



# Rural Education Center

## “News & Notes” for REC Members

Date: September 8, 2014

**Dear REC Members:**

### **State Supreme Court Hears “Contempt Arguments”**

“They’re in contempt, don’t be afraid to say the word ‘contempt,’” attorney Tom Ahearne tells the state Supreme Court justices during the show-cause hearing that took place in Olympia on September 3.

I was fortunate to be able to watch this hearing in person. The courtroom was packed with folks anxious hear the arguments. The State argued it should not be held in contempt for failing to submit a detailed plan on how the State will meet its constitutional duty to fund K-12 education.

Mr. Ahearne (representing the McCleary family and other plaintiffs, including many school districts and the Rural Ed. Center) argued that the Legislature should obey the court’s order and present a plan to the court before the end of 2014. The justices will issue a ruling sometime in the future. My guess is that they will do this soon, but we will have to wait and see.



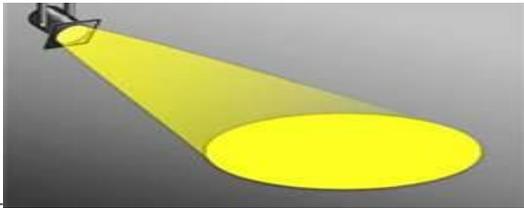
### **Special Thanks to Tom Ahearne**

If you have attended the WASA/WSSDA Legislative Conference the past several years, you were able to watch Tom Ahearne provide engaging and compelling updates on the McCleary case. Tom feels very passionate about this case and, despite suffering from a serious back injury due to a snowboarding accident last winter, he is still representing the McCleary family and other plaintiffs in this historic case.

**THANK YOU**

### Special Thanks to Tom Ahearne (continued)

I was able to visit with Tom during the past several Legislative Conferences in Olympia and his commitment and dedication to this case is indeed inspiring. Here is a photo of Tom and me visiting with State Representative Kathy Haigh a couple of years ago. Please keep Tom in your thoughts and prayers as he continues to work on recovering from his back injury. He told me on September 3 that he will continue working on this case "as long as it takes!"



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### Spotlight on Pateros School District



The summer of 2014 was a very difficult one for many school districts and communities in Okanogan County as they endured the largest forest fire in state history. On September 4, I visited several school districts in north-central Washington to see how they were doing. Dr. Lois Davies, the superintendent for the Pateros School District, drove me around her community and I cannot express how significant and expansive the fire damage is. The Pateros school "survived" the fast moving fire but suffered extensive smoke and soot damage. Lois described to me how the school (despite the community being without power for many days) became a community center, feeding hundreds of people each day. The first day of school in Pateros will be on September 10. We wish Pateros and all of the other districts impacted by the Carlton Complex Fire a successful and safe 2014-15 school year. Note: The next REC "News & Notes" will describe a special project Lois and her school district is involved in!



*Dr. Lois Davies expresses thanks for all the support her district has received. This room contains some of the hundreds of backpacks that have been donated.*



**Reminder: Min. Basic Ed. Program Compliance Report Due by Sept. 15**

REC member school districts are reminded that the Minimum Basic Ed. Program Compliance Report is due by September 15. This report is submitted through the iGrants system and it is form Package 600. The report is fairly simple to complete and requires you to verify that you are meeting several statutory requirements. If you are a K-12 district, you will also need to complete some information regarding your high school graduation requirements. It does not require board approval but districts are required to provide their board members with a copy of the report and to maintain records supporting the certification for auditing purposes.

**Reminder: TPEP Teacher Training Funds Available – Deadline Oct. 30**

\$5 million was appropriated by the 2014 Legislature “solely for the provision of training for teachers in the performance-based teacher principal evaluation program”. These funds will support teacher training with a focus on student growth. Districts need to complete iGrants From Package 664. Click on the following links for more information and to see how much money your district is eligible to receive

[Allowable and Excluded Expenses](#)

[Funding and Claiming Process](#)

[Invoice Template](#)

[Sample Budget](#)

Stay tuned for more REC Updates. I wish each of you a very successful 2014-15 school year! Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you.



**Jim Kowalkowski, Director**

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*The Rural Education Center was established in 1987. It is a statewide cooperative of small and rural districts and educational organizations.*

*The REC mission is to provide support serves to small and/or rural school districts in the state of Washington.*



*NorthEast Washington ESD 101 serves as the fiscal agent for the REC.*

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*Collaboration University.*

