

POLICY BRIEF

Washington state data shows adding more money to schools does not improve student learning

Liv Finne
Director, Center for Education

August 2017

Key Findings

1. *The legislature increased school funding from \$13.54 billion in 2011-13 to \$18.2 billion in 2015-17, a 34 percent increase, while inflation rose by eight percent.*
2. *During this period of time, the number of state-rated failing schools increased, from 168 schools to 365 schools.*
3. *An objective federal standard, the NAEP assessment, shows more money has not improved student learning in Washington.*
4. *\$88 million in federal School Improvement Grants to 41 of Washington's lowest-performing schools failed to improve student learning.*
5. *Massive spending in Kansas City, Missouri, and in New Jersey did not improve student learning.*
6. *Adding large increases in public funding to a bureaucratic and unwieldy education system prevents innovation, flexibility, and professional creativity in the way students are taught.*
7. *Washington state's experience shows that adding large spending increases to an unreformed district-based system has not resulted in better learning outcomes for students.*
8. *Equipping and trusting individual families with school choice is the best way to help students find a quality school, so every child learns.*



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Introduction

Labor union executives and school administrators often argue that spending more money on public schools will improve the education of children. This policy position coincides with the interests of the advocates themselves, by enhancing the budgets and influence respectively of their unions and public agencies.

This study separates out the question of how much increases in public education spending benefit the organizations and careers of those who press for this policy direction. It does not seek to examine the intentions or motivations of advocates or public officials who press for larger education budgets.

Instead, the intent of this study is to examine the objective and measurable learning effects of a policy of increasing public school funding, in particular the recent and dramatic increases in spending for K-12 schools enacted by the legislature in Washington state.

In the sections following, this study summarizes the claim that higher education spending improves learning outcomes for children. It then presents objective, nationally-recognized methods for measuring student learning, and describes the rate of spending increases as reported in state budgets over an eight-year period.

Finally, this study assesses to what extent, if any, the claimed link between increases in public spending and improved outcomes for children is valid.

Claim: Advocates say more money will improve schools

The public is rightly concerned about improving the quality of instruction in public schools, so that all children can reach their fullest potential in life. Elected officials often respond to the public's natural concern for better-quality education by calling for large increases in school funding. This position allows officials to signal they care about education, separate from any consideration of whether such spending actually helps school children.

Officials assert that spending more money on schools will inevitably and automatically improve student learning. As one typical example, Governor Jay

Inslee said, “And it [his proposed 2017-19 budget] would provide more resources to give students and teachers the support they need to succeed in the classroom.”¹

During the 2017 legislative session, the Democratic Caucus Education Funding Task Force said:

*“Over the next four years, we will invest \$7.3 billion into Washington’s K-12 education system. These investments will meet our state’s Constitutional responsibility and help every student and educator to achieve their fullest potential.”*²

In an interview, Senator Christine Rolfes, (D-Bainbridge Island), reflected the common assumption among policymakers, administrators and union executives that more money automatically improves K-12 public schools:

Interviewer: *“...And maybe making sure that the outcomes for kids are improved because sometimes putting more money into a system won’t necessarily change anything?”*

Senator Rolfes: *“That is true but I am pretty confident that if we put more money in in a smart way, it will. I don’t think we are going to get better outcomes without investing [spending] more.”*³

A further example is the eight-year tenure of former state Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn, during which he repeatedly called for spending up to \$12 billion more on public education, with no other reforms or policy changes, based on the assumed claim that massive increases in money would improve student learning.

Washington’s current Superintendent of Public Instruction, Chris Reykdal, has taken a similar approach, proposing \$4 billion in spending increases per year, again based on the assumption that more spending is the primary way to improve schools.⁴

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- 1 “Gov Inslee’s Education Plan—Putting Washington’s Students First,” by Governor Jay Inslee, Policy Brief, December, 2016 at http://ofm.wa.gov/budget17/highlights/201719_policybrief_Education.pdf, page 1.
 - 2 Democratic Caucus Education Funding Task Force Recommendations, January 4, 2017, at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/CMD/Handler.ashx?MethodName=getdocumentcontent&documentId=877h97H8oB8&att=false>, page 1.
 - 3 “League of Education Voters Interviews Senator Christine Rolfes, Member of the Education Funding Task Force,” by Arik Korman, League of Education Voters, at <http://educationvoters.org/2016/11/21/lev-interviews-senator-christine-rolfes-member-of-the-education-funding-task-force/>, at Time Stamp 16:44.
 - 4 “Superintendent of Schools Unveils Six-Year Plan for Schools,” by Rachel La Corte, Associated Press, May 24, 2017 at <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/washington/articles/2017-05-24/superintendent-of-schools-unveils-six-year-plan-for-schools>.

Methodology 1: Measuring school performance

The methodology used in this study to rate public school performance is the official Washington State Achievement Index.

In 2009, the legislature passed a bill, HB 2261, directing the State Board of Education to conduct a yearly Achievement Index of school performance to inform the public about the quality of education in the state's 2,000 schools.⁵

The legislature directed:

“The State Board of Education shall develop an accountability index to identify schools and districts for recognition and for additional state support.”⁶

Governor Jay Inslee supported the idea, recommending “a system in which every school in the state receives a letter grade that’s accessible to parents.”⁷ The State Board of Education has issued an updated Index of public school performance every year since 2010.

The purpose of an accountability system is to let parents and the general public know how well school administrators are fulfilling their constitutional duty to provide for the education of every child.

The State Board of Education rates schools on the percentage of their students meeting state standards in reading, math, writing and science. The Index initially ranked schools as Exemplary, Very Good, Good, Fair, and Struggling, corresponding, as Governor Inslee recommended, to letter grades A, B, C, D and F.

In 2013, the Board changed the “Struggling” rank to “Underperforming” and “Lowest Five Percent,” with these two lowest rankings corresponding to F on the governor’s recommended letter-grade scale. To maintain consistency in the reported data, this study recognizes the equivalence of the lowest-ranking categories of the state Achievement Index, even though the titles for the lowest categories have been changed.

5 “Education, Generally,” Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2261, Section 503, Washington State Legislature, passed April 16, 2009 and signed by Governor Gregoire on May 19, 2009, effective July 29, 2009 at <http://app.leg.wa.gov/bills/summary?BillNumber=2261&Year=2009>. Revised Code of Washington, Chapter 28A.657.110, Accountability System, Common School Provisions.

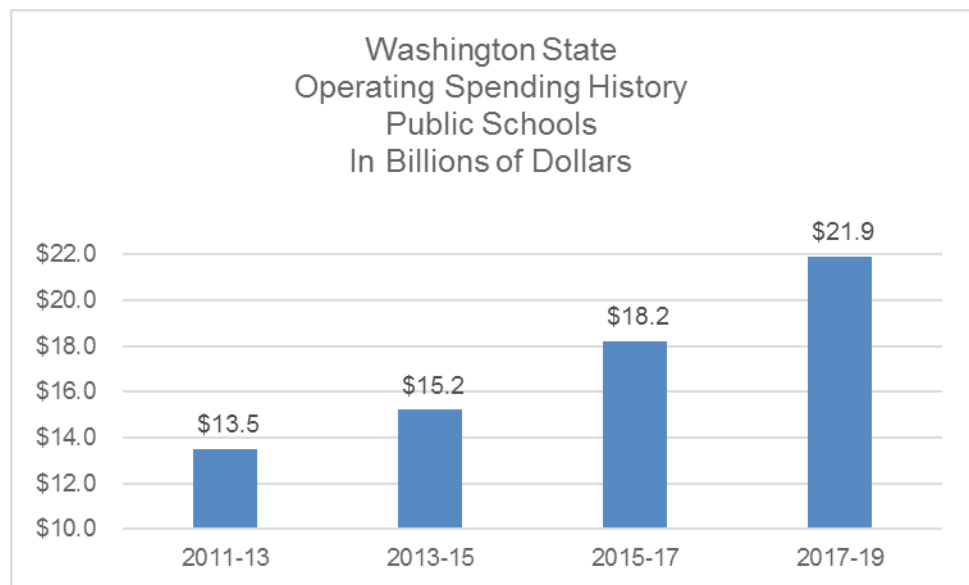
6 “Education, Generally,” Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2261, Section 503, Washington State Legislature, passed April 16, 2009 and signed by Governor Gregoire on May 19, 2009, effective July 29, 2009 at <http://app.leg.wa.gov/bills/summary?BillNumber=2261&Year=2009>. Revised Code of Washington, Chapter 28A.657.110, Accountability System, Common School Provisions.

7 “Inslee clarifies: He favors A-F school grading system—under his conditions,” by Brian M. Rosenthal, *The Seattle Times*, April 9, 2013, at blogs.seattletimes.com/politicsnorthwest/2013/04/09/inslee-clarifies-he-favors-a-f-school-grading-system-under-his-conditions/.

Methodology 2: Measuring increases in public school spending

The purpose of this study is to assess what effect, if any, large increases in education spending have had on overall public school improvement in Washington state. The measure of increases in school spending is taken from public records showing the amount of money devoted to Washington public schools through state budgets.

Following the state supreme court ruling in the 2012 McCleary school funding case, the legislature enacted massive increases in public education spending. This increasing trend in education spending is reported in the graph below, using the 2011-2013 state budget (the spending level in place when McCleary ruling was handed down) as a base.

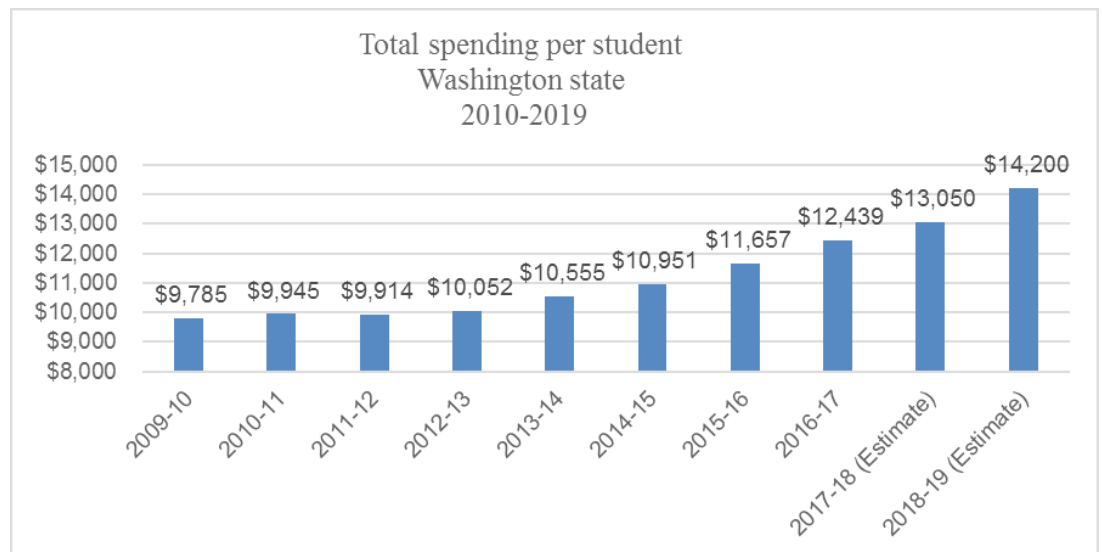


The legislature increased school funding from \$13.54 billion in 2011-13 to \$18.2 billion in 2015-17, a 34 percent increase, while inflation over the same period rose by eight percent.⁸

Total spending per student, from state, local and federal sources, increased from \$9,785 per student in 2010 to \$12,439 per student in 2017, and is set to increase further with the additional \$3.7 billion increase provided K-12 schools in the 2017-19 budget.⁹

⁸ Based on Consumer Price Index from Bureau of Labor Statistics, at <http://www.calculator.net/inflation-calculator.html?cstartingamount1=1&cinyear1=2012&coutyear1=2017&calctype=1&x=47&y=13>.

⁹ “Statewide, Workload/Staffing/Finance, Washington State K-12 Finance Data,” Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Committee and Office of Financial Management, June 30, 2017 at <http://fiscal.wa.gov/K12.aspx>.



Lead Finding: The number of state-rated failing schools increased

The School Achievement Index for 2016, the most recent available, shows that despite record-high levels of spending the number of “F” schools ranked as Underperforming or Lowest Five Percent increased.

In schools the state rates as Underperforming or Lowest Five Percent, more than 60 percent of students were reported as falling below minimum learning standards in reading, math, science, and writing. Some rated schools showed extraordinary levels of failure in educating students. For example, at Taholah Elementary/Middle School on the Quinault Indian Reservation, over 90 percent of students failed to meet minimum standards.

In 2010, the state found the number of “F” schools, ranked Struggling to be 168 schools.¹⁰ In 2016, the state Index found the number of “F” schools, ranked Underperforming or Lowest Five Percent increased by 117 percent to 365.¹¹ (See Appendix A for the list of these schools.)

At the same time, per-student education spending from all sources for the years 2011 to 2016 increased by 27 percent, rising from \$9,785 to \$12,439. These results are summarized in the table below.

State School Achievement Index	Number of “F” ranked schools	Spending per student
2010	168 schools	\$9,785
2016	365 schools (+117%)	\$12,439 (+27%)

10 “Achievement Index Data, 2010-11, School Achievement Index,” Washington State Board of Education, at <https://eds.ospi.k12.wa.us/wai/indexreport>.

11 “Achievement Index Data, 2015-16, School Achievement Index,” Washington State Board of Education, at <https://eds.ospi.k12.wa.us/wai/indexreport>.

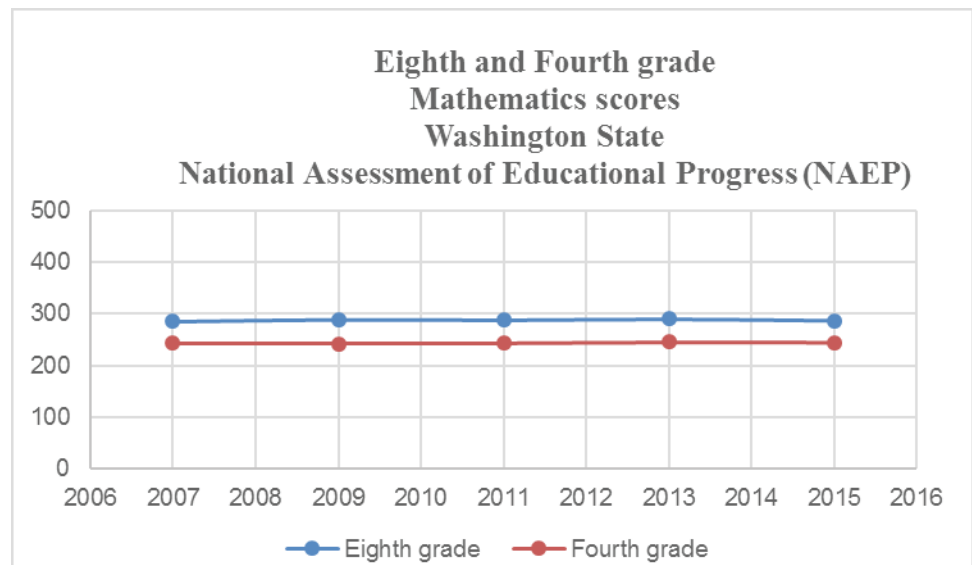
NAEP assessments show more money has not improved student learning

State officials have changed the standards for measuring student progress a number of times. In the 1990s the legislature enacted the Washington State Assessment of Learning (WASL). In 2007, Governor Gregoire signed a repeal of the WASL test, and instituted the Measurement of Student Progress, High School Proficiency Exam and End-of-Course exams.

These in turn were repealed in 2014, to be phased out and replaced with the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium test (SBAC). State standards for assessing student learning are in flux, affected by shifting politics between the legislature and the governor's office.

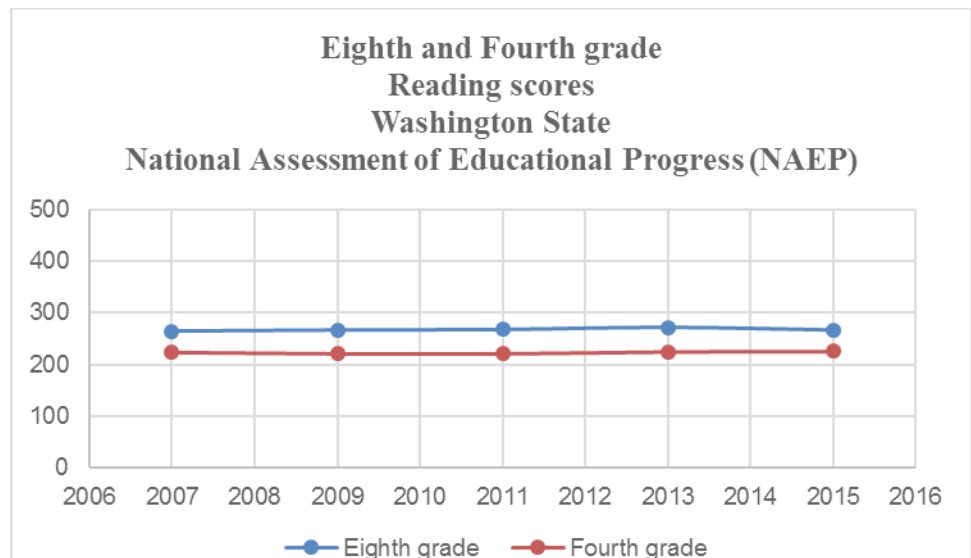
Meanwhile, an objective federal standard, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), referred to as the "Nation's Report Card," has been administered consistently to a statistically representative sample of Washington fourth grade and eighth grade students in reading, math, and science. The same test is administered to fourth grade and eighth grade students in other states. For that reason the NAEP is considered the most respected, reliable and consistent measure of academic progress in every state.

In Washington, trends in academic learning by public school students, as measured by NAEP, have not improved over the past ten years. In spite of large spending increases, student learning levels remain flat.¹²



Washington eighth and fourth grade student test scores in math remained unchanged in the period 2007 to 2015

¹² "Trends in spending and learning in Washington's schools, 2006-2016," by Liv Finne, Legislative Memo, Washington Policy Center, January 2017, at <http://www.washingtonpolicy.org/library/doclib/FINAL-PDF-Trends-in-Spending-and-Learning-Liv-v2.pdf>.



Washington eighth and fourth grade student test scores in reading remained unchanged in the period 2007 to 2015¹³

Examination of three real-world cases from both our state and other states further illustrates the weak correlation between spending increases and improved educational quality. These states adopted the policy of enacting massive spending increases, sometimes under court order, with the conviction that more money would lead to improved educational quality.

The outcomes reflect the same poor results seen in Washington state. Each experience reveals the same pattern: large increases in spending on public education failed to produce expected improvements in student learning.

Case Study 1: School Improvement Grants did not improve schools

The 2001, the No Child Left Behind Act created a targeted School Improvement Grant program, described by the U.S. Department of Education as designed to:

“...turn around the lowest five percent of persistently lowest achieving Title I schools and Title I-eligible secondary schools, so that these school significantly raise student achievement and exit improvement status.”¹⁴

¹³ Average scale scores, Washington state, 2006-2016, Mathematics and Reading, National Assessment of Educational Progress at nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states/.

¹⁴ “School and Student Success, School Improvement Grants (SIG), Federal School Improvement Grants (SIG),” Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, at <http://www.k12.wa.us/StudentAndSchoolSuccess/SIG/default.aspx>.

In Washington state, 41 schools received \$88 million in federal School Improvement Grants.¹⁵ This money was in addition to regular funding from federal, state and local sources.

In 2013 Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn celebrated the program, saying in a press release that the extra funding was achieving impressive gains in student learning in math and reading.¹⁶

Superintendent Dorn's announcement did not turn out to be true. Despite adding funding, the gains he noted were short-lived. By 2016, the learning gains had vanished. Fourteen of the eighteen schools that received the first School Improvement Grants, and which ranked as Struggling on the 2010 state Achievement Index, did not improve, appearing in the "F" categories of Underperforming or Lowest Five Percent on the 2016 Index.

Further press releases about increased funding improving struggling schools were quietly dropped. The Superintendent's office made no further announcements about the School Improvement Grant program.

Overall, the School Achievement Index shows that between 2010 and 2016, thirty of the 41 schools receiving federal Student Improvement Grants did not improve. They ranked in the lowest category at the beginning of the program, and remained in the lowest ranking, Underperforming or Lowest Five Percent, six years later. The low ranking indicates that these schools failed to educate more than half of their students every year.

The remaining eleven schools made small, possibly temporary gains, but administrators continue to struggle to meet minimum learning standard for all students.¹⁷

The poor results in Washington under this federal grant program fit the pattern experienced by other states. In January 2017, the Department of Education

15 The \$88 million figure is the total sum of the federal School Improvement grants provided to three cohorts of schools in Washington state. Summaries of the grants for the first two cohorts of schools were sent by email dated June 20, 2017 to the author by Nathan Olson, Communications Manager for the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction: "School Improvement Grant, Cohort I, 3 Year Funded Districts Summary, 2010-2013," and "School Improvement Grant, Cohort II, 3 Year Funded Districts Summary, 2011-2014." The third summary is available online: "School Improvement Grant, Cohort III, 3 Year Funded Districts Summary, 2014-15," Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, at <http://www.k12.wa.us/StudentAndSchoolSuccess/SIG/default.aspx>.

16 "Dorn Pleased With Academic Growth in SIG Schools," Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn, press release, October 2, 2013, at <http://www.k12.wa.us/Communications/PressReleases2013/SIG-Schools.aspx>.

17 Of the remaining 11 schools, seven schools received a D, or Fair ranking, three received a C, or Good, ranking, and one received a B, or Very Good ranking on the 2016 Index.

reported that Student Improvement Grants had “no significant impacts” on math achievement, reading achievement, high school graduation, or college enrollment.¹⁸

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Education Andrew R. Smarick, called the program “the greatest failure in the history of the U.S. Department of Education.” All the added money produced no lasting results. It was, he said, “as if this program had never existed.”¹⁹

Case Study 2: Massive spending in Kansas City, Missouri did not improve student learning

In 1985, a federal judge in Kansas City, Missouri ordered local and state taxpayers to pay \$2 billion, in addition to the regular education budget, to improve learning outcomes for students in the city’s public schools. The district had 36,000 students. The order more than tripled the city’s annual school budget.²⁰

The judge based his ruling on testimony by officials who said the additional funding would improve Kansas City student achievement above the state average in less than five years.

The added money lavished funding on the school district. It increased teacher salaries by 40 percent, funded student-teacher ratios of 13 to one, provided all-day kindergarten, built new athletic facilities, and opened 15 new schools.

Ultimately school, city and judicial officials recognized the effort had failed. Academic learning results did not improve, student test scores did not rise, and one promised result, reducing the achievement gap between black and white students, did not occur. In fact, racial segregation in Kansas City school increased, rather than diminishing.

In 1999, the judge altered his ruling and ended the court-ordered requirement that taxpayers provide above-normal funding for Kansas City schools.²¹

18 “School Improvement Grants: Implementation and Effectiveness (Final Report),” by Lisa Dragoset, et al., Mathematica Policy Research, Washington, DC, U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, January 18, 2017, at www.mathematica-mpr.com/our-publications-and-findings/publications/SIG-Implementation-and-Effectiveness.

19 “Trump’s education cuts aren’t ‘devastating,’ they’re smart,” by Williamson M. Evers and Vicki E. Alger, *Los Angeles Times*, June 12, 2017.

20 “Policy Analysis, Money and School Performance; Lessons from the Kansas City Desegregation Project,” by Paul Ciotti, CATO Institute, March 16, 1998, at <https://object.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/pubs/pdf/pa-298.pdf>.

21 Ibid.

Case Study 3: Thirty years and \$100 billion later, New Jersey's Abbott schools still fail to educate students

In 1981, judges in New Jersey took control of school funding. The case, *Abbot v. Burke*, led to a series of court orders that funneled additional public money to 31 low-income school districts. In the years following, nearly \$100 billion in additional funding was provided to these 31 districts.

Despite the super-abundance of money, student learning in these districts did not improve. One district, Newark, annually spends \$24,000 per student, more than double the national average and three times the amount of tuition at many private schools. Still, only 23 percent of Newark students graduate from high school.

The legal case is ongoing, but New Jersey's governor has announced that court-ordered control of school funding is "a picture of abject failure."²²

Policies that prevent school improvements

The poor results for children of a public policy focused on increasing funding for school district budgets leaves an important question: "Why haven't the large increases in funding produced the improvements in student learning that its promoters promised?"

A full answer is beyond the scope of this study. A partial answer can be provided, however, by noting that adding large increases in public funding to a bureaucratic and unwieldy education system prevents innovation, flexibility and professional creativity in the way students are taught.

This finding is supported by experience, which shows that when the legislature increases funding for public schools, adult interests in the system focus first on policies that benefit themselves and shift the goal of improving learning for children to secondary importance.

Since public education functions as a monopoly, there is little accountability and no career consequences for administrators or union executives due to failing test scores, a widening achievement gap and low graduation rates. As a result, the education system easily absorbs money to the benefit of established interests, while ineffective instructional programs continue unchanged.

Examples of the rigid policy limits that prevent school districts in Washington and around the country from using money effectively include:

- Mis-allocated personnel - the majority of school district employees are not classroom teachers;
- Absent professional incentives – school administrators are barred by unions from offering bonuses or retention awards to the best teachers;

²² "Chris Christie claims 31 former Abbott districts receive 70 percent of the state aid," remarks by Governor Chris Christie at the University of Notre Dame, November 18, 2011, at <http://www.politifact.com/new-jersey/statements/2011/dec/01/chris-christie/Chris-Christie-claims-31-former-Abbott-districts-r/>.

- Shielding abuse and non-performance – union-imposed restrictions make it difficult to fire ineffective or abusive teachers;
- Restricting teacher recruitment – state law limits the public hiring pool to applicants with a special state-issued license, while private schools may hire any qualified applicant on a nationwide basis;
- Mandatory union financing – public school teachers must pay a union as a condition of employment, while union membership for private and public charter school teachers is voluntary;
- Ban on school choice – students are generally assigned to public schools on an involuntary basis based on zip code, while private school attendance is not restricted by geographical residence.
- Mis-allocated funding – Due to mandates, regulations and union requirements, only about 60 cents of every education dollar reaches the classroom in Washington.

Many more examples could be cited, but these seven policies illustrate the special-interest constraints under which public money is spent, while private schools, homeschoolers, online learning programs, and most charter schools are free of these regulatory limitations on learning.

Policy Recommendation: Policymakers should increase family choice in education

With the clear finding that adding more money to public schools does not improve student learning, a natural question is, “What policy changes will lead to real improvements for children?”

The data show that the primary shortcoming in traditional public education is not lack of funding. The documented evidence for massive increases in public education spending in recent years is overwhelming.

Instead, the main policy weakness of the school system is the lack of family choice in public education. The current 19th century model of providing public education prevents parents from gaining better learning opportunities for children. This lack is sharply felt in a society in which people daily experience an ever-expanding range of technological and personal options.

Washington’s lack of family choice in education contrasts with the more progressive attitude of officials in 30 states and the District of Columbia, who now offer parents a total of 61 school choice programs to help students gain access to better schools. Lawmakers in these states have expanded access to charter schools, offered family Education Savings Accounts, and created tax credit scholarships for private schools. Over 400,000 students now benefit from these family-based education programs.²³

23 “The ABC’s of School Choice; The comprehensive guide to every private school choice program in America, 2017 Edition,” edited by Robert Enlow, EdChoice, page 7, at <https://www.edchoice.org/research/the-abcs-of-school-choice/>.

In addition, 3.1 million students now choose to attend 6,900 public charter schools across the country. A growing number of families in Washington state are choosing charter schools as well. However, in Washington 10 charter schools serve just 2,500 students, in a largely monopoly system of more than 2,000 schools. Policymakers should encourage the opening of more charter schools in areas where parents want them. This modest expansion of school choice would be especially welcome to more families living in zip codes that are underserved by traditional public schools.

Conclusion

In moments of candor, often when their last election is behind them, officials will admit their frustration that more money did not lead to improvements in learning. Near the end of her eight-year tenure, Governor Chris Gregoire said in a press interview:

“I came in here determined to make the system work better. To invest more money. I put a lot more money into K-12 [schools]. But then you sit there and say, ‘Why have I not been able to get the result I set out to achieve?’”²⁴

Data from the School Achievement Index and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) show the policy of increasing funding to the schools has not increased student academic learning.

Parents, especially those living in low-performing urban districts, want access to educational options for their children and they need it now. Experience in other states is showing these programs are the best way to help individual children get a better education, and improve their chances of earning their own success in life. These programs also provide incentives for monopoly-based school systems to improve, in response to the input of parents and the varied learning needs of children.

Washington state’s experience shows that adding large spending increases to an unreformed district-based system has not resulted in better learning outcomes for students. Instead, the positive results seen in other states indicates Washington’s school children would benefit from greater access to educational choice.

²⁴ “Frustrated Gregoire says ‘status quo does not work,’” *The Seattle Times*, by Andrew Garber, January 15, 2011.

Appendix A

Washington state public schools ranked in the lowest categories of the State Achievement Index after receiving large increases in public funding

In spite of receiving large increases in public funding, 34 percent increases between 2013 and 2017, these 365 schools rank as Lowest 5 Percent and Underperforming, corresponding to “F” on the letter-grade scale, on the State Board of Education’s School Achievement Index for 2016.

Increase funding has not led to improvements in student learning at these public schools.

Miller Junior High	Underperforming	Aberdeen School District
McDermoth Elementary	Underperforming	Aberdeen School District
Harbor High School	Underperforming	Aberdeen School District
Stillaguamish School	Lowest 5%	Arlington School District
Weston High School	Underperforming	Arlington School District
Olympic Middle School	Lowest 5%	Auburn School District
Cascade Middle School	Underperforming	Auburn School District
Mosaic Home Education Partnership	Underperforming	Bainbridge Island School District
Summit View High School	Lowest 5%	Battle Ground School District
Daybreak Primary	Underperforming	Battle Ground School District
Roy Elementary	Underperforming	Bethel School District
Kapowsin Elementary	Underperforming	Bethel School District
Bethel Middle School	Underperforming	Bethel School District
Frontier Middle School	Underperforming	Bethel School District
Renaissance Alternative High School	Underperforming	Bremerton School District
West Hills S.T.E.M. Academy	Underperforming	Bremerton School District
Armin Jahr Elementary	Underperforming	Bremerton School District
Mountain View Middle School	Underperforming	Bremerton School District
Brewster Middle School	Lowest 5%	Brewster School District
Brewster Elementary School	Underperforming	Brewster School District
Bridgeport Elementary	Lowest 5%	Bridgeport School District
Burlington-Edison Alternative School	Underperforming	Burlington-Edison School District
Lucille Umbarger Elementary	Underperforming	Burlington-Edison School District
Allen Elementary	Underperforming	Burlington-Edison School District
Castle Rock Middle School	Underperforming	Castle Rock School District
Off Campus	Lowest 5%	Central Kitsap School District
Alternative High School	Underperforming	Central Kitsap School District
Sunset Elementary	Underperforming	Cheney School District
Salnave Elementary	Underperforming	Cheney School District
Parkway Elementary	Lowest 5%	Clarkston School District
Highland Elementary	Underperforming	Clarkston School District
Tyee Park Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Clover Park School District
Lochburn Middle School	Lowest 5%	Clover Park School District
Park Lodge Elementary School	Underperforming	Clover Park School District

Lakeview Hope Academy	Underperforming	Clover Park School District
Hudtloff Middle School	Underperforming	Clover Park School District
Davis Elementary	Underperforming	College Place School District
Panorama School	Underperforming	Colville School District
Concrete Elementary	Underperforming	Concrete School District
Bess Herian Elementary	Underperforming	Cusick School District
Washington Academy of Arts and Technology	Lowest 5%	East Valley School District (Spokane)
Trent School	Underperforming	East Valley School District (Spokane)
East Valley Central Middle School	Lowest 5%	East Valley School District (Yakima)
East Valley Elementary	Underperforming	East Valley School District (Yakima)
Rock Island Elementary	Underperforming	Eastmont School District
Eastmont Junior High	Underperforming	Eastmont School District
Eatonville Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Eatonville School District
Columbia Crest A-STEM Academy	Underperforming	Eatonville School District
Eatonville Middle School	Underperforming	Eatonville School District
Scriber Lake High School	Underperforming	Edmonds School District
Morgan Middle School	Underperforming	Ellensburg School District
Valley View Elementary School	Underperforming	Ellensburg School District
Elma Elementary School	Underperforming	Elma School District
Paul Rumburg Elementary	Underperforming	Entiat School District
Emerson Elementary School	Underperforming	Everett School District
iQ Academy Washington	Underperforming	Evergreen School District (Clark)
Orchards Elementary School	Underperforming	Evergreen School District (Clark)
Wyeast Middle School	Underperforming	Evergreen School District (Clark)
Totem Middle School	Lowest 5%	Federal Way School District
Sunnycrest Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Federal Way School District
Wildwood Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Federal Way School District
Woodmont K-8 School	Underperforming	Federal Way School District
Adelaide Elementary School	Underperforming	Federal Way School District
Valhalla Elementary School	Underperforming	Federal Way School District
Mark Twain Elementary School	Underperforming	Federal Way School District
Brigadoon Elementary School	Underperforming	Federal Way School District
Kilo Middle School	Underperforming	Federal Way School District
Saghalie Middle School	Underperforming	Federal Way School District
Sequoyah Middle School	Underperforming	Federal Way School District
WINDWARD HIGH SCHOOL	Lowest 5%	Ferndale School District
Skyline Elementary School	Underperforming	Ferndale School District
Eagleridge Elementary	Underperforming	Ferndale School District
Finley Middle School	Lowest 5%	Finley School District
Elmhurst Elementary School	Underperforming	Franklin Pierce School District
Gates Secondary School	Underperforming	Franklin Pierce School District
Garfield Middle School	Underperforming	Garfield School District
Lake Roosevelt Elementary	Lowest 5%	Grand Coulee Dam School District
Smith Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Grandview School District
Contract Learning Center	Underperforming	Grandview School District

McClure Elementary School	Underperforming	Grandview School District
Thompson Elementary School	Underperforming	Grandview School District
Grandview Middle School	Underperforming	Grandview School District
Granger Middle School	Lowest 5%	Granger School District
Monte Cristo Elementary	Underperforming	Granite Falls School District
Tieton Intermediate School	Underperforming	Highland School District
New Start	Underperforming	Highline School District
McMicken Heights Elementary	Underperforming	Highline School District
Beverly Park Elem at Glendale	Underperforming	Highline School District
Sylvester Middle School	Underperforming	Highline School District
Bow Lake Elementary	Underperforming	Highline School District
Midway Elementary	Underperforming	Highline School District
Cascade Middle School	Underperforming	Highline School District
Madrona Elementary	Underperforming	Highline School District
Academy of Citizenship and Empowerment	Underperforming	Highline School District
Arts & Academics Academy	Underperforming	Highline School District
Hood Canal Elem & Junior High	Lowest 5%	Hood Canal School District
Central Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Hoquiam School District
Hoquiam Middle School	Underperforming	Hoquiam School District
Hoquiam Homelink School	Underperforming	Hoquiam School District
Inchelium Middle School	Underperforming	Inchelium School District
Rose Valley Elementary	Underperforming	Kelso School District
Wallace Elementary	Underperforming	Kelso School District
Huntington Middle School	Underperforming	Kelso School District
Westgate Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Kennewick School District
Edison Elementary School - Kennewick	Lowest 5%	Kennewick School District
Amistad Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Kennewick School District
Highlands Middle School	Underperforming	Kennewick School District
Park Middle School	Underperforming	Kennewick School District
Canyon View Elementary School	Underperforming	Kennewick School District
Horse Heaven Hills Middle School	Underperforming	Kennewick School District
Kent Phoenix Academy	Lowest 5%	Kent School District
Park Orchard Elementary School	Underperforming	Kent School District
Cedar Valley Elementary School	Underperforming	Kent School District
Meeker Middle School	Underperforming	Kent School District
Meadow Ridge Elementary School	Underperforming	Kent School District
Mill Creek Middle School	Underperforming	Kent School District
Kettle Falls Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Kettle Falls School District
Kiona-Benton City Primary School	Lowest 5%	Kiona-Benton City School District
Kiona-Benton Intermediate School	Lowest 5%	Kiona-Benton City School District
Kiona-Benton City Middle School	Underperforming	Kiona-Benton City School District
Kittitas High School	Underperforming	Kittitas School District
Chelan Middle School	Underperforming	Lake Chelan School District
Community School	Lowest 5%	Lake Washington School District
Lakewood Elementary School	Underperforming	Lakewood School District

Cougar Creek Elementary School	Underperforming	Lakewood School District
Lind-Ritzville Middle School	Underperforming	Lind School District
Kessler Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Longview School District
Saint Helens Elementary	Underperforming	Longview School District
Olympic Elementary School	Underperforming	Longview School District
Monticello Middle School	Underperforming	Longview School District
Northlake Elementary School	Underperforming	Longview School District
Columbia Heights Elementary	Underperforming	Longview School District
Cascade Middle School	Underperforming	Longview School District
Mint Valley Elementary	Underperforming	Longview School District
Dallesport Elementary	Lowest 5%	Lyle School District
Artz Fox Elementary	Underperforming	Mabton School District
Mansfield Elem and High School	Underperforming	Mansfield School District
Manson Elementary	Lowest 5%	Manson School District
Manson Middle School	Underperforming	Manson School District
Springdale Middle School	Lowest 5%	Mary Walker School District
Springdale Elementary	Underperforming	Mary Walker School District
School Home Partnership Program	Lowest 5%	Marysville School District
Marysville Mountain View High School	Lowest 5%	Marysville School District
Quil Ceda Tulalip Elementary	Lowest 5%	Marysville School District
Totem Middle School	Underperforming	Marysville School District
Cascade Elementary	Underperforming	Marysville School District
Sunnyside Elementary	Underperforming	Marysville School District
Liberty Elementary	Underperforming	Marysville School District
Cedarcrest School	Underperforming	Marysville School District
Grove Elementary	Underperforming	Marysville School District
McCleary Elem	Lowest 5%	McCleary School District
Medical Lake Middle School	Underperforming	Medical Lake School District
Michael Anderson Elementary	Underperforming	Medical Lake School District
Meridian Parent Partnership Program	Lowest 5%	Meridian School District
Frank Wagner Elementary	Lowest 5%	Monroe School District
Park Place Middle School	Underperforming	Monroe School District
Montesano Jr-Sr High	Underperforming	Montesano School District
Peninsula Elementary	Lowest 5%	Moses Lake School District
Larson Heights Elementary	Lowest 5%	Moses Lake School District
North Elementary	Lowest 5%	Moses Lake School District
Frontier Middle School	Underperforming	Moses Lake School District
Knolls Vista Elementary	Underperforming	Moses Lake School District
Lakeview Terrace Elementary	Underperforming	Moses Lake School District
Chief Moses Middle School	Underperforming	Moses Lake School District
Mossyrock Elementary School	Underperforming	Mossyrock School District
Mount Adams Middle School	Lowest 5%	Mount Adams School District
Harrah Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Mount Adams School District
White Swan High School	Lowest 5%	Mount Adams School District
Washington Elementary School	Underperforming	Mount Vernon School District

La Venture Middle School	Underperforming	Mount Vernon School District
Little Mountain Elementary	Underperforming	Mount Vernon School District
Mount Baker Middle School	Underperforming	Mount Vernon School District
Challenger Elementary	Underperforming	Mukilteo School District
Naches Valley Middle School	Underperforming	Naches Valley School District
Nespelem Elementary	Lowest 5%	Nespelem School District
North Beach Junior High School	Lowest 5%	North Beach School District
Robert L Olds Junior High School	Underperforming	North Franklin School District
Basin City Elem	Underperforming	North Franklin School District
Hawkins Middle School	Lowest 5%	North Mason School District
Nisqually Middle School	Underperforming	North Thurston Public Schools
Olympic View Elem	Underperforming	Oak Harbor School District
Oakville High School	Underperforming	Oakville School District
Oakville Elementary	Underperforming	Oakville School District
Hilltop School	Underperforming	Ocean Beach School District
Ocean Park Elementary	Underperforming	Ocean Beach School District
Ocosta Elementary School	Underperforming	Ocosta School District
E Omak Elementary	Underperforming	Omak School District
Omak Middle School	Underperforming	Omak School District
Orchard Prairie Elementary	Underperforming	Orchard Prairie School District
McFarland Middle School	Underperforming	Othello School District
Wahitis Elementary School	Underperforming	Othello School District
Longfellow Elementary	Lowest 5%	Pasco School District
Emerson Elementary	Lowest 5%	Pasco School District
Stevens Middle School	Lowest 5%	Pasco School District
Whittier Elementary	Lowest 5%	Pasco School District
Rowena Chess Elementary	Lowest 5%	Pasco School District
Ellen Ochoa Middle School	Lowest 5%	Pasco School District
Virgie Robinson Elementary	Lowest 5%	Pasco School District
Robert Frost Elementary	Underperforming	Pasco School District
New Horizons High School	Underperforming	Pasco School District
Chiawana High School	Underperforming	Pasco School District
Henderson Bay Alt High School	Underperforming	Peninsula School District
Jefferson Elementary	Underperforming	Port Angeles School District
Lincoln High School	Underperforming	Port Angeles School District
Prescott Elementary School	Underperforming	Prescott School District
VISTA HERMOSA ELEMENTARY	Underperforming	Prescott School District
Jefferson Elementary	Underperforming	Pullman School District
Ferrucci Jr High	Underperforming	Puyallup School District
PEARL	Lowest 5%	Quilcene School District
Quincy High Tech High	Underperforming	Quincy School District
Quincy Junior High	Underperforming	Quincy School District
Mountain View Elementary	Underperforming	Quincy School District
George Elementary	Underperforming	Quincy School District
Rainier Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Rainier School District

Bryn Mawr Elementary School	Underperforming	Renton School District
Campbell Hill Elementary School	Underperforming	Renton School District
Dimmitt Middle School	Underperforming	Renton School District
Cascade Elementary School	Underperforming	Renton School District
Renton Park Elementary School	Underperforming	Renton School District
Maplewood Heights Elementary School	Underperforming	Renton School District
Secondary Learning Center	Underperforming	Renton School District
Republic Junior High	Underperforming	Republic School District
Jefferson Elementary	Underperforming	Richland School District
Chief Joseph Middle School	Underperforming	Richland School District
Jason Lee Elementary School	Underperforming	Richland School District
Independent Scholar	Lowest 5%	Riverside School District
Red Rock Elementary	Underperforming	Royal School District
Seattle World School	Lowest 5%	Seattle Public Schools
Interagency Programs	Lowest 5%	Seattle Public Schools
Cascade Parent Partnership Program	Lowest 5%	Seattle Public Schools
Madrona K-8 School	Lowest 5%	Seattle Public Schools
Emerson Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Seattle Public Schools
Highland Park Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Seattle Public Schools
Rainier Beach High School	Lowest 5%	Seattle Public Schools
Private School Services	Lowest 5%	Seattle Public Schools
Beacon Hill International School	Underperforming	Seattle Public Schools
Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School	Underperforming	Seattle Public Schools
Van Asselt Elementary School	Underperforming	Seattle Public Schools
Leschi Elementary School	Underperforming	Seattle Public Schools
Bailey Gatzert Elementary School	Underperforming	Seattle Public Schools
Dunlap Elementary School	Underperforming	Seattle Public Schools
Arbor Heights Elementary School	Underperforming	Seattle Public Schools
Roxhill Elementary School	Underperforming	Seattle Public Schools
South Lake High School	Underperforming	Seattle Public Schools
Licton Springs K-8	Underperforming	Seattle Public Schools
Orca K-8 School	Underperforming	Seattle Public Schools
Hawthorne Elementary School	Underperforming	Seattle Public Schools
Sequim Middle School	Underperforming	Sequim School District
Evergreen Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Shelton School District
Choice Alternative School	Lowest 5%	Shelton School District
Bordeaux Elementary School	Underperforming	Shelton School District
Mountain View Elementary	Underperforming	Shelton School District
Parent Partnerhip	Lowest 5%	Snohomish School District
Centennial Middle School	Lowest 5%	Snohomish School District
Two Rivers School	Underperforming	Snoqualmie Valley School District
Soap Lake Elementary	Lowest 5%	Soap Lake School District
Marcus Whitman Junior High	Underperforming	South Kitsap School District
Holmes Elementary	Lowest 5%	Spokane School District
Garry Middle School	Lowest 5%	Spokane School District

Stevens Elementary	Underperforming	Spokane School District
Shaw Middle School	Underperforming	Spokane School District
Longfellow Elementary	Underperforming	Spokane School District
Grant Elementary	Underperforming	Spokane School District
Wind River Middle School	Lowest 5%	Stevenson-Carson School District
Gold Bar Elementary	Underperforming	Sultan School District
Outlook Elementary School	Underperforming	Sunnyside School District
Harrison Middle School	Underperforming	Sunnyside School District
Chief Kamiakin Elementary School	Underperforming	Sunnyside School District
Pioneer Elementary School	Underperforming	Sunnyside School District
Sierra Vista Middle School	Underperforming	Sunnyside School District
Blix Elementary	Lowest 5%	Tacoma School District
Roosevelt	Lowest 5%	Tacoma School District
Lyon	Lowest 5%	Tacoma School District
Stewart	Lowest 5%	Tacoma School District
Geiger	Lowest 5%	Tacoma School District
Edison	Lowest 5%	Tacoma School District
Arlington	Lowest 5%	Tacoma School District
McCarver	Lowest 5%	Tacoma School District
Oakland High School	Lowest 5%	Tacoma School District
First Creek Middle School	Lowest 5%	Tacoma School District
Larchmont	Underperforming	Tacoma School District
Franklin	Underperforming	Tacoma School District
Jason Lee	Underperforming	Tacoma School District
Lister	Underperforming	Tacoma School District
Reed	Underperforming	Tacoma School District
Whitman	Underperforming	Tacoma School District
Mann	Underperforming	Tacoma School District
Baker	Underperforming	Tacoma School District
Birney	Underperforming	Tacoma School District
Boze	Underperforming	Tacoma School District
Angelo Giaudrone Middle School	Underperforming	Tacoma School District
Taholah Elementary & Middle School	Lowest 5%	Taholah School District
Tenino Elementary School	Underperforming	Tenino School District
Toledo Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Toledo School District
Toledo Middle School	Underperforming	Toledo School District
Tonasket Elementary School	Underperforming	Tonasket School District
Computer Academy Toppenish High School	Lowest 5%	Toppenish School District
Lincoln Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Toppenish School District
Kirkwood Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Toppenish School District
Toppenish Middle School	Underperforming	Toppenish School District
Garfield Elementary School	Underperforming	Toppenish School District
Valley View Elementary	Underperforming	Toppenish School District
NW Allprep	Underperforming	Toppenish School District
Showalter Middle School	Underperforming	Tukwila School District

Cascade View Elementary	Underperforming	Tukwila School District
George C Marshall Elementary	Lowest 5%	Vancouver School District
Lincoln Elementary School	Underperforming	Vancouver School District
Fruit Valley Elementary School	Underperforming	Vancouver School District
Harney Elementary School	Underperforming	Vancouver School District
Peter S Ogden Elementary	Underperforming	Vancouver School District
Hazel Dell Elementary School	Underperforming	Vancouver School District
Mcloughlin Middle School	Underperforming	Vancouver School District
Jason Lee Middle School	Underperforming	Vancouver School District
Martin Luther King Elementary	Underperforming	Vancouver School District
Harry S Truman Elementary School	Underperforming	Vancouver School District
Gaiser Middle School	Underperforming	Vancouver School District
Sacajawea Elementary School	Underperforming	Vancouver School District
Roosevelt Elementary School	Underperforming	Vancouver School District
Discovery Middle School	Underperforming	Vancouver School District
Saddle Mountain Elementary	Lowest 5%	Wahluke School District
Wahluke Junior High	Lowest 5%	Wahluke School District
Sentinel Tech Alt School	Underperforming	Wahluke School District
Waitsburg Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Waitsburg School District
Pioneer Middle School	Underperforming	Walla Walla Public Schools
Garrison Middle School	Underperforming	Walla Walla Public Schools
Lincoln High School	Underperforming	Walla Walla Public Schools
Blue Ridge Elementary	Underperforming	Walla Walla Public Schools
Wapato Middle School	Lowest 5%	Wapato School District
Camas Elementary	Lowest 5%	Wapato School District
Adams Elementary	Lowest 5%	Wapato School District
Satus Elementary	Underperforming	Wapato School District
Pace Alternative High School	Underperforming	Wapato School District
Warden Middle School	Underperforming	Warden School District
Washtucna Elementary/High School	Underperforming	Washtucna School District
Wellpinit Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Wellpinit School District
Wellpinit Middle School	Lowest 5%	Wellpinit School District
Wellpinit-Fort Semco High School	Underperforming	Wellpinit School District
Columbia Elementary School	Underperforming	Wenatchee School District
Mission View Elementary School	Underperforming	Wenatchee School District
Abraham Lincoln Elementary	Underperforming	Wenatchee School District
Pioneer Middle School	Underperforming	Wenatchee School District
Orchard Middle School	Underperforming	Wenatchee School District
John Newbery Elementary	Underperforming	Wenatchee School District
Foothills Middle School	Underperforming	Wenatchee School District
Dishman Hills High School	Lowest 5%	West Valley School District (Spokane)
Spokane Valley Transition School	Lowest 5%	West Valley School District (Spokane)
Hulan L Whitson Elem	Underperforming	White Salmon Valley School District
Wayne M Henkle Middle School	Underperforming	White Salmon Valley School District
Winlock Miller Elementary	Underperforming	Winlock School District

Wishram High And Elementary Schl	Lowest 5%	Wishram School District
Garfield Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Yakima School District
Mckinley Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Yakima School District
Washington Middle School	Lowest 5%	Yakima School District
Barge-Lincoln Elementary School	Lowest 5%	Yakima School District
Martin Luther King Jr Elementary	Lowest 5%	Yakima School District
Stanton Academy	Lowest 5%	Yakima School District
Davis High School	Underperforming	Yakima School District
Franklin Middle School	Underperforming	Yakima School District
Adams Elementary School	Underperforming	Yakima School District
Nob Hill Elementary School	Underperforming	Yakima School District
Mcclure Elementary School Yakima	Underperforming	Yakima School District
Lewis & Clark Middle School	Underperforming	Yakima School District
Yelm Middle School	Underperforming	Yelm School District
Lackamas Elementary	Underperforming	Yelm School District
Zillah Middle School	Lowest 5%	Zillah School District

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Liv Finne is the Director of the Center for Education at Washington Policy Center. Prior to that position she served as an adjunct scholar focusing on education policy issues, authoring in-depth studies including *An Overview of Public School Funding in Washington* and *Early Learning Proposals in Washington State*. She is the author of *Washington Policy Center's Education Reform Plan: Eight Practical Ways to Improve Public Schools*, *Learning Online: An Assessment of Online Public Education Programs*, *Review of Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Programs for Child Care Services*, and more. Liv holds a law degree from Boston University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wellesley College. She retired from civil litigation practice to raise two children and work as business partner for a small business she owns with her husband. Liv is passionate about improving Washington's public education system.