

**Rural Education Center
Strategic Plan / Goals
2011-12
(Draft)**



From the REC Bylaws:

The purposes of the Rural Education Center are to:

- a. Establish communication links with other public and private agencies and groups to develop strategies to meet identified state and federal goals.
- b. Develop contacts and communications with legislative and administrative agencies as well as executive branch entities of the state and federal government for the purpose of policy advocacy.
- c. Serve as a clearinghouse for rural/small school research and information through partnerships.
- d. Provide information on effective and accountable practices and programs.
- e. Facilitate implementation of model programs, partnerships and/or services.

For the 2011-12 school year, the Rural Education Center will ...

- Continue to educate policymakers on the efficiencies and strengths of our small and rural school districts
- Be a strong and active voice regarding the importance of Levy Equalization to school districts and to communities. The REC will work closely with other educational organizations including WASA and WSSDA to strongly oppose any reductions in LEA

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- Be a strong advocate for our Education Service Districts
- Assist in educating policymakers regarding the importance of ALE programs.
- Develop a legislative platform
- Collaborate with ESD's and other partners to develop a series of research briefs on pertinent topics
- Increase involvement at the Federal level
- Continue to promote membership and advocacy

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REC Activities for the 2011-2012 school year:

- REC director serving as a member of the Compensation Technical Working Group
 - Priority: insure that the needs of our small and rural districts are addressed as this working group competes a legislative mandate to begin the process of developing an enhanced salary allocation model that will attract and retain the highest quality educators
- REC director 's district is a member of the NorthEast Washington ESD 101 TPEP consortium
 - Priority: work closely with the consortium members and with the TPEP steering committee to help ensure that the unique needs of small and rural schools are addressed
- REC Director Jim Kowalkowski, REC President Mark Mansell, and North East Washington ESD 101 Superintendent Mike Dunn are engaged in

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planning a cooperative research project with Education Northwest.
Depending on funding, this research collaboration project will focus on
small and rural schools

- REC director continues to serve as a member of the WASA Legislative and Finance Committee and the WSSDA Small Schools Task Force

