

Education/Operating

K-12 Education

Governor's budget expands learning opportunities to get children back on track

The state has significantly increased funding for public K-12 schools and more than 1.1 million students over the last eight years. We continue working to ensure all children get the same educational opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused major disruptions for our schools and highlighted some areas where we have work to do, including improving access to technology.

The governor's 2021–23 K-12 budget makes major new investments aimed to expand learning opportunities and increase equitable student supports so all students can get back on track and achieve their full potential.

Expand learning opportunities

The governor proposes \$400 million in additional investments to improve educational outcomes for all students and to address learning loss and educational opportunity gaps. The budget provides funding to expand learning options for tutoring and enrichment and offer more student supports. School districts could add instructional time before or after school, additional days or during the summer. These opportunities are provided based on an evaluation of student needs. School districts must identify specific assessment tools, pinpoint student learning and

well-being gaps, and focus additional time and supports on students who are most in need of interventions.

Close the digital divide

Access to technology has been essential to student learning during the pandemic. The governor's budget includes \$79 million to support residential broadband connections for families across Washington who cannot afford connection services in their area.

Increase student support staff and training

The governor proposes increasing staffing levels for counselors in elementary schools. These staff support students who are falling behind academically and serve as potential points of contact for students who may be searching for adults to trust. The budget includes \$32 million for districts to employ education staff in these support positions.

Increase paraeducator training

Our public schools rely heavily on paraeducators to serve students in many capacities. State law requires that all paraeducators complete the Fundamental Course of Study to obtain a paraeducator certificate, and professional development each year. To help paraeducators meet these requirements and provide ongoing professional development, the governor's budget includes \$14.8 million for four days of annual training in the 2021–23 biennium.

Adopt more equitable student supports

While schools have support programs in place, we know they could benefit from adopting evidence-based strategies that better focus these supports and address specific needs. The governor's budget includes \$760,000 to give more school districts and educators the tools they need to implement Multi-Tiered Systems of Support. This system uses student data to focus supports on specific needs. These supports have reduced the number of student suspensions or disciplinary actions, and have shown improvements in student learning outcomes such as elementary reading. This investment includes a feasibility study for statewide MTSS database development, two full-time specialists and expert training on best practices.

Improve special education services

The governor's budget takes additional steps to improve services for students in special education programs:

- \$3.1 million to fully fund the special education safety net, a program that reimburses districts for extraordinary expenditures on services to students with the highest-cost special education needs.
- \$75,000 for a special education family liaison to fully support the needs of the community.

Climate science and outdoor education

The budget includes \$4 million to increase the current investment in climate science education in our schools. This will promote more teacher development in science education.

It will also bolster support for community-based organizations to partner with schools and educational service districts and develop training and curriculum supports.

In addition, nearly \$1 million is proposed to continue services in outdoor education and student leadership programs for students across Washington.

Expand mastery-based learning

Too often, students move through grades without meeting their learning objectives or mastering all the concepts they need for the next grade level. Mastery-based learning is a personalized approach where educators assess a student's learning, and then design their instruction to meet the student's individual needs. The governor proposes \$290,000 to continue the mastery-based learning work group, which is staffed by the State Board of Education. The work group will continue to develop recommendations so students have the option to meet their learning objectives through a personalized pathway, including a pathway to graduation.

Higher education

Grow Job Skills Program

Expand customized, short-term and job-specific training for incumbent workers through the state's Job Skills Program. This program co-invests with employers who need customized training because of growth and changes in technology, and as a way to address skills shortages. Funding will be prioritized for employers who have new or prospective

employees dislocated due to COVID-19. (\$10 million Workforce Education Investment Account)

Expand career-connected learning

Connect more students to high-demand careers and paid learning experiences with new career launch and high-demand programs in K-12 schools and community and technical colleges. Provide equipment grants to build more career connected programs in K-12 schools and community and technical colleges. Create a new pre-apprenticeship program for high school students in Federal Way. Launch a marketing campaign to get the word out to students and families. (\$7 million Workforce Education Investment Account; \$13 million state bonds; \$3 million other funds)

Advance equity on community college campuses

Support innovative efforts to advance equitable outcomes for community and technical college students. Establish a new center for diversity, equity and inclusion that coordinates collaborative curricula reviews and removes equity barriers to student success. Fund faculty stipends to conduct curricula reviews on college campuses, and provide technology grants. These grants will convert technical and laboratory-based instruction to an interactive online format. (\$23.3 million, Workforce Education Investment Account)

Remove barriers to financial aid

Continue funding the Aim Higher Free Application for Federal Student Aid initiative. This will help families and students connect

to state and federal grants and loans, such as the FAFSA, to help pay for college and improve Washington students' post-secondary outcomes. Washington has one of the lowest application completion rates in the country. (\$1.1 million, Workforce Education Investment Account)

Improve equity outcomes for foster and homeless students

Provide grants, mentorship and student support services to college students or apprentices who experienced foster care or homelessness. The Passport to Careers Program serves students who lack family and financial support to complete their educational pathway. This program provides financial and academic support to help these students complete their college or apprenticeship credentials. (\$8.4 million, Workforce Education Investment Account)

Advance equity on baccalaureate college campuses

Provide funding for campus diversity, equity and inclusion efforts at four institutions (Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University, The Evergreen State College and Western Washington University). Expand recruitment and outreach efforts to historically underserved students, increase student supports and mental health counseling, establish a new Native Pathways program and an Ethnic Studies program; and establish a new student center. (\$9.9 million, Workforce Education Investment Account)

Support Washington State University medical students

Support the additional 20 medical students in their third and fourth year at the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine at Washington State University. This completes the funding for a capacity of 80 students per cohort. (\$3.6 million, Workforce Education Investment Account)

Support access to care and medical education teaching mission

Maintain access to medical care for uninsured individuals and those covered by Medicaid, and promote the teaching mission and access to services at Harborview Medical Center, University of Washington Medical Center and University of Washington Dental School. (\$112 million, General Fund-State)

Continue to build behavioral health workforce

Add two new child psychiatry fellows (for a total of three) and faculty to train the fellows at the University of Washington. Each fellow serves 500-1,000 children and youth at training sites. This will help the state ramp up the number of adult psychiatry residencies, bringing the number of residencies in fiscal year 2024 to 16. Both of these programs address workforce shortages in children's and adult mental health. (\$2.4 million, GF-S)

Education/Capital

Early learning

Department of Commerce

Early learning facility grants

Award facility construction and renovation grants to current and potential providers in the Early Childhood Education Assistance Program and the Early Achievers Program. (\$4.7 million bonds)

Higher education four-year institutions

University of Washington

College of Engineering Interdisciplinary Education Research Center

Construct a new interdisciplinary engineering building to accommodate demand for several engineering programs with enrollment caps. The building will support students in civil, mechanical, environmental, structural and materials science engineering programs. (\$45.4 million bonds; \$25 million other)

Washington State University

WSU Vancouver – Life Sciences Building

Construct new Life Sciences instructional building to create teaching and research laboratories that will improve degree attainment for undergraduate students. All students,

especially those in STEM and health care fields, will benefit from adequate, modern, general lab space. (\$52.6 million bonds)

Eastern Washington University

Science Building renovation

Renovate Science Building to modernize facilities and expand course offerings in basic science courses. This will better meet the state and regional workforce demands for additional health care professionals and science fields. (\$45 million bonds)

Central Washington University

Health education

Renovate and expand Nicholson Pavilion academic class and class laboratory facilities that support sport and movement studies programs. The modernized facility will improve the structure and building systems, and provide flexible classroom space with technology and student spaces. (\$55.5 million bonds)

The Evergreen State College

Lab II HVAC upgrades

Complete modernization and upgrade to building HVAC system. Renovation will make the facility's environment safe, more conducive for teaching and learning, and reduce overall building energy demands and costs. (\$4 million bonds)

Western Washington University

Electrical engineering and computer sciences building

Construct a new electrical engineering and computer science building. This will meet the critical need to increase graduates in computer science, engineering and energy science programs. The building will exceed LEED standards for energy use, carbon emissions and other environmental indicators. It will be the first zero-energy, carbon-neutral academic facility in the region and represent only a handful of such buildings in the country. (\$51 million bonds; \$15 million other)

Community and technical colleges

Statewide

Facility repairs and minor works (statewide)

Complete high-priority building repairs and preservation projects at each of the 34 community and technical colleges. (\$105.6 million bonds; \$57 million other)

Shoreline Community College

Allied Health, Science and Manufacturing

Construct a new facility to support STEM education in sciences, health occupations and manufacturing programs that will put students to work in high demand fields. The new building will consolidate programs into a single

building with modern classrooms and student study space. (\$43.8 million bonds)

Spokane Falls Community College

Fine and Applied Arts

Construct a new building for fine and applied arts programs. The new building will contain classrooms, computer classrooms, labs, faculty offices, and the specialized space necessary for these programs such as exhibition space, studios and dark rooms. (\$19.3 million bonds)

Clark College

North County Satellite

Construct a new building to accommodate growth and enrollment pressures in rapidly growing areas of the college's service district. The facility will contain classrooms, science labs, computer labs, professional labs, offices, student services and support spaces. (\$53.2 million bonds)

Everett Community College

Learning Resources Center

Construct a Learning Resource Center with needed instruction space for basic skills, distance education and upper division partnerships with four-year institutions. Integrated with the library, media services and the Teaching and Learning Center, the new center will meet rapidly changing instructional needs and essential program integration. (\$48.1 million bonds)

Grays Harbor College

Student Services and Instructional Building

Construct a new building to include instructional spaces and consolidate student service supports from four separate campus locations. Combining functions will provide a one-stop location for instruction and services for students. (\$44 million bonds; \$3.7 million other)

North Seattle College

Library building renovation

Renovate the library building to advance student success and achievement, and create a culture of innovation and collaboration. The library will be transformed into an information commons that provides contemporary library services, consolidates digital resources and provides collaborative learning spaces. (\$30.5 million bonds)

Walla Walla Community College

Science and Technology Building replacement

Replace the Science and Technology Building that provides science labs, classrooms and informal student study spaces. This will serve programs in physics, earth science, organic and inorganic chemistry and math. (\$9.5 million bonds)

Pierce College Puyallup

STEM building

Construct a new building to support the growing demands for science, technology, engineering and math programs. The building

will provide specialized spaces for several existing programs, flexible space for support classes, various unscheduled labs and student study and collaboration spaces. (\$38.6 million bonds)

Bellevue College

Center for Transdisciplinary Learning and Innovation

Construct a new building for the information and business technologies, computer science, interior design, art and engineering programs. The building will include modern flexible classrooms, makerspace and student study spaces. (\$39.9 million bonds)

Lake Washington Institute of Technology

Center for Design

Construct a new facility dedicated to design and technology programs in art, design, science, technology and engineering. (\$32.5 million bonds)

K-12 Education

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

School Construction Assistance Program

Partner with school districts to construct and modernize over 80 school buildings throughout the state. (\$812.3 million bonds)

Small District Modernization and Tribal Compact Schools Program

Assist school districts with less than 1,000 students statewide through a competitive grant program, and tribal compact schools, for building system repairs and project planning. (\$72.6 million bonds)

School Seismic Safety Retrofit Program

Improve high-risk K-12 school buildings with seismic retrofits and seismic-related safety improvements to reduce their risk of collapse during a major earthquake. (\$50 million bonds)

Other education

State School for the Blind

Independent Living Center

Construct residential space to teach blind and visually impaired young adults life skills for

living independently. Residents in training are now housed in refurbished office space in the school's administrative building. New space will improve program delivery and residents' safety. (\$7.6 million bonds)

Washington Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth

Academic and PE building replacement

Design and construct a modern classroom and physical education building to serve the needs of students and teachers at the Washington School for the Deaf. (\$44.3 million bonds)

Washington State Historical Society

Great Hall core exhibit renewal

Renews the museum's aged primary permanent exhibit to present the history of Washington's tribal nations. (\$4.9 million bonds)