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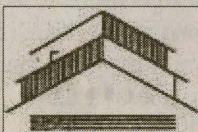
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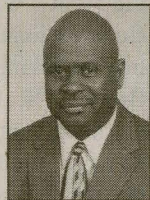


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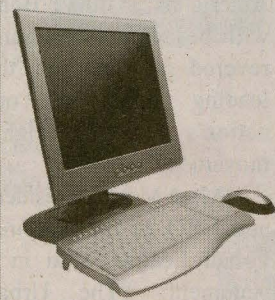
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First Place Scholars Now Enrolling K-5



First Place Scholars, a kindergarten through 5th Grade school, is located in Seattle's Central District, with transportation pick up points North, South and Central. It is a school of excellence, rigor, and high

expectations where students can succeed. For 25 years First Place has provided education, support services and housing. Through experiential learning, students achieve academic, social and emotional

growth in a small school environment. This year the Parents for Student Success and Antioch University are partnering to revive the popular First Place Parent Academy. Through the Academy, parents receive and learn to use the information they need to hold themselves and the school accountable for student success.

A free all-day kindergarten, two fresh prepared meals, extended-day academics and experiences and an expanded neighborhood campus make First Place Scholars the best school in Seattle for children who are not fully served by traditional public schools.

School Leader Dr. Linda Whitehead, joined by Board President, former State Representative Dawn Mason, have teamed up to bring cultural relevance and high expectations to a diverse population of mostly Black and Brown

students. Scholars excel in the presence of compassionate delivery of academic rigor and hard work. This year, Sensei Nichols, a Karate Master returns to teach martial arts and Japanese language (see photo). Also Norman Alston and Al Heron will add to the teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math.

The WA Charter School Commission approved First Place Scholars to operate as a public charter school. Call 323-6715 for more information, attend a weekly open house on Thursdays 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. located at 172 20th Ave or go online at www.fpscholars.org to download an enrollment form. The school is open to all grade K-5 children on a first come - first enrolled basis until enrollment reaches 120 students.

Washington State Gets Failing Grade On School Funding

By **DONNA GORDON BLANKINSHIP**

Associated Press

(AP) —Washington state is being fined \$100,000 a day by the state Supreme Court because justices say lawmakers have failed to adequately pay to educate the state's 1 million school children.

Lawmakers have allocated billions of dollars toward public schools, but critics say that's not enough to meet the requirements in the state Constitution that education be the Legislature's "paramount duty."

Washington isn't the first state to go to court over money for public schools, but there are some unique elements of the lawsuit known as the McCleary case and the way Washington pays for public schools.

HOW IS WASHINGTON UNIQUE?

In many states, education is a local concern, paid for with local tax money and supplemented for fairness and equity with state dollars. In Washington, education is a state focus, paid for with state taxes and supplemented with local taxes. Washington's constitution makes public schools the main job of the state, implying that everything else, from prisons to roads to universities, is extra. In Washington, the state sets a teacher salary schedule, but

contracts are negotiated locally, so teacher pay is not really uniform because local dollars are used to supplement the state salary schedule.

WHAT DID THE MCCLEARY DECISION SAY?

The Washington Supreme Court decided in 2012 that state funding for education is not adequate, equitable or ample. The justices said the state was relying too much on local dollars to make up for an inadequate state budget for education. Overreliance on local dollars makes the inequity worse because school districts with higher property values can raise more money more easily. The court gave the Legislature until 2018 to fix the problems and demanded yearly progress reports showing lawmakers were making substantial infusions of cash to fix the problem while creating a plan for finishing the work by the 2017-18 school year.

IT'S NOT 2018, WHY ISSUE SANCTIONS NOW?

The court and the lawyer representing the McCleary plaintiffs don't think the Legislature has made enough progress and say they haven't seen evidence of a plan for finishing the work. They are apparently worried that the Legislature will keep throwing its collective hands up in the air and saying: adequate school

funding is a good idea but we can't find the money to finish the work.

IS \$100,000 A DAY ENOUGH TO LIGHT A FIRE?

No one knows for sure, but it is a tiny percentage of the state budget, which totals \$38 billion for the next two years. During the legislative session that ended in mid-July after several special sessions, lawmakers added \$1.3 billion to the two-year state education budget. It would take more than 30 years for the fines to add up to another \$1.3 billion. And most lawmakers and education officials agree it will take a lot more than that to fulfill the requirements of the McCleary decision. So, even though the court has urged Gov. Jay Inslee to call another special session, lawmakers who are good at math may feel comfortable waiting until the Legislature reconvenes in January. Meanwhile, the court order says the penalty dollars will be set aside in a special education fund.

WHAT ELSE COULD THE COURT HAVE DONE?

The court could have rewritten the state budget itself and found the money for education by cutting other programs. One state Supreme Court justice suggested during a hearing on the McCleary case they could easily find enough money for education by

eliminating all state tax exemptions, such as the special deals lawmakers have made to keep Boeing Co. happily building airplanes in Washington. They could turn off the lights, heat and air conditioning in the Statehouse until lawmakers come to agreement. They could shut down public schools or threaten to do so like New Jersey's Supreme Court did in 1976 after lawmakers failed to put enough money into education. That resulted in the adoption of a state income tax.

WHO ARE THE MCCLEARYS?

Stephanie McCleary was 13 in 1978 when the Washington Supreme Court decided the state was not fulfilling its duty to children by forcing school districts to use local dollars to make up for the money the districts weren't getting from the state. More than 30 years later, the Chimacum, Washington, mom, her husband and her two school-age children agreed to be named plaintiffs to help a coalition of school districts, teachers, parents and education and community groups sue the state over the same school funding issues. They joined the lawsuit in 2007 and now in 2015, Kelsey McCleary is in college and her brother Carter is in high school, expecting to graduate in 2017.

Rally For Hope Returns To Westlake Park Aug. 29

The annual Rally for Hope will be take place on Sat., Aug. 29 from 12 Noon - 5:30 p.m. at Westlake Center Park in Downtown Seattle.

The event, a collaborative effort of local churches, organizations and passionate people with a heart to bring hope to the city, is cross-cultural celebration that will feature local artists, music,

ministries, inspiring speakers and an opportunity for youth from throughout the city to display the great things that they are doing.

Scheduled to appear: Jarrell Hosely & Perpetual Prayer, University Presbyterian Gospel Choir, NBCF Praise & Worship team, Capriel Symonne and many, many more.

The "Rally for Hope"

has hosted a great line-up of inspiring speakers, who come to encourage and empower young people as they prepare for the arduous task of returning back to school and the complexities of young life," said Rev. Terrence Proctor, Senior Pastor of Church by the Side of the Road and visionary for the Rally for Hope. "We have found that many youth who come to

the rally are really at a point of crisis and, true to its name, the rally provides them with that much needed boost of hope for the journey."

Free food and drinks will be provided.

For more information, visit www.rallyforhopeseatle.org.

seattlemedium.com

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