.98	\$ (290,107.17)	\$ (325,358.26)
Federal Way School District	\$ 637,755.07	\$ 856,853.69	\$ 850,667.72	\$ (1,767,622.33)	\$ (2,260,817.25)	\$ (4,144,850.43)
Fife School District	\$ (160,338.63)	\$ 13,443.58	\$ (157,255.49)	\$ (402,893.08)	\$ (469,481.04)	\$ (435,176.30)
Franklin Pierce School District	\$ 554,395.16	\$ 578,921.14	\$ 316,488.39	\$ (89,287.36)	\$ (192,346.52)	\$ (712,172.01)
Highline School District	\$(2,755,182.26)	\$(2,573,146.13)	\$(2,859,974.25)	\$ (2,908,422.26)	\$ (3,648,532.91)	\$ (2,537,000.59)
Issaquah School District	\$ 86,759.44	\$ 347,136.04	\$ (2,042.36)	\$ (4,078,551.84)	\$ (3,426,691.90)	\$ (5,809,249.48)
Kent School District	\$ 1,103,921.54	\$ 938,294.13	\$ (12,759.17)	\$ (2,848,520.37)	\$ (3,178,152.33)	\$ (3,403,452.57)
Lake Washington School District	\$ 1,158,469.53	\$ 2,070,967.95	\$ 867,595.62	\$ (1,597,506.61)	\$ (2,033,543.90)	\$ (1,758,296.60)
Mercer Island School District	\$ (221,005.69)	\$ (39,988.12)	\$ (362,945.88)	\$ (657,750.79)	\$ (610,523.71)	\$ (575,097.50)
Northshore School District	\$ 752,520.14	\$ 836,870.68	\$ (310,324.65)	\$ (2,744,925.90)	\$ (1,619,409.24)	\$ (382,129.90)
Orting School District	\$ 85,312.64	\$ 2,697.30	\$ (154,436.03)	\$ (346,333.68)	\$ (379,566.17)	\$ (627,196.82)
Peninsula School District	\$ (70,003.25)	\$ 105,754.80	\$ (440,083.20)	\$ (902,404.26)	\$ (1,125,913.20)	\$ (1,399,249.51)
Puyallup School District	\$ 95,066.87	\$ 599,751.85	\$ (392,406.63)	\$ (1,338,377.54)	\$ (1,773,267.79)	\$ (3,403,337.60)
Renton School District	\$ (531,793.52)	\$ (546,095.61)	\$ (633,604.07)	\$ (1,508,747.69)	\$ (2,429,947.66)	\$ (3,446,505.69)
Riverview School District	\$ 18,934.23	\$ (85,851.54)	\$ (212,888.99)	\$ (467,861.59)	\$ (478,897.61)	\$ (485,662.71)
Seattle Public Schools	\$ 291,683.62	\$ 1,619,608.07	\$ 1,114,727.35	\$ (4,215,369.16)	\$ (4,790,269.88)	\$ (6,463,692.88)
Shoreline School District	\$ (134,169.26)	\$ (38,457.47)	\$ (111,562.67)	\$ (1,143,993.51)	\$ (1,122,973.29)	\$ (2,179,544.65)
Skykomish School District	\$ (91,763.33)	\$ (89,867.82)	\$ (100,229.19)	\$ (110,755.82)	\$ (73,049.41)	\$ (77,100.37)
Snoqualmie Valley School District	\$ (136,890.25)	\$ (111,120.74)	\$ (695,007.33)	\$ (859,076.90)	\$ (1,099,681.48)	\$ (1,175,227.32)
Steilacoom Hist. School District	\$ 37,781.51	\$ 156,010.20	\$ (142,541.11)	\$ (141,655.72)	\$ (160,153.53)	\$ (170,284.32)
Sumner-Bonney Lake School District	\$ (500,921.24)	\$ (269,477.47)	\$ (555,264.36)	\$ (1,037,160.10)	\$ (1,136,178.80)	\$ (1,528,532.27)

Tacoma School District	\$ 2,268,599.71	\$(3,518,914.27)	\$(3,032,483.72)	\$ (3,448,009.34)	\$ (4,718,989.05)	\$ (2,725,827.17)
Tahoma School District	\$ 405,499.88	\$ 676,188.18	\$ 576,991.55	\$ 37,005.72	\$ (250,854.29)	\$ (773,189.66)
Tukwila School District	\$ (26,928.30)	\$ (73,475.90)	\$ (207,584.82)	\$ (456,138.55)	\$ (706,378.75)	\$ (590,582.29)
University Place School District	\$ (69,796.41)	\$ (57,078.79)	\$ (76,383.26)	\$ (503,820.68)	\$ (693,458.35)	\$ (930,781.30)
Vashon Island School District	\$ (137,841.60)	\$ (50,628.45)	\$ (86,213.55)	\$ (140,538.51)	\$ (263,066.42)	\$ (262,105.06)
White River School District	\$ (232,175.64)	\$ (185,181.64)	\$ (239,200.64)	\$ (390,475.83)	\$ (517,268.83)	\$ (576,834.98)
	\$ 2,011,596.76	\$ 1,236,281.73	\$ (8,255,546.42)	\$ (40,394,473.26)	\$ (48,311,826.87)	\$ (53,899,465.93)

Table 2: Recent Funding and Expenditure Deficits in Mason County

Organization Name	18-19 Utilities and Insurance Funding (Revenue) vs. Expenditures	19-20 Utilities and Insurance Funding (Revenue) vs. Expenditures	20-21 Utilities and Insurance Funding (Revenue) vs. Expenditures	21-22 Utilities and Insurance Funding (Revenue) vs. Expenditures	22-23 Utilities and Insurance Funding (Revenue) vs. Expenditures	23-24 Utilities and Insurance Funding (Revenue) vs. Expenditures
State Summary	\$ 1,582,182	\$ 8,267,947	\$ (24,824,756)	\$ (86,389,859)	\$(111,510,629)	\$ (144,498,907)
Southside School District	\$ (9,121)	\$ (12,123)	\$ (23,366)	\$ (36,475)	\$ (26,998)	\$ (47,161)
Grapeview School District	\$ (39,980)	\$ (48,358)	\$ (44,849)	\$ (45,773)	\$ (40,532)	\$ (74,827)
Shelton School District	\$ (253,183)	\$ (151,766)	\$ (770,359)	\$ (651,586)	\$ (395,351)	\$ (502,705)
Mary M Knight School District	\$ 482,571	\$ 531,550	\$ 606,699	\$ 377,944	\$ 301,337	\$ 238,120
Pioneer School District	\$ (25,520)	\$ (1,348)	\$ (63,596)	\$ (108,317)	\$ (92,122)	\$ (244,484)
North Mason School District	\$ 8,841	\$ 33,698	\$ (22,492)	\$ (80,086)	\$ 25,307	\$ (53,995)
Hood Canal School District	\$ 453	\$ (42,705)	\$ (66,442)	\$ (71,466)	\$ (57,399)	\$ (120,222)
County Total	\$ 164,062	\$ 308,947	\$ (384,405)	\$ (615,760)	\$ (285,758)	\$ (805,274)

Table 3: Recent Funding and Expenditure Deficits in Grays Harbor County

Organization Name	18-19 Utilities and Insurance Funding (Revenue) vs. Expenditures	19-20 Utilities and Insurance Funding (Revenue) vs. Expenditures	20-21 Utilities and Insurance Funding (Revenue) vs. Expenditures	21-22 Utilities and Insurance Funding (Revenue) vs. Expenditures	22-23 Utilities and Insurance Funding (Revenue) vs. Expenditures	23-24 Utilities and Insurance Funding (Revenue) vs. Expenditures
State Summary	\$ 1,582,182	\$ 8,267,947	\$ (24,824,756)	\$ (86,389,859)	\$ (111,510,629)	\$ (144,498,907)
Aberdeen School District	\$ (5,294)	\$ (221,659)	\$ (831,515)	\$ 35,844	\$ (396,208)	\$ (849,114)
Hoquiam School District	\$ (296,930)	\$ (284,700)	\$ (244,632)	\$ (451,100)	\$ (471,057)	\$ (652,344)
North Beach School District	\$ (245,005)	\$ (152,585)	\$ (106,270)	\$ (166,660)	\$ (185,080)	\$ (241,930)
McCleary School District	\$ (28,949)	\$ (57,461)	\$ (66,522)	\$ (31,551)	\$ (55,940)	\$ (38,179)
Montesano School District	\$ 5,635	\$ 24,248	\$ 43,304	\$ (43,975)	\$ (44,995)	\$ (158,132)
Elma School District	\$ (122,123)	\$ (99,481)	\$ (152,524)	\$ (127,430)	\$ (154,713)	\$ (316,560)
Taholah School District	\$ (310,503)	\$ (97,103)	\$ (180,061)	\$ (117,170)	\$ (111,776)	\$ (325,229)
Lake Quinault School District	\$ (118,241)	\$ (103,127)	\$ (110,458)	\$ (148,202)	\$ (124,484)	\$ (200,613)
Cosmopolis School District	\$ (38,768)	\$ (29,742)	\$ (44,629)	\$ (68,432)	\$ (53,450)	\$ (94,642)
Satsop School District	\$ (505)	\$ 10,317	\$ (4,329)	\$ (3,513)	\$ (5,460)	\$ (11,888)
Wishkah Valley School District	\$ (111,535)	\$ (28,187)	\$ (57,938)	\$ (67,985)	\$ (69,551)	\$ (136,697)
Ocosta School District	\$ (213,848)	\$ (144,104)	\$ (155,397)	\$ (188,619)	\$ (348,647)	\$ (217,149)
Oakville School District	\$ (147,470)	\$ (218,237)	\$ (149,501)	\$ (172,188)	\$ (185,307)	\$ (335,607)
County Total	\$ (1,633,536)	\$ (1,401,821)	\$ (2,060,471)	\$ (1,550,981)	\$ (2,206,669)	\$ (3,578,083)

As you know, school districts across the state are working to balance their budgets in the wake of overall funding declines and the exhaustion of the federal ESSER allocations provided during the pandemic. We are asking you to fund the basic education costs related to MSOC so that we can use our local levy funding to cover the other funding shortfalls we face this year.

Please contact any of us if you have any questions about the financial challenges we are facing and expect to face for several years to come.

Thank you,

Joel Aune
Director
WASA

Bob Maxwell
Superintendent
Pullman School District

Brian Hart
Superintendent
Granger School District

Tim Garchow
Executive Director
WSSDA

Brad Van Dyne
Superintendent
Loon Lake School District

Brian Talbot
Superintendent
East Valley (Spokane
Valley) School District

Angela Steck
President
Washington State PTA

Brad Wilson
Superintendent
Lake Chelan School
District

Charles Pierce
Superintendent
Lamont School District

Brianna King
President
WASBO

Brent Freeman
Superintendent
Wahkiakum School
District

Chris Granger
Superintendent
Blaine School District

Anne Brynelson
Superintendent
Mukilteo School District

Brent Jones
Superintendent
Seattle Public Schools

Chris Nesmith
Superintendent
Elma School District

Aaron Chavez
Superintendent
Soap Lake School District

Brett Agenbroad
Superintendent
Garfield School District

Christine Moloney
Superintendent
Chehalis School District

Aaron Kombol
Superintendent/Principal
Easton School District

Brett Greenwood
Executive Director
Sedro-Woolley School
District

Chrys Sweeting
Superintendent
Arlington School District

Andrew Perkins
Superintendent/Principal
Thorp School District

Brian Freeman
Superintendent
Inchelium School District

Dan Chaplik
Superintendent
Sultan School District

Bob Garrett
Superintendent
Winlock School District

Dan Read
Superintendent
Onion Creek and Almira
School districts

Dan Winter
Superintendent
Montesano School District

Daniel Zorn
Superintendent
Longview School District

Danny Waters
Superintendent
Battle Ground Public
Schools

Dave Holmes
Superintendent
Green Mountain School
District

Dave Smith
Superintendent
Newport School District

David VanderYacht
Superintendent
Lynden School District

Deborah Rumbaugh
Superintendent
Stanwood-Camano School
District

Debra Clemens
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North Thurston Public
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Don Vanderholm
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Lind-Ritzville Cooperative
Schools

Doug Burge
Superintendent
Zillah School District
Dr. Adam Swinyard
Superintendent
Spokane Public Schools

Dr. Kristi Dominguez
Superintendent
Ferndale School District

Dr. Nik Bergman
Superintendent
Quincy School District

Dr. Rob Darling
Superintendent
Grandview School District

Ed Hatzenbeler
Superintendent
Orting School District

Ellen Perconti
Superintendent
Goldendale School District

Elyse Mengarelli
Superintendent
Glenwood School District

Eric Webb
Superintendent
Orcas Island School
District

Flip Herndon
Superintendent
Capital Region ESD 113

Fred Woods
San Juan Island School
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Gerry Grubbs
Superintendent
Grapeview School District

Glenn Johnson
Superintendent
Cashmere School District

Greg Baker
Superintendent
Bellingham School District

Greg Whitmore
Superintendent
Entiat School District

Heather Sweet
Superintendent
Ocosta School District

Ingrid Colvard
Superintendent
Stevenson-Carson School
District

Ismael Vivanco
Superintendent
Mount Vernon School
District

Ivan Duran
Superintendent
Highline Public Schools

Jake Dingman
Superintendent
Oakesdale School District

James Everett
Superintendent
Meridian School District

James Shank
Superintendent
North Beach School
District

Jason Perrins
Superintendent
Chewelah School District

Jay Tyus
Superintendent
Creston & Wilbur School
Districts

Jeff Baerwald
Superintendent
Nine Mile Falls School
District

Jeff Chamberlin
Superintendent
University Place School
District

Jeff Davis
Superintendent
Pioneer School District

Jeff Snell
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Vancouver School District

Jeffrey Thake
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Aberdeen School District

Jennifer Bethman
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Rochester School District

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Cle Elum-Roslyn School
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Morton School District

John Polm
Superintendent
Puyallup School District

Jon Tienhaara
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South Bend School
District

Joseph Castilleja
Superintendent
Mabton School District

Josephine Moccia
Superintendent
South Whidbey School
District

Josh Garcia
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Tacoma School District

Josh Middleton
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Granite Falls School
District

Justin Irish
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Anacortes School District

K.C. Johnson
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Raymond School District

Kari McVeigh
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Shaw Island School
District

Kathi Weight
Superintendent
Steilacoom School District

Keith Samplawski
Superintendent
Lake Quinault School
District

Kelly Aramaki
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Bellevue School District

Kent Kultgen
Superintendent
Snohomish School District

Kevin Alfano
Superintendent
Fife School District

Kevin Bogatin
Superintendent
Tumwater School District

Kevin Chase
Superintendent
ESD 105

Kevin McKay
Superintendent
Selah School District

Kevin Young
Superintendent
Tonasket School District

Krestin Bahr
Superintendent
Peninsula School District

Kim Headrick
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Medical Lake School
District

Kyle MacDonald
Superintendent
Pe Ell School District

Kyle Rydell
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West Valley (Spokane
Valley) School District

Lance Gibbon
Superintendent
Hood Canal School
District

Lance Goodpaster
Superintendent
Franklin Pierce School
District

Laura Christian
Superintendent
Wilson Creek School
District

Laurie Dent
Superintendent
Sumner-Bonney Lake
School District

Lisa Grant
Superintendent
Centralia School District

Lisa Gredvig
Superintendent
Union Gap School District

Lynette Blackburn
Superintendent
Brewster School District

Mandy Rehn
Superintendent
Valley School District

Mark Anderson
Highland School District
Superintendent

Mark Chandler
Superintendent
Mossyrock School District

Mark Jacobson
Superintendent
St. John School District

Mary Beth Tack
Kelso School District
Superintendent

Mary Templeton
Washougal School District
Superintendent

Matt Galley
Superintendent
Nooksack Valley School
District

Matthew Mallery
Superintendent
Mary M Knight School
District

Michael Farmer
Dieringer School District
Superintendent

Michael Green
Woodland School District
Superintendent

Michael Olsen
Superintendent
Kettle Falls School District

Michael Tolly
Northshore School
District Superintendent

Michelle Price
Superintendent
ESD 171

Mike Villarreal
Superintendent
Hoquiam School District

Monty Sabin
Moses Lake School
District Superintendent

Nancy Morris
Superintendent
Willapa Valley School
District

Nik Bergman
Superintendent
Quincy School District

Patrick Murphy
Superintendent
Olympia School District

Paul Wieneke
Superintendent
Southside School District

Peter Finch
Superintendent
West Valley School
District #208

Randy Russell
Superintendent
Freeman School District

Raymond Leaver
Superintendent
Sprague School District

Rebecca Miner
Superintendent
Edmonds School District

Rich Polkinghorn
Superintendent
White Salmon Valley
School District

Rich Rasanen
Superintendent
Wishkah Valley School
District

Rich Staley
Superintendent
Oakville School District

Rob Clark
Superintendent
Washtucna School District

Roger Trail
Superintendent
Royal School District

Ron Banner
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Clover Park School
District

Roz Thompson
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Ryan Maxwell
Superintendent
Sunnyside School District

Scott Harrison
Superintendent
White River School
District

Scott Mauk
Superintendent
Chimacum School District

Scott Sattler
Superintendent
Bridgeport School District

Shane Schutz
Superintendent
Napavine School District

Shaun Carey
Superintendent
Enumclaw School District

Shawn Myers
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Orient School District

Slade McSheehy
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Vashon School District

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Superintendent/Principal
Keller School District

Steve King
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Coupeville School District

Steve Marshall
Superintendent
Hockinson School District

Steve McCullough
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ESD 123

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McCleary School District

Tabatha Mires
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Manson School District

Thad Nelson
Superintendent
Adna School District

Thaynan Knowlton
Superintendent
Clarkston School District

Tiffany Osgood
Superintendent
Satsop School District

Tim LaGrange
Superintendent
Kittitas School District

Tim Merlino
Superintendent
ESD 112

Tim Payne
Superintendent
Ephrata School District

Todd Spear
Superintendent
Mary Walker School
District

Tom Seigel
Superintendent
Bethel School District

Tom Whitmore
Superintendent
Bickleton School District

Tracy Franke
Superintendent
Darrington School District

Tricia Jeffries
Superintendent/Principal
Endicott School District

Troy Tornow
Superintendent
Ellensburg School District

Wade Smith
Superintendent
Walla Walla Public Schools

William Nelson
Superintendent
La Conner School District