

# EDUCATION

## EARLY LEARNING

The earliest investments in our children pay the greatest dividends. That is why Governor Gregoire created the Cabinet-level Department of Early Learning three years ago. The Department of Early Learning focuses on children's earliest years of life and helps get them ready for school. It also offers information and resources to parents and caregivers.

Declining state revenue means that we cannot sustain recent additions in funding to early learning programs. The majority of the department's state funds are dedicated to the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program. Federal funds pay for programs to improve child care quality, safety and availability. In addition, the Department oversees several pilot programs funded through various sources. Accordingly, the budget adjusts spending for early learning by first reducing state funds spent on pilot programs and services that do not directly serve children, then lastly, preschool slots for 3-year-olds in ECEAP. As childcare licensing is funded entirely through federal funds, this activity remains fully funded.

### Actions

Eliminate funding for 3-year-olds participating in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program. This would eliminate slots for more than 1,500 youngsters next school year. Funding is preserved for 4-year-olds, which makes sure that at-risk children have at least one year of preschool. *(\$10.5 million General Fund-State)*

Eliminate state funding for the Career and Wage Ladder, a pilot program that provides wage incentives for child care providers to advance their professional development. *(\$1.5 million GF-S)*

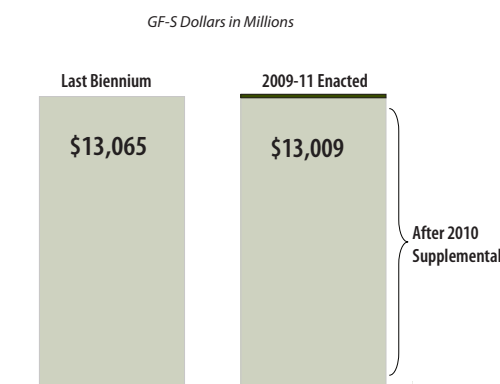
Eliminate state funding for the Child Care Resource and Referral Network, which will continue to receive federal funding to operate local referral hot lines and provide training. *(\$425,000 GF-S)*

## K-12 EDUCATION

Providing funds to educate the more than 1 million students in kindergarten through 12th grade is the state's paramount duty. From basic classroom instruction to pupil transportation, from extra help for struggling students to special education services, Governor Gregoire is committed to ensuring that all of Washington's youth receive a high-quality education that prepares them well for college or a career.

To balance this budget, cuts have been made throughout state government, and K-12 education is no exception.

Many non-basic education programs are scaled back or eliminated. This will affect students throughout the state by increasing class sizes and reducing supports for teachers. The elimination of



levy equalization and state-funded all-day kindergarten will affect students in our poorest districts. The suspension of state funding for gifted programs, career and technical education, and many other programs will reduce the breadth of offerings available to students.

## Actions

Eliminate the kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade staffing enhancement, a statewide program that reduces class size in the early grades. (*\$110.6 million GF-S*)

Suspend levy equalization assistance, a program that provides extra support to districts with a lower than average property tax base. (*\$142.9 million GF-S*)

Suspend the student achievement program, which provides smaller class sizes for students and professional development for teachers. (*\$78.5 million GF-S*)

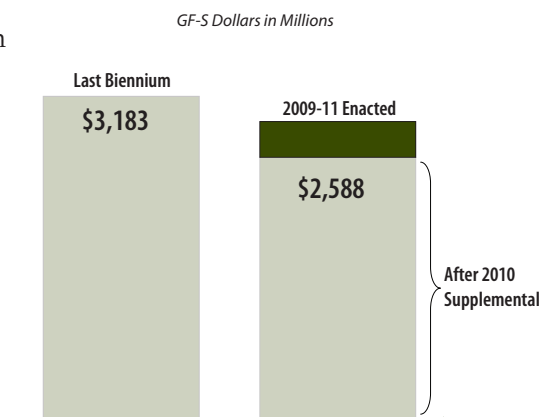
Suspend all-day kindergarten, a program that serves students in schools with the highest poverty levels. (*\$33.6 million Education Legacy Trust-State*)

Suspend the state program for gifted education, which affects nearly 23,000 students. (*\$7.4 million GF-S*)

## HIGHER EDUCATION

Washington’s postsecondary education and training system prepares students for the knowledge economy and provides a skilled work force for industries of all types. Governor Gregoire’s Washington Learns commission called for increasing educational attainment to help bring family-wage jobs within reach and to attract businesses to the state. To support this goal, the budget includes funding for the worker retraining program at the community and technical colleges.

Lower state revenues mean we cannot fund our higher education system at pre-recession levels. While tuition revenues help to minimize reductions in access and quality, we must make cuts to each college and university, bringing state support for institutions down to Fiscal Year 2006 levels. These reductions, coupled with the reductions in the 2009–11 enacted budget, will result in larger classes, fewer courses and programs, fewer students graduating in four years and fewer student support activities. The cuts also mean that students will pay for a larger share of the cost of their instruction.



While the state must maintain funding for colleges and universities at Fiscal Year 2006 levels as a condition of receiving federal stimulus monies for education, no such maintenance of effort is required for financial aid programs. Because of the drop in state revenues, we must make deep cuts

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in state financial aid and Work-Study programs. Reducing the State Need Grant program will result in almost 12,300 full-time equivalent students being dropped from the program and smaller grants for the remaining 44,000 student FTEs. In addition, other financial aid programs serving nearly 11,000 students will be suspended.

## **Actions**

Reduce the State Need Grant program. This program serving students with family incomes of up to \$55,000 will be changed to serve lower-income students, who will receive smaller grants. About 12,300 students will no longer be eligible for the program. *(\$146.4 million GF-S)*

Reduce funding for the two- and four-year colleges and universities. This will result in deeper administrative cuts as well as fewer course offerings, larger class sizes and fewer services such as student advising. It could result in the elimination of majors and academic programs. *(\$89.5 million GF-S)*

Suspend the Work-Study program and the smaller financial aid programs Washington Scholars, WAVE (Washington Award for Vocational Excellence) and Future Teachers Scholarship, which provide tuition assistance to nearly 11,000 students. *(\$29.9 million GF-S; \$4.8 million Education Legacy Trust)*

Shift capital funds for preventive maintenance costs. To save state operating funds, the bulk of the operations and maintenance program is shifted to the capital budget, where each institution's local building fund will cover costs. Projects that were to be paid for with local building funds will instead be paid for through general obligation bonds. *(\$103 million GF-S)*

## **Addition**

Increase funding for the worker retraining program at the community and technical colleges. Unemployment levels are surging, and adding capacity at the two-year colleges to retrain 2,500 more people for new careers will help boost economic recovery while giving individuals crucial skills to succeed in the marketplace. *(\$11.5 million GF-S)*

## **OTHER RELATED AGENCIES**

Transfer the School for the Blind and the Washington State Center for Childhood Deafness and Hearing Loss to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for oversight. Savings will be achieved through reductions to administrative staff, management travel and campus maintenance, but not through any reductions to educational programs or residential services for students. *(\$111,000 GF-S)*

Consolidate services of the Washington State Historical Society and the Eastern Washington State Historical Society to save costs related to museum operations and administration. *(\$400,000 GF-S)*

Reduce funding for the Washington State Arts Commission by cutting its operating budget by 15 percent, and by reducing the number and value of grants available to local communities, all in Fiscal Year 2011. *(\$556,000 GF-S)*