

K-12 education

High standards, innovative solutions
and accountability

In addition to ample funding for our schools, House Republicans believe that for students to be successful our state must set high standards, enact innovative solutions and hold the system accountable for results. We have offered legislation that would fund education first in the operating budget since 2006. In light of the *McCleary* decision, the need to prioritize education spending and enact reforms was central in the operating budget negotiations this year.

McCleary v. State of Washington

In its *McCleary* decision in January 2012, the state Supreme Court said the Legislature had not complied with its constitutional duty to make ample provision for the education of all children. The court said reforms enacted by the Legislature, **House Bill 2261** (2009) and **House Bill 2776** (2010), would remedy state funding deficiencies if fully funded, and it would retain jurisdiction over the case to monitor implementation of these bills.

The *McCleary* decision was not solely about putting more money into our K-12 education system – it was about enacting necessary reforms. Many of these reforms passed this year.

K-12 education in the operating budget – by the numbers

The 2013-15 operating budget includes **\$15.1 billion** for K-12 education – up from **\$13.6 billion** in the 2011-13 operating budget. The operating budget includes **\$31.1 million** in policy enhancements to improve student outcomes and support teachers. It also includes **\$1 billion** in *McCleary* enhancements, which include:

- **\$374 million** for materials, supplies and operating costs (MSOC)
- **\$143 million** for the Learning Assistance Program (LAP)
- **\$132 million** for pupil transportation
- **\$104 million** for K-1 class-size reduction
- **\$97 million** for increased instructional hours grades 7-12
- **\$90 million** for full-day kindergarten, beginning with at-risk student populations
- **\$24 million** for counselors and parent coordinators
- **\$19 million** for bilingual education
- **\$15 million** for the Teacher-Principal Evaluation Program (TPEP)
- **\$10 million** for struggling schools

Improving student outcomes and supporting teachers | Senate Bill 5946

- Updates the education system to improve student outcomes and support teachers. Specifically, the bill addresses early student literacy intervention, reengagement options for students struggling with behavior issues and mentoring programs to ensure every teacher is prepared for success.

Academic acceleration | Senate Bill 5243

- Encourages school districts to adopt a policy to automatically enroll a student who meets the standard on the high school state assessments or the Preliminary SAT in the next most rigorous advanced course in that subject, with the objective that students eventually enroll in dual credit courses.

Assisting persistently-struggling schools | Senate Bill 5329

- Puts in place protocol for accurately identifying struggling schools and provides state funds to implement state and local intervention models.