

Old Capitol Building
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Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

k12.wa.us

Dear Governor Inslee:

I am pleased to submit to you my 2021–23 biennial K–12 Capital Budget request. Providing a high-quality K–12 education to each of our students is not possible without safe and effective classrooms and support space for learning.

All students in Washington should have the opportunity to attend school in a classroom that supports health and safety, and provides the best educational outcomes for every child, regardless of a school district's ability or inability to raise capital project funds.

In addition to improving student health and safety, this request can also help our state recover from the economic fallout caused by COVID-19. School capital construction projects create jobs, including high-paying jobs in the construction, trades, and engineering fields in communities across the state.

The state's primary school capital facility program, the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP), is designed to serve school districts that can raise local funding for their capital facilities through the passage of a capital bond or levy. Unfortunately, this requirement prevents many smaller and remotely located school districts from participating in the SCAP.

This budget request was crafted to serve all school districts, including these smaller and remote school districts that cannot pass a capital bond or levy. While COVID-19 has undoubtedly hurt businesses statewide, it has also presented state leaders with a unique opportunity to address longstanding facility needs while stimulating local economies throughout the state.

To protect the health and safety of our students and staff when they return to school in-person and to provide equitable funding for school construction projects, this budget proposal focuses on the following four concepts:

1. New funding for a Capital Prototypical Model Pilot Program to ensure elementary schools have the space needed to meet class-size ratios, as well as space for student support, security, and safety needs.
2. Continued funding for the Small District Modernization Grant Program to assist schools in preserving and maintaining buildings to provide a safe and comfortable learning environment.
3. Continued funding for the School Seismic Safety Retrofit Program to perform seismic retrofits to school buildings identified as high-risk by the Department of Natural Resources.

4. Continued grant funding to purchase equipment; modernize skill centers; and create science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) classrooms and laboratories to prepare students to enter the workforce.

My budget proposal provides our state with a sustainable and realistic plan to make long-term capital investments in K-12 education, while simultaneously stimulating local economies as they recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

Thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring all of our students, regardless of their zip code or their district's ability to pass a bond or levy, has the opportunity to learn in safe, effective, and comfortable spaces.

Sincerely,



Chris Reykdal
Superintendent of
Public Instruction