

# MAKING THE GRADE

MEASURING EDUCATION OUTCOMES, GETTING RESULTS FOR WASHINGTON

## What's happening in Olympia

New education funding

**\$0**

McCleary fine tally\*

**\$61.9 M**

as of April 23, 2017

The state Legislature did not pass legislation to address the final component of the McCleary ruling: the over-reliance on local levies to pay the state's basic education obligation. Gov. Jay Inslee has called a 30-day special session to continue the negotiations.

Both the House and Senate have passed bills that will add approximately \$8.5B of new state funding to K-12 education over the next four years – approximately \$3.5B in 2017-19 and \$5B more in 2019-21. Who gets taxed and who gets the money still need to be worked out.

\* Washington State Supreme Court has fined the state \$100,000 per day until it comes up with a plan to fully fund basic education.

## Key players

### Sen. John Braun, R-Centralia

A commander in the Naval Reserve and chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, Braun is the Senate Republicans' chief budget writer. The Republican proposal would get rid of the school-funding allocation model and move Washington to a per-student model for school funding. It would fund education through a property-tax "levy swap," as well as through cuts and changes to other parts of the state budget. Read the plan here: [bit.ly/repub-proposal](http://bit.ly/repub-proposal)

### Rep. Pat Sullivan, D-Covington

House majority leader Sullivan served on the Education Funding Task Force, charged with making recommendations to the Legislature on how much money would satisfy McCleary. The Democratic proposal would raise taxes on the wealthy and businesses to fund education, including a new capital gains tax. It would increase funding for early learning programs, higher teacher salaries, guidance counselors and vocational education. Read the plan here: [bit.ly/dem-proposal](http://bit.ly/dem-proposal)



**66%**  
of black 3rd grade students  
in Seattle are not reading at grade level

Three times as many black students in Seattle, and almost as many Hispanic students (57%), failed to meet the 3rd grade state reading standard, compared to their white counterparts (20%). Students who do not read proficiently in 3rd grade are **four times more likely not to graduate from high school on time** compared to students reading at grade level, according to a national study. Seattle schools are failing black and Hispanic students — literally.

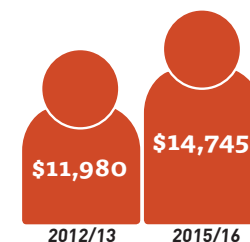
Sources: Smarter Balanced exam (2015/16), OSPI; The Annie Casey Foundation (2012)

**Part one** of a data-driven public service series that tracks education funding and results to improve transparency, accountability, student outcomes and use of public tax dollars to educate all children in Washington state.

## Where is the money going?

Per-pupil spending has gone up 24% in Seattle Public Schools in the last three years. Every school got more money — some more than others. Where does the money go? Did results go up, too? What's your school's ROI? Talk to your school board or principal to learn how funding is distributed at your school and in your district.

**24%**  
INCREASE  
in per-pupil  
spending



Source: <http://fiscal.wa.gov/K12Districts.aspx>

## What can you do?

Proposals are on the table. Tell your representatives to solve McCleary now.

Contact your legislator

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>

Find your district and school board. Ask where the money goes and why.

Attend a school board meeting

<http://k12.wa.us/maps/sdmainmap.aspx>

Local action is the best way to create change. Advocate for your community.

Ask your principal how you can help

<https://www.seattleschools.org/directory>