

Respondent Names

Chris Reykdal

Complainant Name

Glen Morgan

Complaint Description

Glen Morgan
Mon, 26 Feb 2024 at 1:11 PM

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that Chris Reykdal, Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction appears to have violated Washington State’s campaign finance laws (RCW 42.17A). The details are outlined below.

- 1) Illegal attempt to fundraise and promote his political campaign during session freeze (Violation of RCW 42.17A.560)

I have attached a fundraising email (Sent February 25, 2024 – 9:21am) that was sent by Chris Reykdal, as a political candidate running for re-election in 2024, used to both promote his campaign this year as well as collect donations (see the donate button at the bottom of the attached email). We are weeks away from the Washington State Legislature limping into the finish line with a whimper to end the current Legislative Session 2024, but despite the clear knowledge that it is illegal to solicit funds during the Legislative Session, Reykdal chose to habitually break the law.

The content of this campaign email is also misleading. Nobody has done more to destroy public education in Washington State than Chris Reykdal and his strenuous efforts have led to the largest exodus of children out of the public school system in modern history. This is an impressive achievement considering the massive increase of the education budget in Washington State (Spend more, get less – what a deal!). While some have speculated that perhaps Chris has been a secret champion of home school and private school options for children and parents willing to escape the current failing system, there is no clear evidence that this was an intentional effort on Reykdal’s part, nor is there any evidence that he has been taking concealed and off-the-books payments for his efforts to motivate and increase this clear desperate exodus of children and parents attempting to escape the disaster he has supervised and championed.

Obviously, graduation rates have no meaning when standards have completely collapsed, everyone is a winner, and no child can fail no matter what they fail to achieve or do in school. When a public school system “graduates” students who are not literate and can’t function at a basic level in mathematics, that same student “graduate” may be able to have a lucrative career in government or the education establishment where incompetence thrives and pays

well, but their prospects are substantially reduced in the real world where they are expected to produce value of some kind for the economy, which usually requires some basic literacy.

Superintendent Reykdal is certainly allowed to lie in his political fundraising emails like this one, but he must legally wait and produce these deceptive fundraisers AFTER the campaign session, not violate RCW 42.17A.560 just because he can – I’m sure the special interests who profit from his disastrous failures at the expense of all the children will adequately fund his political campaign – THEY don’t care about the children either.

I’m sure this isn’t the only law he is breaking, but this was an obvious recent violation which should encourage a deeper dive into the management of funds here.

Let me know if you need any additional information on this one.

Best Regards,

Glen Morgan

What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?

This complaint has nothing to do with deceptive claims or false statements in the campaign email Reykdal distributed to the donor class. That is protected free speech and he can lie as much as he feels like he must in order to collect the cash for his campaign, but he needs to follow the law and wait until the current sad legislative session is over - which is still weeks away.

List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found

Copy of illegal mailer including his campaign donate button attached.

List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them

everyone on his mailing list should be contacted, and the PDC may want to verify exactly how many funds have been collected during any other secretive fundraising efforts Reykdal may have committed during the session freeze

Certification (Complainant)

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

From: State Superintendent Chris Reykdal [mailto:Chris4wakids@mail.mailchimpapp.com]

Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2024 9:21 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: A Legislative Update and More Public Education Success.

[View this email in your browser](#)

Team Public Education,

Happy almost Spring... we can wish, can't we? I want to share some exciting successes for our public schools. This legislative session, I pursued additional funds to support students with disabilities, our para-educators, student meals, student transportation, student attendance and engagement, regional mental health improvements, and several other critical investments. I am pleased to say that the Legislature is making additional investments in every major category. We have a ton of work ahead of us to restore our ample funding from the 2018 peak, but we will get there with collective advocacy.

I'm also excited to tell you that our state hit a record high graduation rate this last spring. On average, every high school graduate improves their lifetime earnings by over \$400,000 compared to those who do not complete. High school graduation truly matters, and some students face substantial barriers. Step by step, we are changing that! A high school diploma is the ticket to work, apprenticeships, military service, college, and more. High school diplomas also give our students a sense of pride and hope.

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Year after year as your Superintendent, I am filled with joy watching more and more students reach for and achieve this accomplishment, and I am excited for what that means for every Washingtonian as young people step into their post-secondary pathways, careers, and civic leadership.

In other somewhat fun news, I issued nation-leading guidelines for how our schools will integrate artificial intelligence into our learning standards, how we will teach students to use it ethically, and how to protect student privacy. I believe America failed to understand the impacts that social media eventually had on America's collective mental health, attitudes, and actions. I won't let Washington state's education system miss this crucial moment. We are leading

bombarded with misinformation and propaganda daily, sometimes hourly, but we will use this time of transition as a teaching moment! We will teach them critical thinking skills and resiliency, and how to use AI for creativity, productivity, and understanding.

Thank you for being a champion of public education! The forces of privatization are growing stronger nationally, and they have arrived in Washington state in the form of “think” tanks and OSPI candidates who seek to send our tax dollars to more testing companies, for-profit companies, and even religious institutions. More on that in my next update!

If you are interested in endorsing my campaign for re-election, my website has a mechanism for that! :-) Community members can add their name to my endorsements list at the bottom of [this](#) webpage. I'd be honored to have you join me on Team Public Ed!

Forever in service!

Chris

Washington State Superintendent

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www.chrisreykdal.org

DONATE

Paid for by Friends of Chris Reykdal

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