



Governor
Chris Gregoire

POLICY BRIEF

WORLD CLASS EDUCATION

The best way to grow our economy and secure a bright future for all students is to make smart, strategic, responsible and accountable investments in education. Governor Gregoire knows that our education system must change to give our students the competitive advantage they need to be successful in the global economy.

Governor Gregoire's education budget is based on the recommendations of Washington Learns, and will bring fundamental changes in education delivery, expectations and results. She is making significant investments to transform the Washington education system, from early learning through middle school, high school, college and workforce training.

The changes that Governor Gregoire proposes are comprehensive – each component enhances the power of every other component. While these changes are significant, government alone cannot fix education. All of us – students, teachers, parents, businesses and communities – must make a commitment to support major changes to improve the system.

REAL CHANGE FOR WASHINGTON STUDENTS

Governor Gregoire has focused on improving education from the moment she was elected. Since taking office, Governor Gregoire has invested over \$3.9 billion to improve education, and she continues to call for accountability and better results. She requested and signed legislation to create the Department of Early Learning, and co-chairs Drive By Five Washington, an innovative new public-private partnership for early learning. Governor Gregoire also chaired Washington Learns, a panel of business, legislative, educational and community leaders, which conducted an extensive evaluation of our education system, resulting in recommendations for improvements from early learning through higher education.

Students today benefit from smaller class sizes and experienced teachers who received a well-deserved cost of living increase, thanks to Governor Gregoire's commitment to fully fund two initiatives that were overwhelmingly passed by the voters but not previously funded (I-728 and I-732). She led an effort to invest more than \$28 million in additional tutoring and instruction for students who need help to graduate on time. She helped students go to college with \$69.7 million more in financial aid, expanded grant eligibility for working families, provided enrollment spaces for 7,900 new students and new four-year schools in Tacoma, Vancouver and the Tri-Cities.

This year, Governor Gregoire continues her commitment to an education system that will excite learners, invigorate teachers and engage employers.

These changes will not only help students pass required tests, they will prepare students for better jobs. We will not

only educate more people, we will instill confidence in more entrepreneurs. We will not only spark interest and creativity, we will become better citizens.

Governor Gregoire's investment in education will have far-reaching effects. Higher educational achievement results in better jobs, stronger communities and reduced crime. Students will attain the degrees that are in demand by local employers, and Washington businesses will have a well-trained and educated workforce.

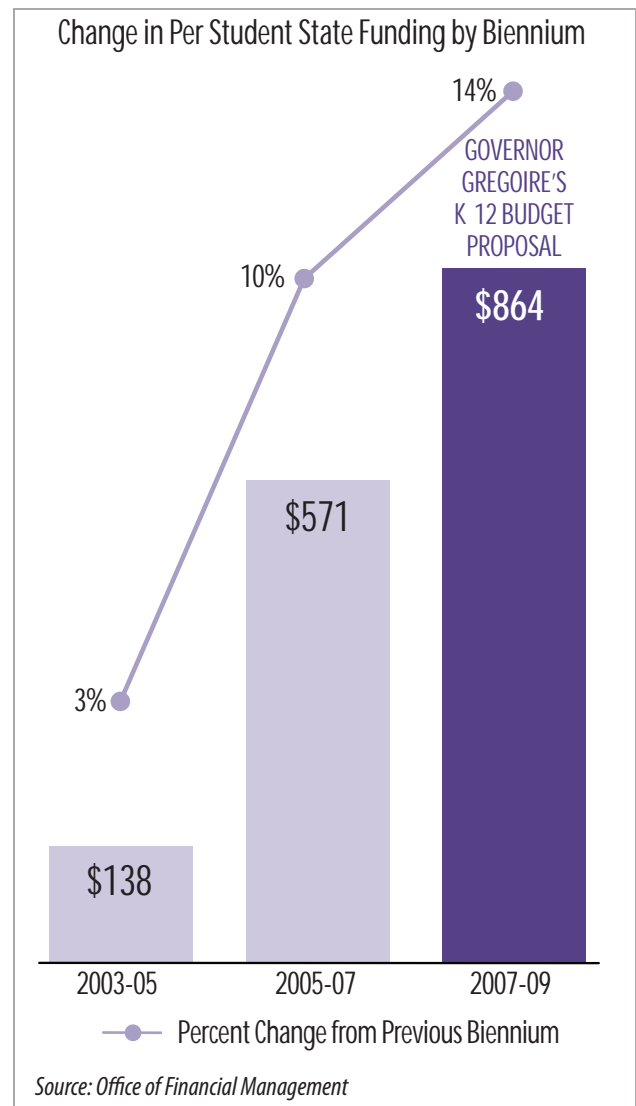
IMPROVING MATH & SCIENCE

Governor Gregoire knows that we need to change the system, fix the curriculum and rework the WASL. For the first time in Washington history, we will provide more personalized attention by meeting the nationally recommended class size of 25 students for each math and science teacher in middle and high schools. Governor Gregoire will invest to recruit 750 additional math and science teachers, and provide teacher training so that teachers can expand their knowledge and strategies for teaching these subjects.

We will invest in standards that reflect internationally recognized math content, identify no more than three curricula that are aligned with those international standards, and insist that the 10th grade WASL reflect the new curricula and evaluate students on their ability to meet high standards. We will do the same for science. A new single college readiness test will help students determine if they are ready for college level math courses, and, by testing in the 11th grade, will give them the opportunity to better prepare for college if they are not yet ready. This high-quality, rigorous, consistent math and science program will ensure that we help teachers teach and help students learn.

EARLY LEARNING

Governor Gregoire helped her own children build a solid foundation for future learning. She knows from experience that parents are their children's first and best teachers, so she will provide support and information to parents and caregivers who want it. A voluntary five-star quality rating system will offer parents more information to guide their choice of child care provider and offer more support to participating child care providers based on their quality rating. To make sure that more children are ready to



learn, Governor Gregoire will expand and redesign our comprehensive pre-kindergarten program to include 2,000 more children, with innovative new elements for an outstanding early education program.

Governor Gregoire will pay child care workers to attract and retain the best, increasing the rates paid by the state for children in subsidized care by 10 percent, through a new collective bargaining agreement. This agreement also supports health care benefits to child care workers and supplemental payments for infant care and non-standard hours, to make it clear that we care about our caregivers.

All day kindergarten in 10 percent of our schools will give children more time to learn, focusing first on schools with high poverty levels. A demonstration project will redesign K-3 classrooms so that students can work together based on their interests and abilities, instead of just their age. In these smaller groups,

students will learn reading and math as well as science, art, social studies and foreign languages. Governor Gregoire is making sure that more children have access to a variety of learning experiences in an environment that is appropriate for their social and intellectual skills.

PROFESSIONAL COMPENSATION

For the first time in Washington history, we are providing comprehensive training and development for professional educators, because the best teachers make students want to learn. Governor Gregoire will fully fund cost of living increases so that we can recruit and retain good teachers. A new pay structure will be developed to compensate teachers for their skills, use rewards and incentives, and account for assignments that are particularly difficult. Teachers who achieve certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards will be recognized with a raise, will receive another raise for teaching in schools with students needing the most help, and will receive an additional raise if they are certified in math or science. Recognizing the vital role that top leaders have in a school's success, Governor Gregoire will create a leadership academy to offer state-of-the-art leadership development and growth opportunities for principals and school administrators.

HELP FOR STRUGGLING STUDENTS

Too many students have failed to meet graduation standards for math and Governor Gregoire knows that it is the system that needs to change. All students must meet high standards and we must make sure they have the tools and the opportunities to do so. Governor Gregoire is investing in intensive learning options, test preparation and tutoring to help students who have been unsuccessful on the 10th grade WASL. She will continue to reduce class sizes and provide individual learning opportunities by fully funding Initiative 728, which distributes \$450 per student. Additional mentoring and tutoring at after-school programs, such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, will reinforce classroom learning. And we will evaluate emerging best practices to support English Language Learners.



K-12 EQUITY AND SYSTEMS CHANGES

For over 25 years, Washington has treated teachers and staff in the 296 school districts differently, a longstanding equity problem that must be addressed. Governor Gregoire believes that all teachers and staff, in every school district in the state, should be paid fairly. By providing additional salary increases to districts that receive lower state funding for staff positions, we will begin to equalize state salary funding among school districts. Salaries for teachers and other K-12 staff will also increase by 3.4 percent in the 2007-08 school year and 2.6 percent in the 2008-09 school year, consistent with Initiative 732. And we will invest in special education and create a new transportation funding formula based on the initial work of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS & AFFORDABILITY

More Washington students must enroll in colleges and universities, in order to create the most highly-trained, best educated workforce in the world – and to fill the jobs that will otherwise go to students from other states and nations. Governor Gregoire is investing to allow more than 8,300 new students to enroll. This includes general enrollments as well as adult basic education and the Integrated Basic Education Skills and Training program. Providing opportunities means more than just making room, college must also be affordable and predictable for students and families.

That's why Governor Gregoire is freezing tuition at community and technical colleges at current rates for the next two years, and limiting tuition increases to 5 percent at regional schools and 7 percent at research universities. The Washington Learns Scholarship program will help low-income students and students who are the first in their family to go to college cover the costs of tuition, books and fees for up to four years. Financial aid will make college more affordable to more people, and result in a better trained and better educated workforce. We will also invest in programs that help low-income and first generation college students stay in college and complete a degree.

“Education is the single most important investment we can make for our children, our state, our economy and our future.”

TRAINING FOR HIGH DEMAND JOBS

Instead of exporting work and importing workers, Governor Gregoire will make sure that Washington students have the skills that are in high demand by local employers, so that Washingtonians get the best jobs.

Employers in Washington need more qualified workers in math- and science-related high-demand fields, such as engineering, health care and construction.

The GET Ready for Math and Science Scholarship will encourage middle and high school students who perform well in math and science to pursue related degrees in college. Governor Gregoire will create a new coordinated program that expands the WSU Nursing School in Spokane, as well as the UW Schools of Medicine and Dentistry. This new program will fill a critical need for qualified doctors, dentists and nurses in rural areas of the state not served by a medical school.

More apprenticeship slots at our community and technical colleges will increase the number of journey-level people in the skilled trades. Governor Gregoire is also addressing regionally determined workforce shortages with thousands of high-demand enrollment spaces in colleges and universities, and Regional Opportunity Grants for adults willing to be trained in jobs that employers need to fill.

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION

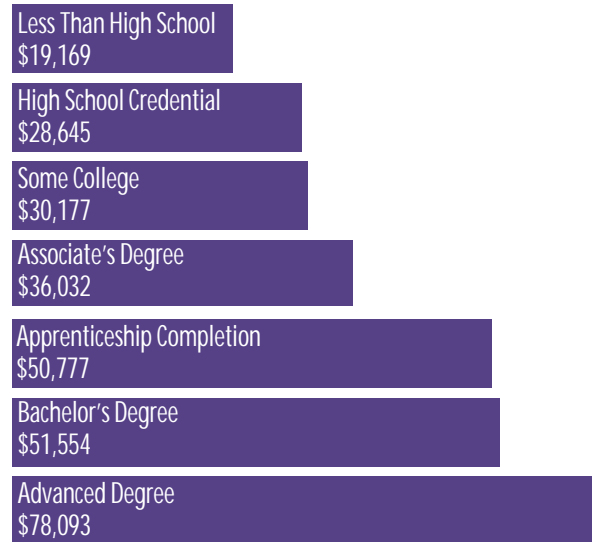
At \$809 million, Governor Gregoire is proposing the largest K-12 school construction budget in Washington history. Her construction budget at colleges and universities totals well over \$1 billion.

This improved classroom space, buildings, labs and other learning facilities, will ensure that every student has room to learn.

K-12 Construction	\$809 million
Higher Education Construction	\$1,105million
Total	\$1, 914.0 million

Individuals Benefit with Increased Education

Average Income



Sources: US Census Bureau, 2004 National Earnings Estimates for the Population 18 Years and Over, 2005 Current Population Survey; Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board Washington State Earning Estimates for Apprenticeship Program Completers in 2004, Workforce Training Results Report, 2006

Improving Math & Science*	\$166.2 million
Early Learning	\$178.7 million
Professional Compensation	\$9.2 million
Help for Struggling Students	\$53.7 million
Class Sizes – Initiative 728	\$139.0 million
K-12 Equity & Systems Changes	\$134.7 million
Teacher Salaries – Initiative 732	\$381.2 million
Higher Education Access & Affordability	\$119.1 million
Training for High-Demand Jobs	\$75.3 million
Implementation (Including Evaluations & Technology)	\$14.0 million
Total	\$1,271.1 million

* The total investment to improve math and science, including WASL help and other improvements categorized under separate headings here, is nearly \$200 million.