



Washington State  
School Directors' Association

# Legislative Update

March 28, 2013

By [Marie Sullivan](#), WSSDA Director of Governmental Relations

## Inslee proposal would make \$1.2 billion down payment for K-12 education

Gov. Jay Inslee unveiled his [budget priorities](#) for the 2013-15 biennium today and, not surprisingly, funding for education was at the top of the list.

Saying that we as a state value education and honor that value by investing in our schools, Inslee's priorities include nearly \$1.3 billion in education funding enhancements.

The spending plan is in line with major [priorities adopted by the WSSDA](#) Board of Directors last November, including funding for student transportation, MSOC, full-day kindergarten and smaller class sizes.

The spending plan would also make strategic funding increases in programs to support students struggling to reach state standards and for English Language Learners. New accountability and a requirement to use "evidence-based" or "research-based" practices would be triggered if certain targets for achievement aren't met.

Inslee also would include \$12.5 million in state funding for school turnaround efforts in Required Action Districts. Both the House and Senate have considered accountability legislation; Inslee said he would not propose making changes to the existing RAD system at this time.

While I-732 for teacher COLAs is suspended again, Inslee would restore the 1.9 percent and 3.0 percent salary reductions enacted in the 2011-13 biennium. Health benefits remain stable at \$768 per FTE, and pension obligations are funded.

Heeding the concerns raised over the need for some state-funded professional development, the proposal would fund 18 hours of state-directed training for the new teacher and principal evaluation system. Budget staff indicated that each year the direction for what kind of professional development might change, but how and when to apply the time for training would be determined at the local level.

Also related to having a strong teacher in the classroom, the Governor would invest in a mentor program for teachers in their first three years of the profession. Each mentor and new teacher would receive a stipend, and seasoned professionals would be allowed to mentor only two beginning teachers at a time.

The budget proposal also would invest in a Principal Residency pilot program. The Governor is interested in strengthening school building leadership, and would invest \$4.1 million as a starting point.

For the state's youngest learners, the spending plan would invest \$35 million in early learning and fund up to five days at the start of kindergarten for implementation of the WaKIDS parent meetings.

On the revenue side of the balance sheet, Inslee is proposing a permanent extension of the B&O tax on professional services and on the beer tax, as well as a list of 11 tax breaks that the governor says don't pencil out when compared to the need to fund public schools. "We should choose education over tax breaks," declared Inslee. "It is our duty, and we will do it."

Inslee will not offer a formal "budget" bill, but detailed summaries are available by clicking [here](#).

The Senate Majority Caucus is still expected to offer its budget proposal next week, with the House Democrats following soon afterward.

### Inslee's K-12 budget priorities

Here's a quick look at the enhancements from the Governor's priorities compared to House Republicans' Education First budget released last week:

Governor	House Republicans	What is funded
\$466.8 million	\$128 million	Maintenance, Supplies and Operational Costs
\$198 million	Not included	Transportation
\$128 million	\$302 million	Class size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governor would fund high poverty, K-1 first</li> <li>House Republicans would fund K-2</li> </ul>
\$116 million	\$229 million	Full-day kindergarten: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governor would fund high poverty schools first, increasing the percentage of schools funded from 22 percent to 50 percent, at class sizes of 20</li> <li>House Republicans would fund 100 percent of all kindergarten classes by the 2014-15 school year</li> </ul>
\$98 million	\$158 million	Increased instructional hours from 1,000 to 1,080 for grades 7 – 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governor indicated this would lead to 1,400 new positions and that the funding was not tied to a 24-credit diploma as described by the State Board of Education</li> <li>House Republicans boosted instructional hours by 1.1111 per week in the 2013-14 school year and 2.2221 hours per week in the 2014-15 school year</li> </ul>
\$90.4 million	Not included	Professional development – 18 hours of state-directed training for school-based staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposal equates to one additional hour every other week</li> <li>This equates to a 1.25 percent increase in the salary allocation</li> </ul>
\$37.5 million	Not included	In-school mentor and beginning teacher support:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$2,500 stipend first year; \$1,250 next two years for mentors</li> <li>• \$2,200 stipend first year; \$1,000 next two years for beginning teacher participating in the program</li> <li>• Mentors may have no more than two beginning teachers</li> <li>• Stipends would pay for two additional hours per week in the first year and one additional hour in the second year</li> </ul>
\$28 million	Not included	<p>New Learning Assistance Program (LAP) funds to address dropout prevention in grades 6-9.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Districts with a dropout rate exceeding 16 percent based on students who start in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and graduate would be required to use targeted strategies.</li> </ul>
\$22 million	Not included	<p>Transitional Bilingual Instruction Program (TBIP) enhancement for students that exit the program for up to two years of additional instructional support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The accountability is based on length of time in TBIP.</li> <li>• When the average exceeds five years, the school will be required to implement evidence-based strategies.</li> </ul>
\$12.5 million	Not included	<p>New LAP to focus on getting students to standard in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading assessments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No strings in the first year.</li> <li>• In the second year, for schools with not reaching 60 percent 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading standard, evidence-based programs must be used.</li> </ul>
\$12.5 million	\$10 million FY14 only	School turnaround – Required Action District state funding
\$10.9 million	Not included	STEM Alliance Partnership
\$4.1 million	Not included	Principal residency pilot program

Other budget provisos from the 2011-13 omnibus operating budget are carried forward and funded in both budget proposals. This includes activities such as Project Lead the Way, Collaborative Schools, the Principal Leadership Academy, Readiness to Learn, and much more.

### Nuts and bolts

As mentioned above, the Governor would support House legislation to give schools the authority to use up to five days at the beginning of the school year for implementation of the parent meetings associated with the kindergarten readiness tool called WaKIDS. Districts would not have to seek a waiver from the State Board of Education for this purpose if the change is adopted.

The budget priorities restore funding for Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) programs to 100 percent – up from the \$41 million reduction in the previous biennium. But Gov. Inslee would offer a different approach to funding from the OSPI rules that ranged from 80 percent to 90 percent funding for a student FTE.

As OFM staff described it, the state will establish new parameters for funding Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) programs. School districts may claim funding for students who reside in district.

However, school districts may only claim nonresidents if s/he meets one the following conditions:

1. The course identified in the student's written student learning plan are all online courses;
2. The student has in-person, face-to-face instructional contact for at least twenty percent of the total weekly time for the course; or
3. At least ninety percent of the district's total ALE headcount consists of students residing in district.

ALE students that don't meet one of the requirements above would not count for state funding. This change is expected to save about \$30 million.

Also in the “cost savings” category is a shift to the Smarter Balanced Consortium Common Core State Standards assessments, expected to roll out in the 2014-15 school year. Staff said there would be:

- No changes to the requirement to pass the statewide assessments to graduate;
- No changes to Collections of Evidence or alternative assessments;
- End-of-course would remain in place but the reading and writing HSPEs would be consolidated into a single English Language Arts assessment;
- The 11<sup>th</sup> grade career and college ready assessment would not be required for graduation.

In addition, for the finance officers reading this summary... the per pupil inflator would be set at 4.3 percent and 2.8 percent, respectively. Due to the enhancements in some of the categorical programs, levy capacity will be enhanced and Local Effort Assistance funding will increase slightly.

Governor Inslee's budget priorities would leave about \$500 million in ending fund balance. Here's a look at the [balance sheet](#).

## **WSSDA response to the Governor's proposal**

“The Governor has set out a solid foundation for the budget discussion on education funding for this biennium,” said WSSDA President Debra Long, a Central Valley school director.

“We appreciate Governor Inslee is proposing investments in transportation, full-day kindergarten, smaller class sizes, and school operations. These are core to reducing the reliance on local levies to meet state obligations. In addition, we appreciate state funding for professional development,” said Long.

“This is a great starting point, and we look forward to conversations over the next month to move the funding needle upwards a little more to meet McCleary,” said Dr. Jonelle Adams, WSSDA's executive director.

“We hope to see the investment in smaller class sizes extending to second and third grade, additional funding for compensation that relies heavily on local levies to reach a comparable wage, and a little more for professional development for implementation of the Common Core State Standards,” said Adams.