

# CAPITAL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

## ([SB 6090](#))



### Construction budget includes a record \$1 billion to build schools

The new \$4 billion-plus capital budget passed by the Legislature will create thousands of jobs in every corner of the state—and it includes a record \$1 billion to build public schools and \$800 million to build colleges and universities.

[Click here for local projects lists](#)

#### Statewide, here are some details about the education projects in the plan:

- \$15.5 million to build Early Learning facilities
- \$30 million for rural and distressed K-12 schools
- \$800 million for state colleges and universities, with \$433 million for community and technical colleges
- \$15 million for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) grants at K-12 schools

#### Investment in rural parts of Washington include:

- \$203 million for the Public Works Assistance Program, which helps local governments build critical infrastructure such as water and stormwater projects, roads and bridges
- \$80 million for Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)
- \$5 million to bring broadband to timber and farm country
- \$18 million for Forest Health/Wildfire Prevention, a vital need given that the state has spent hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars in recent years to fight wildfires
- \$54 million for State Parks
- \$160 million for Clean Drinking Water and Centennial Clean Water programs
- \$40 million for Stormwater Financial Assistance

Part of the philosophy of the state construction budget is to get maximum value for taxpayers by leveraging as much local and federal funding as possible for each project. The proposed capital budget leverages more than \$600 million in additional non-state funding just in the natural resources area alone. The school construction funding also requires a local match by school districts.

#### In cooperation with new investments in the House operating budget, the construction proposal would put \$165 million toward fixing the state's mental health crisis. That funding includes:

- \$76 million for Community Behavioral Health capacity
- \$58 million for construction and renovation at state facilities
- \$24m for supportive housing for the chronically mentally ill

#### Finally, the budget puts serious funding toward housing, clean energy, arts and dental care:

- \$105 million for Housing
- \$65 million for Clean Energy, Solar, and Energy Efficiency
- \$49 million for Arts, Building Communities, and Youth Recreation programs
- \$14 million for Dental capacity and residency