

# Education/Operating

## K-12 Education

Gov. Jay Inslee's proposed 2023-25 budget prioritizes student supports and invests further in the educator workforce so that they are better equipped to meet the varied needs of students. The investments total \$575 million. Specifically, the proposed budget expands special education supports, builds the capacity and cultural competency of Washington's educator workforce, and invests in educational strategies that accelerate student learning and engagement.

### Educator workforce

Prioritize K-12 compensation

Teachers and school staff foster the academic growth and well-being of over 1 million students across Washington. The governor recognizes this monumental task and his budget includes \$950 million to support K-12 compensation — \$600 million to provide statutorily required inflation, plus an additional \$350 million increase. This will keep salaries at a competitive level, retain school staff, and attract a new generation of excellent educators to the profession.

Increase teacher residencies

Teacher residency programs provide teacher candidates with a paid residency consisting of a full academic year in the classroom. Student residents are supported by a knowledgeable teacher to gain experience in a real-life setting while also completing coursework as directed by the state-approved preparation

program. While these programs are known to increase teacher effectiveness and retention, Washington has few residency opportunities. The governor's budget invests over \$16 million ongoing to prioritize residencies for teachers who plan to specialize in special education, dual language, and/or those who work in high poverty districts. This is one way to increase the diversity of the teaching workforce so it better reflects the population of students served.

Expand mentoring for beginning teachers

There is a high rate of attrition among teachers early in their careers, especially teachers of color. With additional mentoring support, the Beginning Educator Support Team (BEST) program reduces attrition among this group. An increase of \$2 million will expand the BEST program.

Provide additional teacher academies

While 50% of Washington's K-12 population are comprised of students of color, only 13% of Washington teachers are teachers of color. Investing more in teacher academies within high schools is one way to close this gap. Through these academies, interested students begin learning about a career in education and can gain work experience within the school district by supporting other teachers in the classroom. The governor's budget provides nearly \$1 million to expand teacher academy programs to support a more diverse population of potential future teachers.

## Student academic and social-emotional supports

Boost physical, social-emotional and learning supports

The governor's proposed budget includes an additional \$314 million to keep increasing staffing levels for school nurses, social workers, counselors and psychologists in elementary, middle and high schools. Following 2022 legislation that changed the basic education funding formula, this investment will continue to increase the 'staff to student' ratio so that staff can provide more individualized and intensive supports for an increased number of students.

Invest in peer-to-peer supports

Student leaders have asked for more training in peer-to-peer support. While the state has increased its mental and behavioral health services at schools through partnerships with health providers, this will take time to build. The most common first source of support for a student experiencing a crisis is a classmate. Accessing a trained peer may also help avert school violence. In most cases, research shows that adolescents who have carried out a school shooting have communicated their plans to others. The governor's budget includes nearly \$1 million for the Peer Support Grant program so that up to eight school districts can test what works in peer support programming. Schools will identify middle and high school youth who their peers trust and train them to increase their effectiveness as the first line of support. Programs should be designed to increase youth engagement and personal/cultural identities, and reduce risks associated with depression, school violence and bullying.

## Student food security

Continue meeting student nutrition needs

The governor is committed to supporting students' continued nutrition needs. Recent legislation requires that eligible schools participate in a federal food program — the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). This program provides free meals to all students in schools with large populations of low-income students. However, federal funds do not cover the full cost of these meals. To further support students, the governor proposes an additional \$60 million in the 2023-25 budget to fully fund the expansion of CEP and ensure that students' nutrition needs are met.

## Equity in education

Improve special education services

The governor will provide more than \$120 million for special education services and supports. Of this, \$31 million will help fund the special education safety net, a program that reimburses school districts for extraordinary expenditures on services to students who have the highest-cost special education needs. The governor's proposed budget provides \$74 million to increase the special education funding cap from 13.5% to 15%. This will help address costs for an increased number of school districts.

Inslee also proposes to add to the special education funding multiplier for our youngest students, ages 3 to 5 years old. This will ensure they start school with the appropriate supports. The budget also expands professional development funding for inclusive classroom practices to ensure that students who have individualized education plans can access high quality instruction.

### Expand mastery-based learning

The proposed budget includes \$10 million for the State Board of Education to expand the mastery-based learning initiative. This initiative provides grants to school districts and helps them exchange best practices in mastery-based learning. This is an accelerated learning pedagogy that focuses on meeting students at their current educational level and individualizes the program to ensure students advance. Several schools in Washington – and across the nation – have adopted mastery-based learning, with the potential for much wider adoption.

### Climate science and outdoor education

#### Expand climate science professional development and field experiences

The governor's 2023-25 budget includes \$2 million to increase the current investment in climate science education in our schools. This will increase professional development opportunities in science education. It will also bolster support for community-based organizations to enable stronger partnerships with schools, tribes, and educational service districts.

#### Advance outdoor education

The governor proposes to further expand outdoor education programs with the goal that every student in 5th or 6th grade has access to a residential- or multiple-day outdoor learning experience that is connected to their formal learning program. In outdoor learning, students can engage in enjoyable activities while immersed in nature. Students can learn leadership skills, explore earth science, better understand climate change impacts and strategies, and high school students may

have the opportunity to receive internships as part of the experience. To ensure all students can access these opportunities, the governor proposes \$32 million to continue and expand outdoor education, including for students with disabilities.

To help with this work, Western Washington University will receive \$208,000 to conduct a study that inventories available facilities that outdoor education programs can use.

### Higher education

The governor's proposed higher education investments prioritize students and the state's workforce needs. The proposed budget, totaling over \$336 million in higher education investments, strengthens Washington's colleges and universities, enhances the state's capacity to combat climate change and increases enrollment rates for public higher education institutions.

#### Support Washington's colleges and universities

As Washington rebounds from pandemic impacts, the governor recognizes the importance of investing in the faculty and staff who serve as essential members of our campus communities. To help offset rising costs and inflation, as well as increase compensation to keep campuses competitive, the governor proposes an increase in the state's share of higher education funding splits. This increase will bring the state's share of institutions' operating expenditures to at least 66% for four-year institutions and 83% for community and technical colleges.

*(\$47.2 million, Workforce Education Investment Account)*

### Expand Career and College Pathways

The governor recognizes the importance of local communities and community-informed strategies to improve student outcomes. The Washington Career and College Pathways Innovation Challenge program aims to leverage such community expertise and encourage cross-sector partnerships to support student success. To respond to the existing demand for program grants, the governor's budget proposes an increase in funding for the program. Funds will enable community-based partnerships to address the unique needs of students and families in their local communities

*(\$8 million, Workforce Education Investment Account)*

### Enhance workforce development

Strengthen workforce programs across the state

Washington's workforce programs play a critical role in educating and training Washingtonians for high-demand careers, and many of these programs serve as the only pipeline into specialized fields. However, due to rising costs, maintaining these programs has become increasingly difficult. To mitigate these difficulties and ensure that Washington continues to develop a strong workforce, the governor proposes significant investments in workforce programs housed at community and technical colleges across the state.

*(\$60 million, Workforce Education Investment Account)*

Ensure career-connected learning opportunities

Since its inception in 2019, Career Connect Washington has helped students across the state engage in career-connected learning

opportunities and acquire the necessary skills to enter high-demand, high-wage jobs. This helps the state meet its educational attainment goals of 70% of Washingtonians having a post-secondary credential, degree or registered apprenticeship. To continue this work, the governor proposes establishing the Office of Career Connect Washington within the Washington Student Achievement Council. In addition to establishing the office as a state agency, the proposed budget also includes funding to further develop additional Career Connect-endorsed programs across the state.

*(\$5.7 million, Workforce Education Investment Account)*

Expand training opportunities in health care

The governor continues his commitment to address shortages in health care fields by proposing investments in training programs across Washington.

The budget proposes additional funds to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to increase the current nursing student capacity by 400 students over the next four years. This will help us return to pre-pandemic levels and address health care challenges across the state.

*(\$3.6 million, Workforce Education Investment Account)*

The governor also proposes that Eastern Washington University receive funds to expand its newly established bachelor's degree of nursing. Funds will add an additional 40 students to incoming cohorts, bringing the total number to 80 each year.

*(\$4.6 million, Workforce Education Investment Account)*

The proposed budget also includes funds to establish a public health degree program at Washington State University's Pullman, Spokane and Vancouver campuses. Funding would create opportunities for up to 200 new students each year across the three campuses.

In addition to the 2023-25 biennial appropriations that make progress toward solving the health care workforce crises, the governor's 2023 supplemental budget adds \$100 million to alleviate significant labor costs, sustain operations, and maintain the safety net at the University of Washington's Medical Center and Harborview Medical Center.

*(\$2.9 million Workforce Education Investment Account)*

### **Strategic climate investments**

Establish the Institute for Northwest Energy Futures

In line with the governor's commitment to combat climate change, the proposed budget includes funding for Washington State University to establish the Institute for Northwest Energy Futures at the Tri-Cities campus. These funds will enable the institute to conduct research that informs how to best integrate new and emerging energy sources into a modern energy system. In addition to acquiring new scientists, the institute would draw upon and integrate existing WSU expertise in engineering, the environment, economics, business and society.

*(\$7.7 million, Climate Commitment Account)*

Clean energy strategy

Funds will support the University of Washington as it develops an innovative energy transformation strategy for transitioning the Seattle campus energy infrastructure to 100% clean energy. The university will use these funds to collaborate with an energy services partner and conduct a detailed engineering analysis.

*(\$3 million, Workforce Education Investment Account)*

Continuing climate solutions work

The proposed budget includes funds to enable the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to continue integrating climate solutions education in curricula, aligning green workforce development programs with climate solutions, and developing a systemwide climate action plan that will lead to economic vitality in Washington's green workforce.

*(\$4 million, Climate Commitment Account)*

New graduate degree in Clean Energy and Climate Solutions

The governor proposes investments to create a new graduate degree in clean energy and climate solutions at Western Washington University. This investment would increase graduate education opportunities in the region and help develop local expertise to address regional challenges.

*(\$1.9 million, Climate Commitment Account)*

# Education/Capital

## Higher education four-year institutions

### University of Washington

Magnuson Health Sciences Phase II: renovation/replacement

Support students in the schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, and social work by renovating approximately 400,000 square feet of the health sciences complex. Upgrade technology and allow classrooms and labs to keep up with current pedagogies. Help meet student and workforce demands in fields related to health care and behavioral health.

*(\$58 million state bonds)*

### Washington State University

Engineering Student Success Building

Construct a new facility to house the Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture. This will better meet student and workforce demands for engineering and computer science. It will also replace current engineering facilities that do not meet ADA requirements, making engineering and architecture more accessible for all students.

*(\$40 million state bonds, \$38 million donor funds)*

### Eastern Washington University

Science Building renovation

Complete the second phase of the Science Building renovation, which will provide modernized classroom infrastructure and new opportunities for advanced STEM education and distance learning. The new EWU

Science Center will be comprised of the new Interdisciplinary Science Center (completed fall 2020) and this newly renovated Science Building. This brings the science schools together and creates stronger collaboration among scientific disciplines.

*(\$58 million state bonds)*

### Central Washington University

Humanities and Social Science Complex

Construct a new Humanities and Social Science Complex and drill for a new geothermal open-loop ground source heat pump system, which will be used to heat and cool this new building and at least two additional buildings in the future. Geothermal systems eliminate the combustion of fossil fuels on-site and dramatically lower the need to generate power by using the ground as a heat source and sink, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the environmental damage associated with nonrenewable resource extraction. The new facility will serve as a hub for disciplines such as philosophy, political science, criminal justice, and sociology, bringing together theory and practice in government, policy, ethics, and civic engagement.

*(\$103.8 million state bonds)*

### The Evergreen State College

Seminar I renovation

Renovate and modernize the 1974-built Seminar I facility. The new design will support: 1) students who are connected to and involved within Native American or Indigenous communities and cultures, 2) a series of highly

flexible instructional spaces that can serve academic programs across the curriculum, and 3) counseling offices and support spaces for students with disabilities on campus.

*(\$25.2 million state bonds)*

## Western Washington University

Student Development and Success Center  
Construct a Student Development and Success Center that will hold offices for enrollment management, counseling, and student success initiatives; collaboration areas that students can use for shared support, community amenities, and a welcome center; and open and inviting circulation areas for students to gather.

*(\$53.8 million bonds, \$10 million from WWU)*

## 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.

*(\$169.9 million bonds; \$46.7 million other)*

Lake Washington: Center for Design

Construct a new facility dedicated to design and technology. This facility will serve LWTech students in the art, design, science, technology, and engineering fields and will function with creative and collaborative learning in mind.

*(\$38.9 million bonds, \$500,000 other)*

Bates: Fire Service Training Center

Construct a new facility for the Fire Services program. Existing facilities are too small or inadequate for the program's current training requirements. The new center will match current equipment and training requirements and will make room for enrollment growth so that more students can become firefighters, EMTs, and other fire- and emergency-adjacent workers.

*(\$38.1 million bonds)*

Olympic: Innovation and Technology Learning Center

Construct an Innovation and Technology Learning Center, which will co-locate shared-use active learning classrooms, hands-on labs, and student study space. This will provide contemporary, high-tech learning environments for a wide range of Olympic College's STEM programs, with tutoring and support services available for K-12, and veterans and military service students. It will also enable the college to improve recruitment and outcomes for underserved populations and will improve collaboration and program delivery with the college's K-12, business, and university partners.

*(\$27.7 million bonds; \$800,000 other)*

Everett: Baker Hall replacement

Construct a new facility that addresses shortages in 'basic skills' labs, drama space, and auditorium space. The current Baker Hall has small classrooms, no student support space, and is seismically unsound. The new facility will be flexible and adaptable to changing pedagogies, technologies, and enrollments.

*(\$37.9 million bonds)*

Tacoma: Center for Innovative Learning and Engagement

Construct a new center where students can apply learning across multiple fields and disciplines. This includes business, paralegal, humanities, social sciences, and communications.

*(\$39.3 million bonds; \$1 million donor funds)*

Wenatchee: Center for Technical Education and Innovation

Construct a modern and agile facility to fully support collaboration and career connectivity through the guided pathways methodology. This building will have space and infrastructure to effectively serve the rural district through face-to-face, hybrid, and distance learning opportunities.

*(\$46.5 million)*

Shoreline: STE(A)M Education Center

Construct the STE(A)M Education Center, bringing academic, professional-technical, and arts programs together to increase student success, achievement, and retention. The STE(A)M Education Center co-locates the nursing, math, and music programs to create an interdisciplinary center that fosters students' ability to think critically, collaborate, and be creative. The project will also remove ADA access barriers on the steeply sloped campus.

*(\$39.7 million bonds)*

Lower Columbia: Center for Vocational and Transitional Studies

Construct a new facility that lets vocational education and transitional studies better serve enrollment demands and program needs.

The Center for Vocational and Transitional Studies will provide program-specific space for machining, welding, information technology, and transitional studies, as well as general purpose classrooms that the entire campus will use.

*(\$39.5 million bonds)*

## **Four-year institutions and community and technical colleges**

### **Maintenance and operations fund shift**

Restore previous state funding in the operating budget to free up funds in each higher education institution's building account. Allow institutions to make additional investments to make campuses more sustainable, accessible, safe and technologically up to date.

*(\$67.9 million across seven building accounts)*

## **K-12 education**

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

School Construction Assistance program  
Partner with school districts to construct and modernize 38 schools throughout the state.

*(\$613 million bonds, \$3 million federal)*

Small District Modernization and Tribal Compact Schools program

Assist statewide tribal compact schools and school districts with less than 1,000 students through a competitive grant program. This program will help fund building system repairs and project planning.

*(\$17.1 million bonds, \$48 million school funds)*



School Seismic Safety Retrofit program  
Improve high-risk K-12 school buildings with seismic retrofits and seismic-related safety improvements. This will reduce their risk of collapse during a major earthquake.

*(\$40 million state bonds)*

West Sound Technical Skills Center modernization

Construct a new career and technical education facility at the West Sound Technical Skills Center in Bremerton. This center will address health, safety, building code, and site improvements as well as programmatic changes to create instructional space for today's high-demand career and technical programs.

*(\$41.4 million bonds)*

## Other education

### Washington Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth

Academic and Physical Education Building  
Complete the Academic and Physical Education Building by first finishing the demolition of Divine High School and Hunter Gym. Then, construct a physical education addition onto the new gym to house learning and support spaces. Finally, this funding will complete site improvements, which include a multipurpose playfield and city-required frontage improvements.

*(\$12.5 million bonds)*

Northrop Primary School Building renovation  
Renovate the Northrop Primary School Building through seismic retrofits. This means full mechanical, electrical, and plumbing upgrades. Funds will also replace the building heating system. This will positively impact the health and safety of students and staff and help the pre-K program continue to grow.

*(\$12.4 million bonds)*

### Washington State Historical Society

Major exhibit renewal

Renew the primary permanent exhibit in the Great Hall of the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma. The existing exhibit was developed in 1995 and is well worn from visitor use and requires updating. The renewed space will focus on presenting the history of Washington's tribal nations.

*(\$3.9 million bonds)*