

Michelle Caldier

Chris,

Hello! I apologize for not getting this too you sooner. This week has been extremely busy. Here is a summary of answers to the questions you asked. Please let me know if you need anything else. Thanks!

*I support cost of living adjustments (COLAs) for teachers. Obviously, teacher compensation will be just one piece of the Legislature's discussion on education funding. Meeting the demands of McCleary, and really our state constitution, are paramount. This includes reducing class sizes, providing ample transportation to get kids to and from school, educating students with developmental disabilities, and providing materials, supplies and operating costs so districts don't have to constantly go to local voters for levies to pay for basic education. The pressure on legislators to balance teacher compensation with these other facets of creating a world-class education system means we must prioritize. Having the best teachers who are adequately compensated for their work significantly affects student outcomes. We must also now take into consideration the recent passage of the voter-approved initiative to lower class sizes, which carries a large price tag. So the discussion in Olympia will be how to pay for not only teacher COLAs and this new class-size initiative, but also the basic education funding mandates in our state constitution. I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and be part of the solution. Teachers are the backbone of our education system - they make a lasting impact on our children's future. As a*

*mother, I am forever grateful to the teachers who led my daughters to become the smart, successful women they are today. I will fight to ensure teachers are supported in this state - not only financially, but academically as well, so they can be their best for their students*

Thanks,  
Michelle

Representative Michelle Caldier  
26<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
360.786.7802