



Statement on the Governor's K-12 Education Budget

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Today, Governor Inslee announced his [comprehensive plan](#) for meeting the state's constitutional commitment to fully fund basic education for the state's 1.1 million public school students. The budget highlights essential policy and funding to meet the state's paramount duty. This budget, paired with the capital budget, provides strong recommendations that address many of the policy components important to school directors across the state.

The governor's proposal is always just the first step in the overall budget development process that will culminate with the 2017-19 biennial budget. Inslee's budget, however, is a strong and confident start to the conversation that will begin January 9 with the start of the 2017 Legislative Session. Stay tuned this week and next for release of Governor Inslee's full state budget proposal - including an anticipated \$1 billion in capital investment- as well as WSSDA's 2017 Session Preview. We will post both at: <http://wssda.org/Legislative/LegislativeUpdates.aspx>

Specific to WSSDA's [2017 Legislative Priorities](#), Governor Inslee's plan will:

Invest in our students by providing:

- An additional \$4+ billion overall investment in K-12 education over the biennium.
- Increased funding for programs focused on closing the opportunity gap. These include class-size reduction funding, increased Learning Assistance Program (LAP) funding for students needing extra support, and support for community truancy boards.
- Levy reform policy that is mindful of current law on the anticipated reduction in current levy authority, while assuring that no district will lose funding or have increased property taxes.

Attract and retain quality staff by providing:

- A competitive compensation system for teachers and school staff, especially beginning teacher salaries.
- 80 hours of professional development for every teacher and 40 hours for paraeducators.
- Increased opportunities for teacher and principal mentoring.

- Expanded alternative routes for teacher preparation and certification focused on recruiting and retaining local teachers.

School directors across Washington look forward to working with the Governor and Legislature to meet the state's commitment to K-12 education.