

Education: Cradle to Career



K-12 Education

America has always believed in investing in people. Strong families and a secure middle class depend on the next generation receiving the education they need to lead successful lives.

Opportunity for All Students

Breakfast After the Bell / [HB 2536](#) – Nearly half of Washington students, whose families' incomes are close enough to the federal poverty level, are eligible for free and reduced meals at school. Students have one job when they enter the classroom: learn. Hungry children can't learn. HB 2536 creates a "Breakfast After the Bell" program to increase the number of students receiving adequate nutrition in the morning. Ensuring students are fed and ready to learn will lead to greater academic achievement and lift families out of poverty. *(Died in Senate)*



Closing the Opportunity Gap / [HB 1680](#) - Far too many students of color are being left behind in our public schools. The Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee has studied this problem in great detail since 2009. House Bill 1680 incorporates the committee's recommendations and is a comprehensive approach to addressing the issues that require immediate attention. These issues include student discipline, cultural competency of our educators, and better data collection. Every child can be successful when given the opportunity to learn. If schools don't have the right tools and resources in place before students enter the classroom, many children will face an uphill battle that's difficult to overcome. *(Died in Senate)*



Improving Educational Outcomes for Homeless Students / [SB 6074](#) - This year, the number of homeless Washington students topped 30,000. While we know how many homeless students we have, we don't have sufficient data to put the right policies in place to ensure they get the education they're entitled to. The bipartisan bill, SB 6074, will instruct the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to collect information to determine what's needed to improve education outcomes for homeless students. *(Delivered to Governor)*

24 credit graduation requirements / [SB 6552](#) – In 2009, the Legislature enacted bold, student-centered reforms to improve public education in Washington state. We laid out the framework to increase graduation requirements so that every high school diploma provides an opportunity for young students to transition to college or career of their choice. This measure is a continuation of that effort to raise academic achievement levels. The State Board of Education is required to adopt a 24-credit graduation framework starting for the class of 2019. Students will receive additional education in science, arts, and world languages. The bill also provides for more guidance counselors in schools to help students choose the path that's right for them and opens additional doors to students who want to take career and technical education courses in math and science. *(Delivered to Governor)*

Teacher Evaluations and Pay

Teacher Cost of Living Adjustments - It's been over five years since educators have received a COLA. If we want a quality teacher in every classroom, we must pay a quality wage. The Legislature has made over \$10 billion in spending cuts since the start of the recession, and teacher compensation was not immune from those cuts. As a result, local school districts have been effectively forced to make up the difference in order to hire and retain quality teachers. Paying teachers an adequate wage is the state's job. We were not able to reach an agreement with the Senate on teacher COLAs, but we'll be back next session with this issue as a top priority for House Democrats. *(Died in negotiations with the Senate)*

No Child Left Behind Waiver (TPEP) – The Legislature created a bold, new teacher/principal evaluation pilot program in 2010, a program that was fully implemented statewide in 2013. It was developed in collaboration between teachers, principals, and administrators, and is a program that's serving as a model for other states. As a condition of receiving a waiver from the punitive No Child Left Behind Act, the federal government was insisting we require student growth data in the statewide assessment to be a part of our teacher evaluation process. Currently, districts may use student growth data as one of many measures of teacher performance. The Senate version of this bill failed 19-28. We will continue pursuing the federal waiver for our state as well, but our focus will remain on the success of our students and on moving our education system forward. *(See Issue Brief and Talking Points for more information.)*

Investing in New Classrooms

Building schools for early learners (K-3) / HB 2797 – Every child needs a classroom. Part of the Supreme Court's McCleary decision said overcrowded classrooms must get fixed for the state to fulfill its constitutional duty to fully fund public schools. The justices pointed out research showing that smaller class sizes in early grades are particularly important for a child's success in school and life. HB 2797 would put up to \$700 million toward building classrooms across the state. *(Died in Senate)*



Budget Items & McCleary (operating budget highlights)

Materials, Supplies, Technology (MSOC)

\$58 million in new funding will go toward school supplies, technology, and operating costs. This additional MSOC investment will count toward our McCleary obligation.

New Teacher Mentoring

\$2 million will go toward enhance mentoring for beginning teachers.

Para-educator development - SB 6129

\$459,000 will go toward improving paraprofessional minimum employments standards, professional development needs, and seamless pathways to a teaching certificate.

Opportunity Gap

\$245,000 will be allocated to implement some of the recommendations of the Education Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Commission such as cultural competence professional development, a clearinghouse of best practices with suspended students, and an English Language Learner workgroup.

Youth Suicide Prevention

\$148,000 will be allocated to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for youth suicide prevention activities.