



Investing in Student Potential

January 26, 2022

Agenda

- Welcome & Introduction
- Importance of Belonging & Inclusion
- Special Education Funding
 - Overview of education funding
 - Special Education funding formula
 - Impact and use of local levies
 - Challenges with special education funding in Washington



Belonging & Inclusion

Every individual thrives in a learning-friendly environment where they feel safe, supported, and challenged.

- Do we have any images that we could add here?



Belonging Activity

padlet

♡ REMAKE ↗ SHARE ⚙️ ... 👤

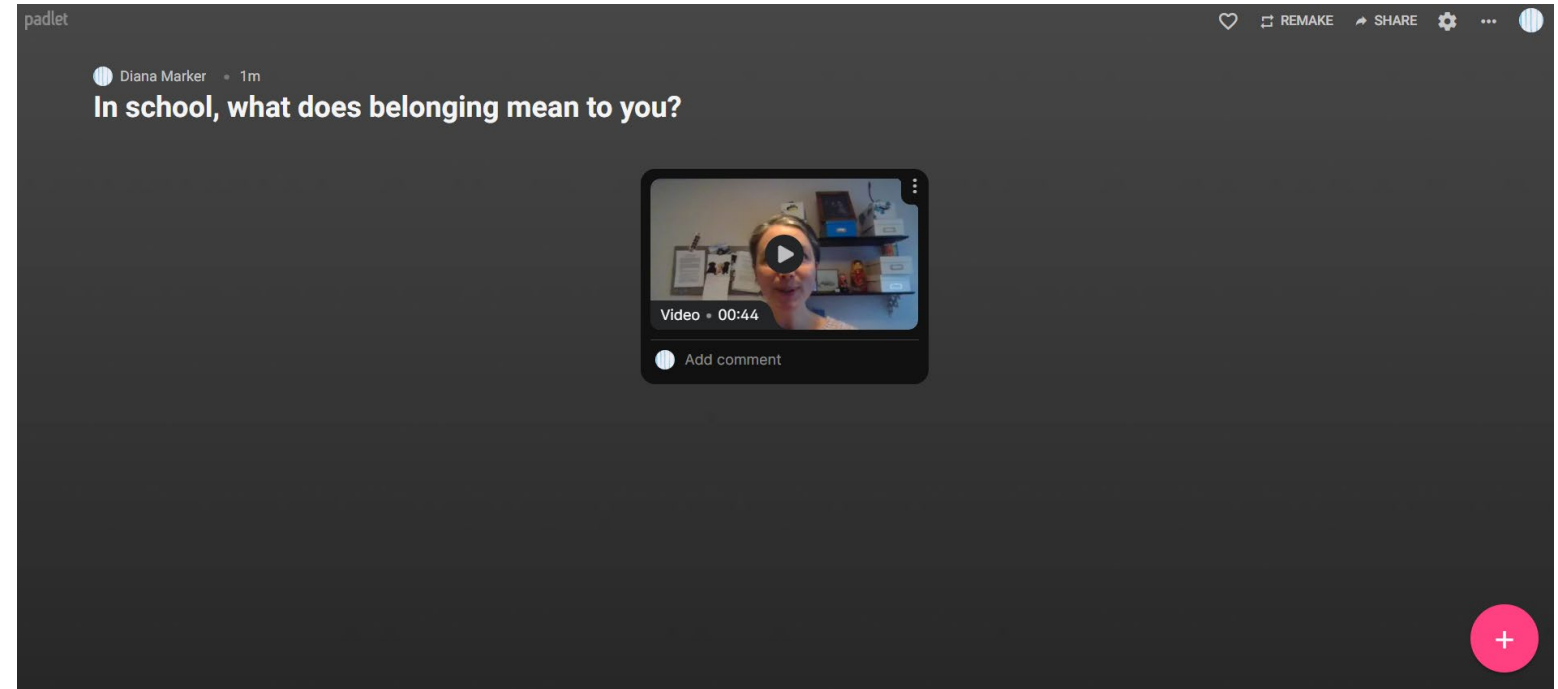
👤 Diana Marker · 1m

In school, what does belonging mean to you?

🎥 Video · 00:44

👤 Add comment

+



Basic Education Funding

- Every general education student generates a base funding amount to support their educational costs
 - Base funding differs from district to district depending on their regionalization factor
 - Base funding is supposed to cover the costs of providing students a general education



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Special Education Funding

- **Two-tiered funding model**
 - Provides different levels of funding depending on how much of the day a student is in a general education classroom

Time spent in a general education classroom	Funding Amount 2020-21
80% or more of the day	\$8,693 - \$10,134
Less than 80% of the day	\$8,586 - \$10,008

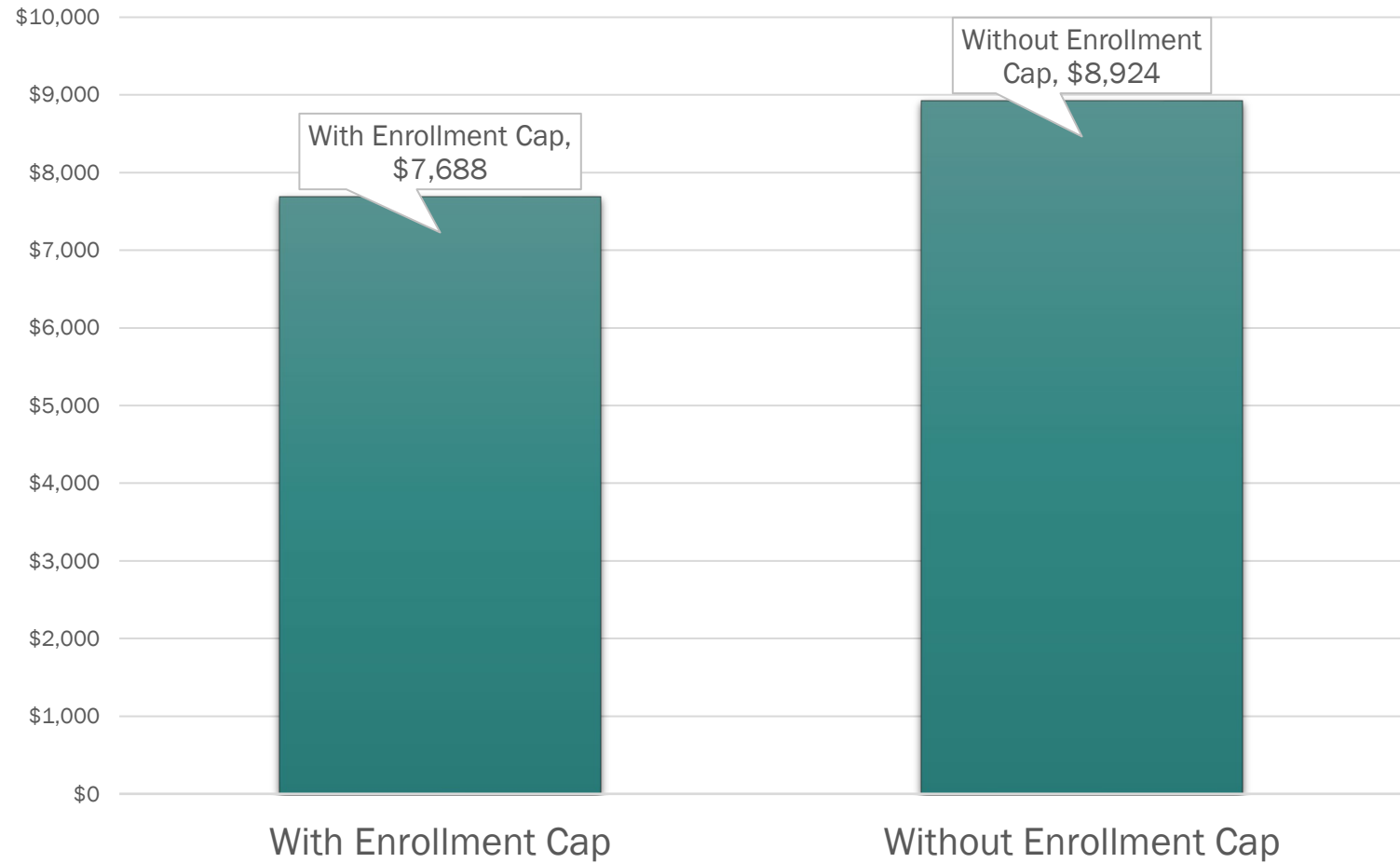


Special Education Funding Cap

- Districts can only receive special education funding for up to **13.5%** of their students
 - If more than 13.5% of students have been identified as needing special education services districts are still required to develop and provide an IEP for them, but do not receive any additional funding
- Impact:
 - Spreads a limited amount of resources over a greater number of students

Special Education Enrollment Cap

Spokane SD
Special Education Funding Per-Student 2020-21

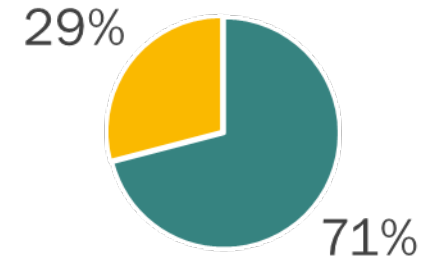


Special Education Safety Net

- Provides additional funding to districts who experienced higher than expected costs in providing special education services
 - Districts must apply and be approved to access funds
 - Not all districts' costs are reimbursed by the state
 - Only some districts access these funds
- Safety Net funding was \$91 million for Washington state
 - **\$86** million was awarded to districts for costs associated with high-need individuals
 - **\$71** million went to support out-of-district placements

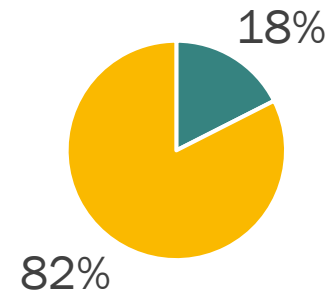
Special Education Safety Net

2020-21 - Where high need students are supported



■ In-district support ■ Out-of-district placement

2020-21 - Where high need funds went



■ In-district support ■ Out-of-district placement

Local Levy Funding

- Districts with higher property values can raise more local levy funds with lower tax rates than districts with lower property values
- Levies are not supposed to be used to fund basic education
- Special education is part of basic education
 - Levies are often used to support a district's special education program because the state doesn't provide enough funding for districts to fully meet the needs of students with IEPs

Challenges with Special Education Funding Formulas

- Inequities of general education are magnified in special education funding formula
- Funding isn't enough to meet student need
 - Districts rely on local levies, further magnifying inequity
- Funding is only provided for up to 13.5% of students with IEPs
- Placement in a general education setting does not always mean students are meaningfully included in a general education classroom



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Special
Education
Funding
Equity

Questions