

MAKING THE GRADE

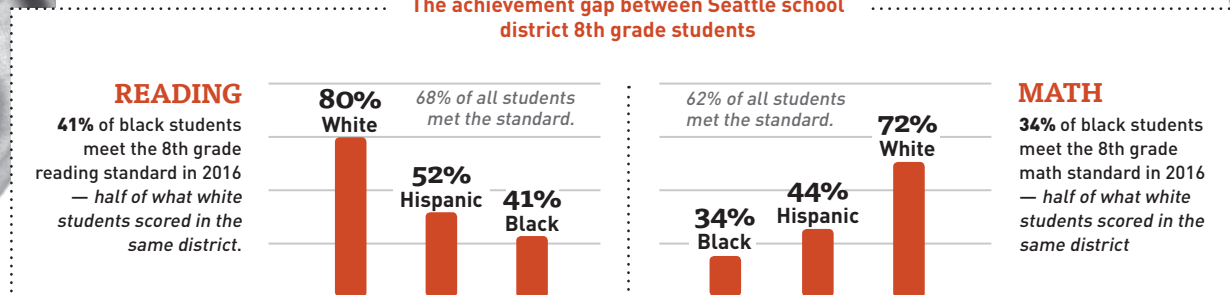
MEASURING EDUCATION
OUTCOMES, GETTING
RESULTS FOR WASHINGTON

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

Seattle public schools are #1 ... in inequity

Seattle public schools have the state's biggest achievement gap between black and white students, and the nation's second-highest, after Miami. White students are two levels above the national average in standardized tests, while black students test one and a half grade levels below the U.S. average – in the same district. How does your school stack up? Find out at reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us

The achievement gap between Seattle school district 8th grade students



Sources: OSPI, Stanford Center for Education Policy Analysis, Center on Reinventing Public Education, seattletimes.com

Equal is not equitable

Seattle Public Schools is the largest K-12 school system in Washington state, serving nearly 52,000 students in 97 schools with a staff of 9,000, including about 3,100 teachers. Until the Legislature takes action to address school funding, the district has a projected deficit of \$50 million for 2017-18.

McCleary requires an increase in school funding, but also presents an opportunity to change the way Washington allocates it. Just pouring more money into a system that distributes it inequitably could deepen the opportunity gap. Because high-poverty districts tend to employ less experienced teachers, the state formula actually directs money away from students with the greatest needs, and they don't get what they need to catch up. Equity means leveling the playing field between districts – and schools within that district – rather than treating all students the same. Learn how Washington's current education system hurts poor and high-needs schools at st.news/inequity.

Fully funding basic education and conducting racial imbalance analyses for several schools are among the Seattle School Board's 2016-17 resolutions. Talk to your School Board about funneling more money to the schools in greatest need.

“Right now, we treat all students the same. But that sort of misses the fact that all kids do not start on a level playing field.”

— Neil Strege, *Washington Roundtable*

Key player

Sue Peters, Seattle School Board President

Peters leads the Seattle School Board, an elected body of seven directors who represent geographical districts in the city of Seattle. The School Board maintains fiduciary and legal responsibility for the district. It allocates money to schools, hires the superintendent, develops and balances a budget, and negotiates supplemental salaries for teachers. The School Board also represents the community. Learn more about the School Board, find your district and contact your director at bit.ly/SPSschoolboard.

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>