

## Governor’s \$2.3 billion education plan focuses on student success

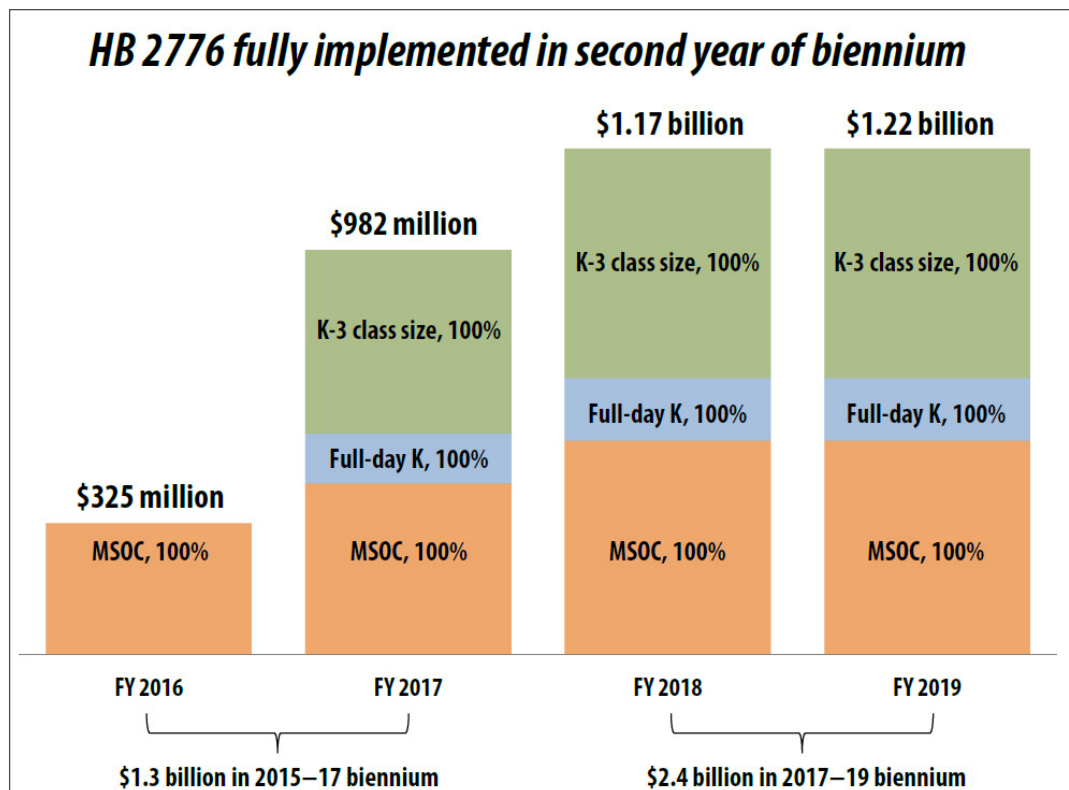
*Governor Inslee believes our state’s responsibility for funding kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade education is more than a statutory exercise in legal compliance or planning the budget. It is a moral and economic imperative to truly improve the well-being of our students.*

His proposed budget calls for pivotal investments in the state’s education system to ensure that all learners succeed in the classroom, no matter the level. From our youngest children in early learning, to all students in our public K-12 schools and those pursuing post-high school training or higher education, his budget is targeted at student success. His budget will provide early learning opportunities for thousands more children and dramatically improve the state’s high school graduation rates,

among other targets. Educators, too, will benefit from the Governor’s priorities.

The Governor’s budget completely fulfills the commitments put forward by the Legislature in 2010 through House Bill 2776 — and it does so a year ahead of schedule. The Washington State Supreme Court has held the state in contempt in the McCleary decision over its failure to improve funding for our schools. The Governor knows that with effective leadership and collaboration, the state will now meet long-overdue obligations to shrink K-3 class sizes, fund all-day public kindergarten and cover costs such as maintenance, supplies and operating expenses so our schools are safe, high-quality facilities for our students to learn in.

*The Governor’s budget fully implements K-3 class sizes of 17 and statewide full-day kindergarten in the 2016–17 school year, one year ahead of schedule. The final step-up for materials, supplies and operating costs is funded in the 2015–16 school year, consistent with the amounts and schedule required by law.*



## EARLY LEARNING

**Offer opportunities for our youngest learners with high-quality early learning, \$156.3 million total**  
Makes the largest-ever state investment in early learning. It invests in proven programs to ensure more students start kindergarten ready to learn.

First, \$79.8 million is provided for 6,358 new spaces, which includes more full-day slots, in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, the state's preschool program for children from low-income families. With the additional spaces, a total of 16,449 children from low-income families will have access to preschool.

The state will continue to improve child care quality by providing \$70.5 million for the state's Early Achievers child care rating program that trains child care providers in effective early learning strategies. This investment will reach 50,639 more children.

To meet rising demand for intervention services provided through the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program, the state will also provide \$4.0 million for 1,500 more children with special needs. And \$2.0 million will be used to increase the number of families receiving home-visiting services.

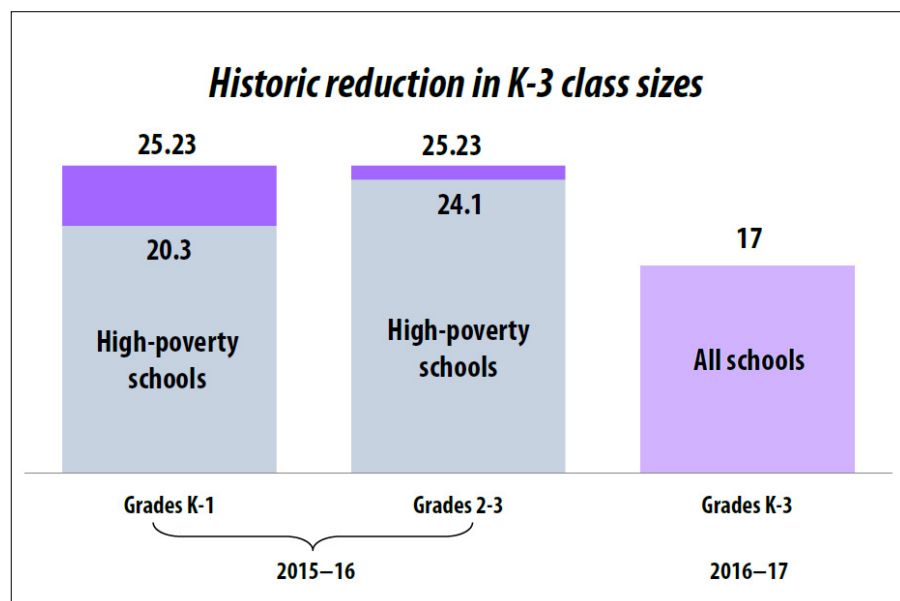
## KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE

**Increase basic education funding to reduce class sizes, increase class time for kindergartners and cover school operation costs \$1.3 billion total**

**Elementary school class-size reduction, \$448.1 million**  
Proposes substantial investment in elementary schools, including more than 7,000 additional teachers. Also provides districts with one year of planning time to implement these changes, including the hiring and placement of new staff. Reduces class sizes to 17 in kindergarten through third grade by the 2016–17 school year, one year ahead of the schedule set in HB 2776.

**Statewide full-day kindergarten, \$107.6 million**  
Funds full-day kindergarten for all students, offering 1,000 hours of instruction a year, one year ahead of schedule. Today, less than half the state's kindergartners participate in a state-funded, full-day program. While some districts provide funding with federal or local funds, most students not in state-funded programs either attend for a half day or their families pay nearly \$3,000 a year in tuition.

*Governor Inslee proposes reducing K-3 class sizes in all schools to 17 by the 2016–17 school year.*



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**Materials, supplies, curricula and operating costs, \$751.8 million**

HB 2776 and the McCleary decision require full funding of an enhanced formula for materials, supplies, curricula and operating costs by the 2015–16 school year. Fully funds this obligation, increasing the funding allocation to \$1,216 per student in the 2015–16 school year, up from \$848 per student in the current school year. Funding will allow full implementation of the state’s new learning standards in English, math and science, and support the use of positive behavior intervention curricula.

**Special education**

Funding of \$144.0 million for special education services is embedded in the previous three items. Districts will dedicate a portion of these amounts for approximately 1,800 principals to receive professional development on best practices for special education instruction and strategies for implementation in schools.

**Promote student success, \$40.7 million total**

**Family engagement coordinators, \$20.0 million**

Adjusts the basic education formula for family engagement coordinators at 600 high-poverty elementary schools serving 238,000 students to support a school-and-family team approach to educating children. Coordinators perform a number of activities, including serving as liaison between teachers and families, connecting families to social services and assisting in other ways that help families to support their children’s education.

**Guidance counselors, \$13.7 million**

Increases the basic education allocation for guidance counselors at high-poverty middle schools to help 73,000 students. Middle schoolers with clear academic goals for high school are more likely to stay on track during their freshman year. Counselors will help with goal setting, including planning for high school, providing information about programs such as College Bound and organizing more interventions for students falling behind in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Breakfast-after-the-bell, \$5.0 million**

Awards grants to elementary schools to implement

breakfast-after-the-bell programs so nearly 30,000 students start the day well fed and ready to learn.

**Outdoor learning experiences, \$1.0 million**

Increases outdoor learning opportunities for 5,000 fourth- and fifth-graders to connect with nature and gain an appreciation of the environment.

**Project-based math and science, \$1.0 million**

Expands project-based and work-based math and science learning. Students from all grade levels will be connected through age-appropriate curricula to the environmental, natural resource and agricultural sectors to experience new learning opportunities and explore possible careers in these areas.

**Increase high school graduation rates, \$18.1 million net total**

**Learning Assistance Program, \$34.7 million**

Provides funding to 300 high-poverty high schools to extend learning time and add wraparound services for students; allow time for staff to develop and implement school-wide graduation strategies; set up school-wide efforts to improve attendance and reduce suspensions; and match students with mentors and internships. An estimated 104,000 students at eligible schools will receive these services. Of our state’s students who have left before graduating, 44 percent came from high schools where more than half of students were from low-income families. The budget includes \$300,000 for the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction for grants to identify students showing early warning signs of dropping out of high school, such as absenteeism, discipline issues or failing grades in multiple classes.

**College in the High School, \$9.0 million**

Increases low-income student participation in College in the High School, which offers 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students the opportunity to complete college-level academic courses. Students may earn college credit if they pay a fee to the partnering higher education institution. This funding will cover the cost of the fee for up to 10 college credits a year for an estimated 7,200 low-income students.

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**Career readiness, \$3.0 million**

Boosts opportunities for more than 800 students to directly enter a skilled trade after high school graduation. Funding supports pre-apprenticeship programs; post-graduation advanced manufacturing summer terms at skill centers and newly established aerospace manufacturing academies; and the Jobs for Washington's Graduates program.

**High school assessment system, \$23.0 million savings**

Assumes savings from instituting efficiencies in the high school assessment system by streamlining the number of annually administered student examinations. Students who do not pass an exam will have the new option of passing a graduation readiness transition course. Also revises the administration of the Collection of Evidence alternative to allow students to submit their credit-bearing coursework as demonstration of high school proficiency. School districts, instead of the state, will assume responsibility for evaluating the Collection of Evidence materials, and may count the activities toward a student's annual hours of instruction.

**Running Start, \$5.6 million savings**

Clarifies that the Running Start program for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders pertains only to those students taking their courses at the college or online.

**TEACHING, LEADERSHIP AND COMPENSATION**

**Support high-quality teaching and instructional leadership, \$30.4 million total**

**Mentoring for new teachers, \$17.9 million**

Expands the state's Beginning Educator Support Team program. OSPI will work with school districts to provide mentoring to all first-year teachers and 3,000 second-year teachers.

**Turnaround programs, \$4.2 million**

Funds turnaround programs for schools identified for the state's persistently lowest-achieving schools program. Under OSPI's guidance, identified schools use evidence-based models for school improvement, including principal and instructional coaching.

Under the law, further state intervention can occur for schools and districts, if necessary, after three years.

**Expand pre-service classroom experience, \$4.2 million**

Integrates more K-12 classroom experience in pre-service training programs through funding of innovation grants and restoring funding for the Alternative Routes to Teaching program.

**Math and science training, \$2.3 million**

Provides more instructional training for K-8 math and science teachers; develops environmental science curricula; and increases the number of teachers endorsed in secondary-level computer science. More than 350 teachers will be trained each year.

**First-year principals, \$1.0 million**

Supports an additional 100 first-year principals with coaching and professional development while they progress as a school's instructional leader.

**Special education support, \$800,000**

Establishes a best practices clearinghouse for special education at OSPI and funds training for 20 more district leaders in special education administration.

**Invest in educator compensation, \$595.6 million**

**Initiative 732 salary increase, \$385.6 million**

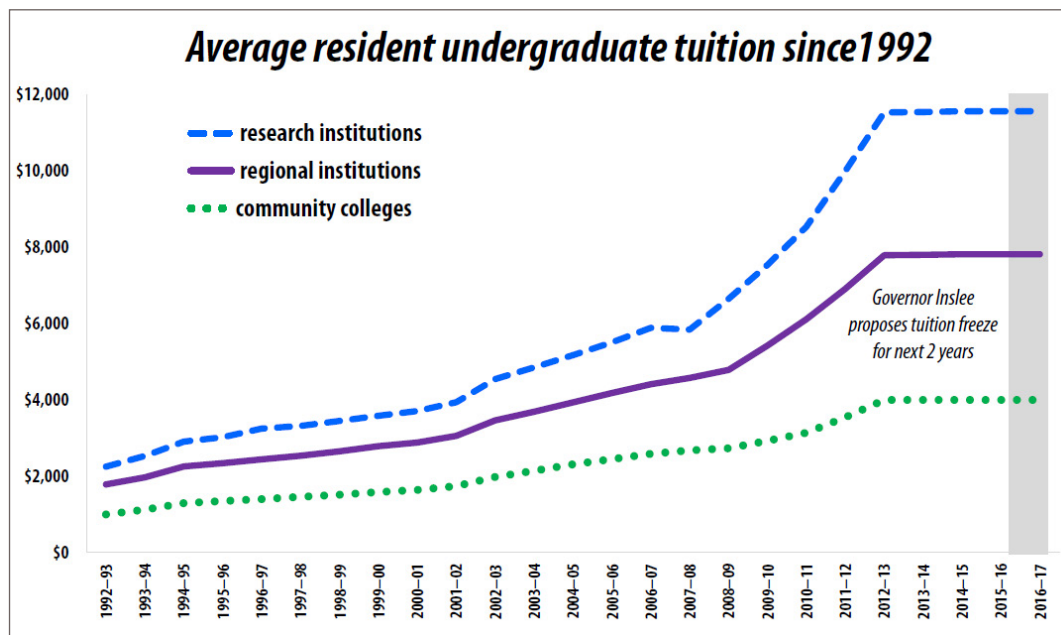
Fully funds the \$235.5 million salary increase under Initiative 732 and then provides \$150.1 million to cover a 3 percent salary increase for the 2015–16 school year, followed by a 1.8 percent increase in the 2016–17 school year. These rates are in alignment with increases recommended for state employees.

**Pension rates, \$210.0 million**

Provides maintenance-level funding for the state's share of higher employer pension rate contributions for K-12 employees.

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From 2008 to 2012, average resident undergraduate tuition increased by 73 percent at Washington's research institutions, 56 percent at our regional institutions and 42 percent at our community colleges.



## HIGHER EDUCATION

Maintain higher education access and affordability, \$125.5 million

### Tuition

Freezes resident undergraduate tuition for both years of the 2015–17 biennium for the public baccalaureate colleges and the community and technical colleges. The budget assumes future tuition decisions will be made in the state’s budget, which will not allow institutions to increase tuition above levels recommended here. Rates for the public colleges and universities have steadily risen since the early 1990s, and then spiked sharply from 2009 to 2013, the result of the state’s effort to balance the budget during the Great Recession.

Separate legislation will address residency requirements for our state’s veterans and dependents to conform to federal law changes passed in August 2014. The legislation will allow the public colleges and universities to continue participation in the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill programs.

### Opportunity Scholarship, \$100.0 million

Contributes funding to the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship, a public-private partnership established in 2011 to address rising tuition and promote career opportunities. Students

from families earning up to 125 percent of the state’s median family income are eligible if they commit to earn a bachelor’s degree in high-demand fields in STEM and health care. With the state’s investment, an estimated 12,000 more students are expected to benefit each year.

### College Bound and State Need Grant, \$25.5 million

Increases enrollment in the College Bound Scholarship program by 5,576 students. The program provides an early commitment of financial aid to low-income 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who pledge to attend college. Students who meet eligibility requirements while in high school and attend a college in Washington are eligible for an award covering tuition and fees at public institution rates and a \$500 annual book allowance. The Caseload Forecast Council expects the program to grow from 12,345 students in the 2014–15 academic year to 17,921 students in the 2016–17 academic year.

### Financial aid coordination

Improves coordination of financial aid funding to ensure College Bound students receive the maximum State Need Grant awards. The budget reflects savings of \$23.6 million to the College Bound program and reinvests those savings with \$23.6 million for the State Need Grant program.



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**Boost higher education attainment and training, \$30.4 million**

**I-BEST and ABE programs, \$10.0 million**

Increases job training through the Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training program (\$5.0 million) and basic education access through Adult Basic Education programs (\$5.0 million) at the community and technical colleges for 800 adults without a high school diploma.

**STEM: Math and science graduates, \$8.0 million**

Increases long-term production of math and science graduates — by a combined 400 graduates — at Central, Eastern and Western Washington universities and The Evergreen State College.

**STEM: Computer science and engineering programs, \$6.0 million**

Expands advanced computer science and engineering programs at the University of Washington and Washington State University to keep up with job demands in these competitive fields. A total of 225 high-demand slots will be added.

**Aerospace apprenticeships, \$2.5 million**

Expands support of registered aerospace and advanced manufacturing apprenticeship programs at 20 colleges across the state. The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges will operate in conjunction with the Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee for implementation of these funds.

**STEM: MESA, \$2.0 million**

Expands the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement program at the community and technical colleges by 600 slots to boost support of underrepresented students in these high-demand fields.

**Training programs, \$1.9 million**

Targets industry investments to maintain economic competitiveness with \$1.6 million for the operation of a fabrication composite wing incumbent-worker training program at the Washington Aerospace Training and Research Center in Everett. Funding will provide technology, curriculum and equipment

related to program startup and initial student training and \$300,000 for a maritime licensing training program at Seattle Central Community College for two more full-time faculty members.

**HIGHER EDUCATION — OTHER PROGRAMS**

**Targeted health professions funding, \$3.0 million**

Addresses shortages of trained medical and mental health providers. Makes loan repayments for primary care providers working in health professional shortage areas or mental health providers working with adolescents.

**Industrial and farm energy audits, \$2.6 million**

Expands the voluntary energy and engineering audit programs at Washington State University's Extension Energy Program. Of that amount, \$1.6 million is for the Industrial Energy Services Center and \$1.0 million for the Farm Energy Program. Funding will provide the industrial and agricultural sectors with technical assistance, best practices training and engineering improvements for lower energy consumption.

**Ocean acidification, \$1.6 million**

Supports the Washington Ocean Acidification Center at the University of Washington to continue coordination and research to understand, monitor and adapt to increasingly acidic waters. One-time funding was provided in the 2013–15 biennium. This will establish permanent funding of \$1.4 million for the program. Of this amount, \$200,000 is provided to study the biological response of selected commercial and managed species, such as rockfish and salmon, to ocean acidification.

**Climate Impacts Group, \$1.0 million**

Adds funding for the Climate Impacts Group at the University of Washington to conduct data modeling and provide technical assistance on climate impact analysis to Washington communities, businesses and governments.

**Renewable energy incentives, \$250,000**

Provides funding to the Extension Energy Program at Washington State University to administer the state's incentive program for solar energy systems.

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