



K-12 EDUCATION

Fully funding McCleary: taking the final step

In 2010, King County Superior Court declared that Washington was not meeting its constitutional obligation to amply fund a uniform system of education. Since then, the state has invested billions of dollars to meet the goal of fully funding basic education by the legislatively imposed deadline of the 2018–19 school year.

Major new investments prior to 2017 included:

- » K-3 class size reductions: \$1.1 billion
- » Transportation: \$197 million
- » Materials, supplies and operating costs: \$1.2 billion
- » Full-day kindergarten: \$270 million

During the 2017 legislative session, lawmakers added \$1.8 billion to address concerns with compensation, bargaining, special education and professional development. Under House Bill 2242, the new policies would be fully implemented in the 2019–20 school year.

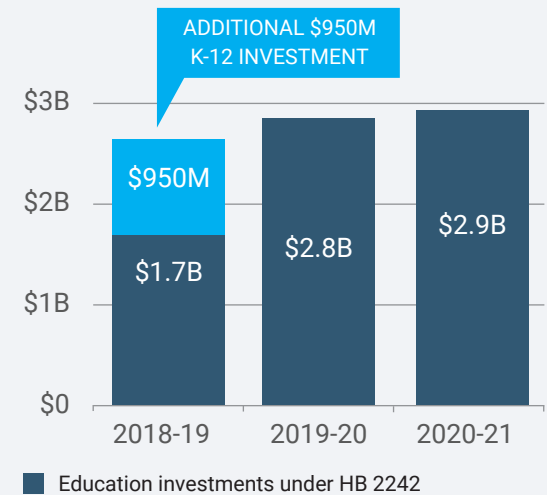
This fall, the state Supreme Court ruled in the McCleary case that the legislation sets up a framework sufficient to meet the state’s obligation

to basic education. But the court said the plan still falls short because it does not fully fund the increased school teacher and staff salaries by the 2018 deadline.

Gov. Inslee is proposing an additional, one-time investment of \$950 million in the 2018–19 school year to increase staff salaries and fully fund basic education by Sept. 1, 2018.

Under the governor’s plan, school districts will receive full funding for educator salaries in the 2018–19 school year, achieving compliance with McCleary by the deadline. Apportionment payments to school districts will be more heavily weighted toward July and August.

A one-time investment would meet the McCleary deadline



Staff Type	Base Staff Salaries		
	2017-18	HB 2242 2018-19	Full Implementation 2018-19
Classified	\$34,180	\$39,976	\$46,647
Instructional	\$36,521	\$59,333	\$65,385
Administrative	\$62,199	\$79,128	\$96,520

Under HB 2242 approved earlier this year, the state’s new salary allocation model is only partially funded in the 2018–19 school year. Gov. Inslee is proposing to fully fund the increased base salaries in the 2018–19 school year.

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Strategic science investment

Launch a focused effort to ensure climate science is taught by school districts using age-appropriate programs based on Next Generation Science Standards. Develops statewide supports for teachers to integrate climate literacy lessons in the classroom and provides funding for science teachers in elementary, middle and high schools to engage in annual professional learning. (Resource development: \$500,000 General Fund-State; professional learning: \$6.0 million GF-S)

Special education safety net threshold adjustment

Increase funding for the safety net, which provides reimbursement to districts for especially high-cost special education students. In the 2017–18 school year, the threshold for a student to qualify as high cost is \$30,316, roughly \$17,000 higher than the state allocation through the basic education and special education excess cost formulas. Beginning in the 2018–19 school year, funding will lower the qualifying threshold and increase qualifying local school districts' access to safety net funding. (\$20.0 million GF-S per school year)

Safety net staffing

Add 10 staff for the special education program. These staff support the work of the Safety Net Committee, provide training and support to districts applying for safety net awards and support compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act. (\$1.3 million GF-S)

High School and Beyond Plan support

Allocate more guidance counselors to middle schools and boost their resources and professional development. This will promote the successful implementation of High School and Beyond Plans, which students must develop in middle school beginning with the 2017–18 school year. (\$17.5 million GF-S)

IT upgrades

Upgrade the statewide grant management system to align with the ESSA Consolidated Plan, giving districts more flexibility to meet student needs by combining federal, state and local dollars. The plan

emphasizes greater cross-program coordination, planning and service delivery.

Upgrade the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's website to remove accessibility issues for persons with a disability, as recommended by the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education.

Migrate the OSPI data center to the State Data Center in compliance with the Office of the Chief Information Officer policy that all agencies locate servers at the SDC by June 30, 2019. (total \$3.9 million GF-S for these items)

Expanding career-connected learning opportunities

In the next five years, the Washington Roundtable estimates that Washington will need to fill almost 740,000 new jobs. Complicating this picture is the fact our high school dropout rate is almost 20 percent. Consider, too, that while nearly 90 percent of parents nationally expect their children to complete a bachelor's degree, just 30 percent do so. To bridge that employment gap, develop more local talent and offer more attractive postsecondary opportunities to students, Gov. Inslee aims over the next five years to link 100,000 students with career-connected learning opportunities that prepare them for high-demand, high-wage jobs.

To that end, the governor, together with the Legislature and representatives from business, academia and philanthropy, will devote 2018 to developing a strategic plan that lays out the vision, mission, strategy and tactics for a business-led, statewide youth apprenticeship system to be operated over the next 10 years. The supplemental budget includes funding for staff across five agencies to help launch this effort. These agencies will inventory state and local systems and programs, analyze barriers and propose policies that support youth apprenticeship and student engagement in career-connected learning opportunities.