

Key Facts about Spokane Public Schools

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New research released by Washington Policy Center, a non-partisan public policy research think tank based in Seattle, provides key facts for the Spokane School District. Education budgets in Washington State are at historic highs, reaching \$10,200 per student statewide. Average teacher pay in Spokane is \$62,579 for a ten-month work year. 110 Spokane public school employees receive more than \$100,000 a year.

Yet, because of restrictive work rules and multi-layered bureaucracy, only 59 cents of every education dollar reaches the classroom and public school students continue to lag in academic achievement. The research shows that more money won't help public schools, and that policymakers can improve student learning with existing funding. Practical ideas for reform are available in the Center's study, "Eight Practical Ways to Reverse the Decline of Public Schools."

1. Schools and Students

- Number of students: 28,226
- Number of schools: 46

2. Public School Staffing

- Number of employees: 3,087
- Number of full-time classroom teachers: 1,283
- Number of students per employee: 9
- Number of students per classroom teacher: 22
- Share of employees who are classroom teachers: 42%, less than state average of 47%
- Number of paid days off: 12 sick days per year, 3 religious holidays per year, 2 personal days and additional leave upon request.
- Collective bargaining rule for layoffs: younger teachers with low seniority are laid off first.
- Collective bargaining rules for teacher evaluations: numerous administrative obstacles to removing poor-performing teachers from the classroom.

3. Education Spending

- Total education 2009-10: \$347 million
- Total per student spending: \$12,293
- Operations budget 2010-2011: \$293.9 million
- Per student spending, operations only: \$10,846
- Average teacher pay for ten-month work year: \$62,579
- Average teacher pay with all benefits: \$81,353
- Average administrator pay: \$107,678
- Average administrator pay with all benefits: \$131,333

More facts on reverse

- Superintendent's pay: \$218,764
- Number of employees paid over \$100,000 a year: 110
- Education funds paid as dues to teachers' union in June 2007-8: \$2 million

4. Student Learning (Students in Washington State are entitled to 180 days of class time.)

- Number of full class days provided by Spokane Schools: 167 (3 full days off, 10 early release days for elementary students)
- High school on-time graduation rate: 62.1%

5. 2009-10 Measures of Student Progress and High School Proficiency Exam Results

- 29.9% of fourth graders failed in Reading
- 40.9% of fourth graders failed in Math
- 40.7% of fourth graders failed in Writing
- 36.5% of eighth graders failed in reading
- 51.5% of eighth graders failed in Math
- 47.2% of eighth graders failed in Science
- 24.4% of tenth graders failed in Reading
- 61.1% of tenth graders failed in Math
- 52.7% of tenth graders failed in Science

6. Parent Choice

- Number of charter schools permitted: 0

