



The Seattle Times

Gov. Gregoire: Don't veto teacher performance bill

"The only employees left to fear performance-based layoffs are those who aren't performing. That's not who the governor should be protecting. Governor: when the teacher performance bill reaches your desk, sign it." – May 17, 2011

**THE NEWS
TRIBUNE**

New teachers dodge bullet, no thanks to lawmakers

"Seniority still rules teacher layoffs despite the fact that the vast majority of voters say they want districts to pink-slip the least effective teachers first. The antiquated policy is costly in two ways: It robs schools of some of the best and brightest, and it leaves high-salaried burnout cases on the payroll, requiring districts to lay off more teachers to make budget." – May 17, 2011

The Seattle Times

Base teacher layoffs on effectiveness, not seniority

"Teachers are the most significant factor of in-school achievement. Their effectiveness should be considered during layoffs." – May 9, 2011



Teacher layoffs must be tied to performance

"Layoffs are going to occur in education, and those layoffs should be done as wisely as possible. Performance must be considered." – April 19, 2011

 **The Columbian**

In Our View: Better Teachers

"Stop the 'last hired, first laid-off' policy in public schools. This scheme pushes aside merit and ranks longevity as pre-eminent. Washington's students deserve the best teachers ... period. Sometimes those high-quality teachers will be seasoned veterans; sometimes they will be rookies. But to use experience as the sole deciding factor in who gets laid off is, to begin with, an insult to teachers." – April 10, 2011

theolympian.com
The Olympian

Any layoffs of teachers should be performance-based

"Switching to performance-based layoffs is the right thing for the education system in this state, and more important, the research shows it's the right thing for student learning." – March 8, 2011

Everett, Washington
Herald

Protect good teachers first

"These are sensible ideas, and important statements about an education system that in many ways works harder to protect underperforming adults than to help children reach their full potential." – Feb. 20, 2011

SPOKESMANREVIEW

Let teacher performance determine who's laid off

"Parents want their children to get the best education experience possible, so if a newer teacher is getting better results, it makes no sense to dump her. The allegiance to seniority also cripples education in those schools trying to close the achievement gap." – Feb. 17, 2011

The Seattle Times

Legislature must move teacher-effectiveness bills

"If legislators kill the bills with inaction, they are ignoring the calls of parents, education groups and brave teachers who've gone against their union on this issue. Lawmakers will be thumbing their noses at informed research, including the University of Washington's study underscoring the academic harm to students when layoffs rob classrooms of effective teachers." – Feb. 16, 2011

THE NEWS TRIBUNE

Seniority-based teacher layoffs hurt schools, students

"By recognizing the importance of teacher effectiveness in job retention, Great Schools legislation is an important step in making teaching more professional. Lawmakers ought to be championing it." - Feb. 13, 2011

Tri-City Herald

Seniority a poor measure of teacher's effectiveness

"Basing firing decisions on seniority – a process that teacher unions and others are fighting to retain – cheats our children out of their best chance for success." – Feb. 10, 2011

The Seattle Times

Teacher performance must be factored into teacher layoffs

"Teacher layoffs are a last resort because of their adverse impact on student learning. When layoffs are unavoidable, effective teaching ought to be the determining factor in who stays." – Feb. 4, 2011

The Columbian

In Our View: Disregard Seniority

"Students, parents, taxpayers and teachers deserve to have the best teachers retained in schools. And sometimes, those good-to-great teachers aren't the most experienced." – Jan. 30, 2011



Layoffs that unnecessarily damage children's education must be avoided

"Whether it is the teaching profession, the journalism profession or any other job, if you determine who gets laid off using only seniority you aren't always going to end up with the best remaining staff." – Jan. 3, 2011