



PRESCHOOL THROUGH POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION **Creating a Learner-Focused, Rigorous and Accountable System**

Since taking office in 2005, Governor Chris Gregoire has been a champion of education. We serve 8,391 preschool students in our Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, or ECEAP. Nearly 1 million children are enrolled in public kindergarten through 12th grade, and 265,500 students in our public colleges and universities. Ensuring that these learners receive a world-class education to prepare them for careers and for life has been one of the Governor's top priorities.

The Governor has invested considerable effort and resources into improving the quality of instruction; increasing opportunities for students to have hands-on, applied learning opportunities; strengthening K-12 teacher preparation programs; and providing access and affordability for students pursuing postsecondary education. She has supported raising additional revenue to set the state on a more sustainable funding path for K-12. The following are key education accomplishments in Governor Gregoire's administration.



PROVIDING ACCOUNTABILITY AND ASSERTING LEADERSHIP

- » Chaired Washington Learns in 2005–06, which undertook a comprehensive study of the entire state education system. This blue ribbon panel's work launched a number of reforms by focusing on early learning; raising the rigor and achievement in math and science; promoting applied learning and its connection to career; boosting opportunities for learning beyond high school; developing meaningful data and accountability systems; and providing a base for a better K-12 finance system.
- » Established the Education Research and Data Center to develop a P-20 longitudinal data system that collects student and program data across education and other agencies; measures student progress through transitions among education sectors; and examines program effectiveness.
- » Implemented the National Governor's Association postsecondary "Complete to Compete" metrics about student-earned diplomas and certificates, time to degree and other outcomes.
- » Created the first state accountability framework to bring assistance to low-achieving public schools and acknowledgment to high-achieving public schools.
- » Implemented recommendations from the Higher Education Funding Task Force in 2010, including those providing tuition flexibility, increased institutional accountability, improved student transfers among institutions and a public/private endowed scholarship program.

- » Chaired the Higher Education Steering Committee in 2011, which reviewed coordination, planning and communication in higher education. It refocused coordination efforts by creating the Office of Student Achievement to boost the educational attainment of all Washingtonians and improve transitions between high school and postsecondary education.

EARLY LEARNING

Consolidating and improving services

- » Created the Department of Early Learning to consolidate more than a half-dozen child care and early learning programs to give children the best possible start in school.
- » Formed the Thrive by Five Washington public/private partnership to help make our early learning system the best in the nation.

Serving more children

- » Expanded Washington's pre-kindergarten program by 2,250 children beginning in 2007 and signed legislation to provide high-quality preschool programs for all children beginning in 2018.
- » Expanded the state-funded, all-day kindergarten program to serve more than 20 percent of kindergarteners, focusing on the highest poverty schools.

Preparing children for school

- » Developed and implemented WaKIDS, a kindergarten skill and development inventory process that helps teachers, parents and early learning providers understand how to best help each child learn and grow.
- » Received a four-year (2012–16), \$60 million federal Race To The Top grant to implement WaKIDS and the Quality Rating and Improvement System, which works with providers to boost the quality of care.

Enriching the quality of child care

- » Improved the quality of child care by piloting the Quality Rating and Improvement System and increasing state subsidies for family home providers and child care centers.
- » Improved child care safety and quality by adopting new rules.

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12TH GRADE

Training and supporting outstanding teachers and leaders

- » Awarded bonuses to teachers who earn a certificate from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards and an additional bonus for those who teach in schools with high numbers of struggling students. Washington has the fourth-largest number of certified teachers in the nation.
- » Improved professional certification, or Pro-Cert, a cutting-edge program for demonstrating professional-level skills that lead to advanced teacher certification.
- » Strengthened teacher skills in math and science knowledge as a requirement for certification.
- » Broadened opportunities for alternative routes for professionals from other fields to prepare for a teaching career.
- » Designed first-of-their-kind teacher and principal evaluation systems based on national research supporting high-quality instruction and leadership, student learning and professional development.
- » Established the Washington State Leadership Academy, a public-private partnership, to develop new leadership skills in currently practicing superintendents and principals.
- » Revised process for making teacher/principal assignments, which requires school districts to adopt updated policies for making staffing decisions using several criteria related to preparation and performance.

- » Created Collaborative Schools for Innovation and Success, which are six university/public elementary school partnerships. Provides flexibility to implement proven strategies and create innovations to improve student achievement and better prepare education professionals in low-achieving schools.

Transitioning from high school to career — the Launch Year

- » Established a statewide system to recognize rigorous, postsecondary skills acquired while students are still in high school and award appropriate college, university or training program credit.
- » Replicated the highly successful Navigation 101 program, and others, to help students plan for post-high school life.
- » Provided high school grants to develop apprenticeship partnerships with building trades to prepare students for work and careers beyond high school.
- » Expanded targeted high school manufacturing skills and STEM, or science, technology, engineering and math, courses related to engineering and math to meet the demands of Washington’s job market.
- » Created Washington Aerospace Scholars, in partnership with NASA and the Museum of Flight, to provide high school juniors an opportunity to learn about space exploration and work with engineers and scientists in a summer residency program.
- » Created the Washington Youth Academy, a state partnership with the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, to help high school dropouts improve education skill levels, develop positive life skills and develop career goals.

Preparing for the future — STEM

- » Promoted the development of world-class math and science learning standards.
- » Established regional math and science teacher training and expanded LASER, or the Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform program, for teacher professional development.
- » Created end-of-course assessments to better evaluate math and science skills.
- » Provided alternate opportunities for high school students to demonstrate their math knowledge on the state high school assessments.
- » Replaced and upgraded equipment for school district vocational programs and skills centers.
- » Provided support for middle school career and technical education programs in STEM areas.
- » Created three competitive grant programs: one to prepare high school students for entry-level aerospace assembler careers; one for skills centers for manufacturing skills programs; and one for specialized high school STEM courses.

Enriching special education

- » Boosted the funding formula for students with special needs.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Extending access

- » Served more students in the two-year system. Enrollment swelled by 24 percent from the 2005–06 academic year to the 2010–11 academic year.
- » Served more students in the four-year system. Enrollment swelled by 13 percent from the 2005–06 academic year to the 2010–11 academic year.

- » Expanded opportunities at the University of Washington branch campuses at Tacoma and Bothell, as well as at the Washington State University branch campuses at Vancouver, Tri-Cities and Spokane, by admitting freshmen and sophomores.
- » Expanded high-demand enrollments by nearly 10,000 students, including 3,700 slots in such fields as engineering and health care.

Innovating ways to earn a degree

- » Created Western Governors University Washington to provide students access to flexible, affordable programs.
- » Created B.A. programs, including a B.A. in applied technology, at Washington community and technical colleges to offer more students access to four-year degrees.

Maintaining affordability

- » Provided Washington College Bound Scholarships to low-income students who graduate from high school with at least a “C” average.
- » Trained 3,766 low-income adults in 2010–11 through Opportunity Grants to prepare them for jobs that local employers need to immediately fill.
- » Created the endowed public/private Opportunity Scholarship Program to help students earn a baccalaureate degree, particularly (though not exclusively) in high-demand fields.
- » Gave tuition flexibility to the public colleges and universities with a priority on maintaining student enrollment capacity. Flexibility is conditioned on using a portion of the tuition increase to fund financial aid.

- » Expanded financial aid to keep pace with tuition increases. Increased the income cap for the State Need Grant and broadened eligibility to include part-time students.

Promoting research

- » Increased research capacity for global health at the University of Washington; brain research at Western Washington University; and agriculture and alternative fuels at Washington State University.
- » Funded the operating costs of the University of Washington’s South Lake Union biomedical research facility to help Washington maintain its competitiveness in cardiovascular biology, proteomics and other complex fields of study.
- » Funded the Institute for Learning and Brain Research, which is noted for its pioneering studies in early childhood learning.
- » Created the Life Sciences Discovery Fund in 2005 to foster growth of the state’s life sciences sector and improve the health and economic well-being of Washingtonians.