Establish Statewide Results
When Washington started its POG approach to budgeting, a team of state government and citizen executives came to consensus on a list of expected statewide results. The POG process is essentially a framework to help choose what state services best achieve these results.

Identify Key Indicators of Success
The second step in creating the decision framework is to consider how citizens would measure success in reaching the statewide result. For example, longer life expectancy or lower incidence of disease would probably indicate to most people that the population was healthier. Similarly, high employment rates usually signal that the economy is doing well.

Identify Proven or Promising Strategies
Research and experience suggest that certain strategies are more likely to put us on the path toward achieving the identified success indicators. (At this stage, it is also important to evaluate whether currently budgeted strategies and activities accomplish what was intended.)

Develop a Results-Based Prioritization of Activities
The result-indicators-strategies framework for each statewide result provides the criteria for choosing the activities that most directly accomplish the desired outcome. With limited resources, it is necessary to invest in activities that connect to chosen strategies.

Use This Prioritization to Inform Final Budget Decisions
Final budget decisions are influenced by state laws, funding sources, federal requirements and other factors that are difficult to change. However, the POG approach creates a unique perspective that allows decision-makers to consider evidence-based strategies and activity performance geared only toward results.

Key Benefits of POG
- Focuses budget decisions on contribution to overall results.
- Makes performance data more relevant to budget investment choices.
- Displays where the state invests its resources.

Statewide Results List
- Student Achievement
- Health and Support
- Economic Development
- Public Safety
- Natural Resources and Cultural/Recreational Opportunities
- Government Efficiency