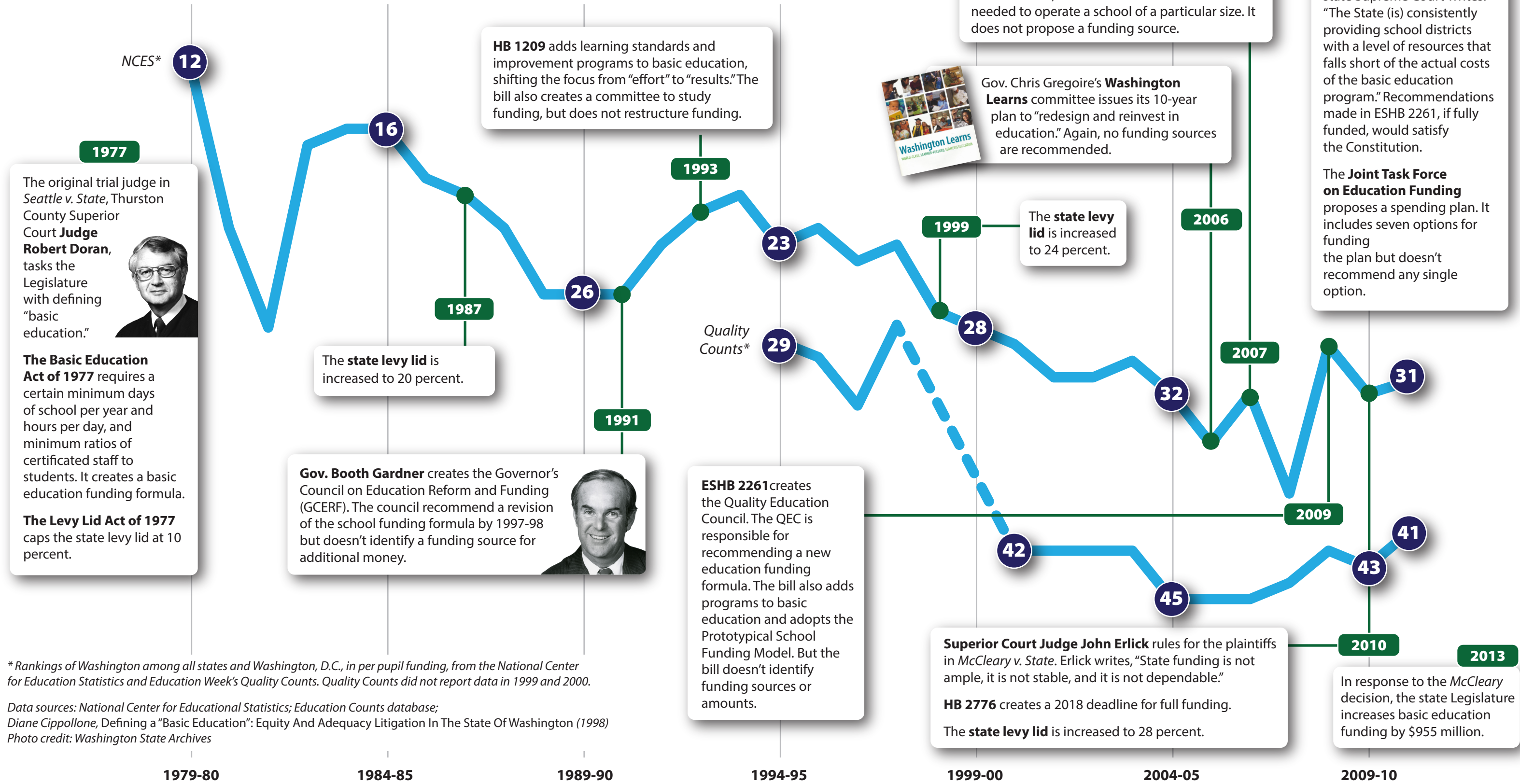


# A brief history of education funding in Washington state

Modern education funding began in 1976, when the Seattle School District sued the state. At the time, 65 districts (representing 40 percent of the student population) each recently had levies fail twice in a row. The State Supreme Court agreed with the district, ruling that the funding system in place at the time was neither ample nor stable.



\* Rankings of Washington among all states and Washington, D.C., in per pupil funding, from the National Center for Education Statistics and Education Week's Quality Counts. Quality Counts did not report data in 1999 and 2000.

Data sources: National Center for Educational Statistics; Education Counts database; Diane Cippollone, *Defining a "Basic Education": Equity And Adequacy Litigation In The State Of Washington* (1998) Photo credit: Washington State Archives