

# Education/Operating

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## K-12 Education

### Overcoming the pandemic's impact on students, schools

Over the last decade, the state has made significant K-12 school investments that benefit students and educators. Still, educational opportunity gaps persist. Those gaps have been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused major disruptions for Washington students and their families.

While federal COVID-19 recovery efforts provided significant funding to support Washington's schools, students will need supports that we can maintain over time. The governor's proposed supplemental budget for K-12 schools makes major new investments that increase student academic and social emotional supports, advance equity in education, increase students' food security, and improve learning environments so that our students can achieve their full potential.

### Increase academic and social-emotional supports

#### Boost physical, social-emotional and learning supports

The governor proposes an additional \$184 million to increase staffing levels for school nurses, social workers, counselors, and psychologists in elementary, middle, and high schools. He also proposes changes to the prototypical school funding model to make sure we can maintain an increased staff-to-student ratio. These staff support all students — especially those who are falling behind

academically — and serve as potential points of contact for students who may be searching for adults to trust.

#### Accelerate student learning opportunities

The governor proposes \$746 million in this biennium to improve educational outcomes for all students and to address educational opportunity gaps. The budget provides funding to expand accelerated learning opportunities for tutoring and enrichment, and to offer more student supports. To do this, school districts could add instructional time before or after school, additional days during the year or in the summer, or additional enrichment activities. 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 evidence-based interventions.

### Student food security

#### Continue meeting student nutrition needs

Our schools continue to provide the essential service of school meals, serving about 12 million meals a month with a federal reimbursement rate that does not adequately cover recent costs or provide the most nutritious options. These issues are compounded by supply chain delays, labor shortages, and increased food and packaging prices. An additional \$7 million is proposed for schools to meet students' nutrition needs.

### **Build a diverse educator workforce**

#### **Expand BEST program for teachers**

There is a high rate of attrition among teachers (especially teachers of color) in their early careers. With additional mentoring support, the Beginning Education Support Team program has helped reduce attrition by providing needed mentoring and supports. An increase of \$4.5 million will expand the BEST program.

#### **Provide paid, student teacher residencies**

Paid residencies benefit teacher candidates and provide vital, one-on-one learning assistance to students. However, there is an equity gap in these residency opportunities because not all education students can forego paid work to get this vital teaching experience. Under the governor's budget, we will distribute \$10.5 million in grants to school districts so they can be reimbursed for hiring college students who are actively earning their teaching degree to work as K-12 teaching assistants.

### **Equity in education**

#### **Improve special education services**

The governor's budget takes additional steps to improve services for students in special education programs. The budget provides \$13 million to fully fund the special education safety net, a program that reimburses school districts for extraordinary expenditures on services to students with the highest-cost special education needs.

#### **Create more welcoming schools and community engagement**

We can more effectively close the opportunity gap by making sure a diverse population of

students feel welcome in our schools. To start this, state education policy needs increased community input from across the state. The governor's budget supports this effort with a \$336,000 investment for the State Board of Education to work with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and school districts to implement a school-climate survey, and to increase community engagement in their policy work.

### **Climate science and outdoor education**

#### **Build up climate science curriculum**

The governor's budget provides funding to OSPI to integrate climate change content in state learning standards and develop curriculum resources. This curriculum would span disciplines and grades.

The budget includes \$2 million to increase the current investment in climate science education in our schools. This will promote more teacher development in science education and bolster support for community-based organizations to partner with schools, tribes, and educational service districts to develop training and curriculum supports.

#### **Experience outdoor education**

Students need to experience the natural world if they are to learn to care for it. Outdoor education gives students the chance to develop teamwork, social-emotional skills, and learn about environmental and earth science. To make sure all students can access these opportunities, the governor proposes \$52 million to continually expand outdoor education. This funding will provide all fifth or sixth grade students in Washington the chance to experience the outdoors.

## Higher Education

### Increase postsecondary enrollment and success

While Washington leads nearly all other states in student financial aid availability, it lags in the number of students who enroll in postsecondary education. With many good job opportunities waiting for individuals with the right skills, it is imperative that we increase this number and support those who want to pursue an education to obtain new skills in high-demand jobs. The governor's budget increases funding for the Washington Career and College Pathways Innovation Challenge program. The plan is to invest \$50 million over the next three years to help increase the number of students submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which students need to receive their federal financial aid.

Additionally, the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) will provide grants to higher education institutions, state-approved apprenticeship programs, school districts, community-based organizations, cities, counties and other local entities who are invested in student success within communities. (\$16.6 million Innovation and Quality Account)

### Meet workforce demands

#### Increase cybersecurity offerings in higher education

Many Washington state employers have an immediate need for more cybersecurity professionals. However, there are not enough people with the necessary skills to fill the gaps. To minimize this shortage, the governor proposes that our six public, four-year

institutions and the community and technical colleges create and expand cybersecurity programs. (\$20 million Workforce Education Investment Account)

#### Increase commercial driving license training

To address the shortage of commercial truck drivers caused by the decrease in educational programs that are required to meet COVID-19 safety protocols, the governor's budget creates a grant program that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges could use to encourage colleges to offer more or restart commercial driver's license (CDL) trainings. The Department of Corrections and Department of Licensing will collaborate with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to develop a pre-release CDL training pilot program. (\$3.7 million Workforce Education Investment Account)

#### Support low-income students pursuing health fields at community and technical colleges

The governor's budget expands Opportunity Grant funding for students in community and technical colleges who are pursuing high-wage, high-demand health fields (i.e., nursing and other health care positions). This grant provides up to one year of college (tuition and fees for up to 45 credits and books and supplies). Students also have access to tutoring, career advising, college success classes, emergency child care, emergency transportation and an industry mentor. (\$8 million General Fund-State)

### **Expand health care simulation laboratory capacity**

Grant funding would help various colleges purchase and upgrade health simulation laboratory equipment and expand laboratory capacity. This would serve more nursing and health care students by offering them more opportunities to fulfill their practicum requirements. In addition, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, WSAC and OSPI will administer the funds to help train staff. (\$13 million Workforce Education Investment Account)

### **Expand Career Connect Washington**

To help us meet the state's goal of having 60% of all Washington students complete a Career Launch program by age 29, the Career Connect Washington (CCW) program will expand a competitive grant pool within the Employment Security Department. This grant pool would focus on growing high-priority industry sectors to meet employer and student needs while supporting an equitable economic recovery. CCW will also create a grant pool for four-year institutions to apply for funding that would support and promote additional CCW pathways. The grants would help students gain experience in their desired career while still in school. (\$5 million Workforce Education Investment Account)

### **Offer educational opportunities to Afghan refugees**

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges will help Afghan refugees resettling in Washington increase their skills in English, civic participation, workforce readiness, and employment credentialing. (The governor's budget separately funds four federal awards within the Department of Social and Health Services that are focused on various basic needs of Afghan refugees.) (\$3 million GF-S)

### **Homeless college student supports**

Homelessness makes it harder for students to complete postsecondary programs. We know that students of color, LGBTQ individuals, and students who are parents are disproportionately and negatively impacted at a higher rate. Based upon previous legislation, WSAC will extend its pilot program, Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness, that serves students who are experiencing homelessness or are former foster youth so they can continue their education for an additional year. In addition, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges will expand the Homeless Student Assistance program from eight colleges to all 34 colleges in the community and technical college system. (\$3.3 million GF-S)

# Education/Capital

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## Early learning

### Department of Commerce

#### **Rainier Valley Early Learning Center**

Funding will support the Rainier Valley Early Learning Center project in south Seattle. It will prepare new preschool teachers and provide professional development for those already in the child care field. Co-designed with Rainier Valley community members, the center will help address historical injustices in early learning by expanding access to affordable, high-quality child care and preschool; centering anti-racist care and curricula; and providing tools, professional development, and business supports to an industry disproportionately staffed by practitioners of color. This project will also provide early learning services to approximately 160 children and their families. (\$4 million bonds)

## Higher education four-year institutions

### University of Washington

#### **Major infrastructure**

Continue seismic retrofit improvements of core campus buildings to reduce the risk of building collapse and adverse impacts to students, faculty, staff and university operations. (\$10 million bonds)

### Washington State University

#### **Pullman Student Success Center**

Install high-density compact shelving in Holland Library and Owen Library on the Pullman campus. The vacated space will help the university create new student success and collaboration, experiential learning, and instructional space to benefit all students with modern learning environments. (\$8 million bonds)

### Central Washington University

#### **Electric infrastructure**

Establish electric grid redundancy for two primary electrical feeder lines that are vulnerable to electrical service outage. This reduces the risk of outages and service delays to 13 campus facilities and housing units in the event of a failure. (\$1.5 million bonds)

### The Evergreen State College

#### **Recreation and Athletic Center critical repairs**

Perform critical repairs and life-safety upgrades to the Recreational and Athletic Center. There is an urgent need to repair the roof structure and the building's mechanical systems, mitigate asbestos and make critical repairs. The facility is important for academic programming and student wellness. (\$1.9 million bonds)

### **Emergency Dispatch and Communication System replacement**

Replace and modernize the campus emergency dispatch and communication system. A new system will integrate into a regional dispatch and communication system with various public safety agencies and enhance safety and security for students, faculty and emergency responders. (\$1.1 million other)

### **Western Washington University**

#### **Classroom and Lab upgrades**

Renovate classrooms and labs throughout the campus to modernize and extend the usefulness of these spaces. (\$1.5 million bonds)

### **Community and technical colleges**

#### **Pierce College Fort Steilacoom: Olympic South**

Demolish and abate asbestos from the interior of Olympic South building. Then reconstruct and replace electrical, mechanical, furniture, fixtures and equipment to restore instruction in this classroom facility. (\$13.2 million bonds)

#### **Minor works infrastructure (statewide)**

Complete high-priority infrastructure repairs at 31 community and technical colleges. (\$27 million bonds)

### **K-12 Education**

#### **Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction**

#### **West Sound Technical Skills Center modernization**

Funding will help design and start the first-construction phase at West Sound Technical Skills Center in Bremerton. This will modernize and add new learning space. The existing building is a 45-year-old, low-quality, warehouse style building that is not up to current educational standards, has several deficient building systems and does not meet seismic codes. Expanding the Skills Center will create a new, safe, modern learning environment for students to develop training and skills in high-demand fields. (\$50.3 million bonds)

#### **Almira Elementary School**

Funding through the School Construction Assistance Program and Distressed Schools project will help the school district design and reconstruct the Almira Elementary school that was destroyed by fire. (\$11.3 million bonds)

#### **School Seismic**

Funds additional and increased costs for school seismic retrofit projects and allows the North Beach School District to use funding approved for the Pacific Beach Elementary Gymnasium project to reconstruct a new facility at an alternate location if the district can raise local funding. (\$8.6 million bonds)