



Strong leaders, strong schools, strong students.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AWSP Statement on Governor Inslee's Proposed Budget

Inslee's "bold vision" a big step in the right direction

OLYMPIA — Governor Inslee released his vision of what a fully funded K-12 system looks like. In his proposed budget, school funding increases from 47 percent to 50.3 percent of the state budget, tackling many of the tough funding issues tied to the *McCleary* lawsuit. The budget adds over \$4 billion in K-12 investments, including nearly \$3 billion to recruit, retain and train educators; \$867 million to close the opportunity gap; and over \$26 million to increase student engagement.

The Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) is happy to see funding increases across the board, including the following items that directly impact principals across the state:

1. **Student Support:** A 1.0 FTE will be added to each prototypical school, phased in over two years, providing for more school counselors, nurses, psychologists, social workers and family engagement coordinators.
2. **Professional Learning:** 80 hours of training and collaboration time per year will be added for certificated staff and phased in over two years. School districts will decide how to use half of the time. The other half will focus on closing the achievement gap, cultural competency, or social and emotional learning.
3. **Principal support and mentors:** The Governor's budget supports school leaders with more internship time for principals-in-training, workshops for first-year principals, and a new principal mentoring program.

The budget proposal tackles compensation, one of the toughest issues to address in terms of cost and politics, by introducing a new salary allocation model. Among other highlights, there's new money in the budget for paraeducator training, class size reductions, learning assistance, and truancy reductions. The [Governor's policy brief](#) contains more details on the budget proposal. His proposed capital budget, which is anticipated to include \$1 billion in capital investments in education, is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, December 14.

Although this is only the first step in a long budget process ending with the Governor signing off on the Legislature's adopted budget, AWSP is happy to see the budget's increased investments across the K-12 system do not come at the expense of the social services and supports. These supports and services are necessary to ensure that as many of the state's 1.1 million students as possible are coming to school as happy, healthy, and ready to learn.

STATE COMPONENTS

Elementary School Principals of Washington (ESPAW)
Association of Washington Middle Level Principals (AWMLP)
Washington Association of Secondary School Principals (WASSP)

NATIONAL COMPONENTS

National Association of Elementary School Principals (ESPAW)
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)