

WE CAN AND MUST DO BETTER FOR WASHINGTON STUDENTS



Now, more than ever, we need to come together. We are all responsible for ensuring that every Washington student receives a quality public education from cradle to career that prepares them for success. It should prepare them for stable, family-wage jobs, meaningful participation in our democracy, and contributing to the well-being of their families and community. However you define success, a quality education is the key.

“NEXT YEAR THERE WILL BE 50,000 UNFILLED JOBS IN WASHINGTON, THE VAST MAJORITY IN HIGH SKILL STEM AND HEALTH CARE FIELDS. OUR STUDENTS DESERVE TO BE READY FOR THESE GREAT OPPORTUNITIES. AND EACH OF US HAS A ROLE TO PLAY.”

—CHRIS KORSMO, CEO

THE CHALLENGE

Improving education is critical to our children's future; **70% of Washington jobs will require college degrees and/or credentials by 2020**. Preparing 70% of students with the skills they need for the good jobs that are being created means helping almost 500,000 more Washingtonians attain college degrees and credentials.

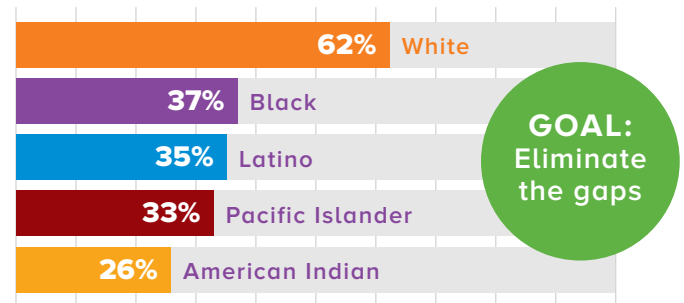
The health of our communities and future of our state economy depends on tapping the potential of all our students. Today, 80% of students are graduating from high school within four years. We're moving in the right direction but we can and must do better.

Washington students with college degrees and/or credentials



Source: Education Research & Data Center (ERDC) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Percentage of students meeting 3rd grade reading standards



Source: 2015–2016 SBAC scores, Washington state OSPI

Widening achievement gaps reflect inequitable opportunities and results for students of color, compared to their white peers. These gaps often result in lower earnings and higher rates of incarceration for many communities of color, as well as a considerable loss of economic productivity for all of us.

THE CALL TO ACTION

We, the people of Washington, must act urgently to achieve three common goals:

- 1. Eliminate inequities and gaps in academic achievement by addressing racial, social, and economic disparities;**
- 2. Ensure that 70% of our students earn college degrees and/or credentials;**
- 3. Increase Washington state student achievement to rank in the top ten percent in the nation.**

We must build a coalition of students, parents, educators, legislators, community activists, and business leaders. We must agree on a path to achieve these goals and demand accountability.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

To prepare students for success, we must learn from schools that are getting the results we want for all students, and listen to student perspectives. Providing each and every student with the education they need to succeed in the years ahead—from early learning through college—will require us to:

- ✓ **Target education investments** to close gaps and accelerate achievement
- ✓ **Personalize each student's experience**
- ✓ **Modernize the compensation and training systems** to attract and retain talented educators
- ✓ **Prepare and support each student as they transition** from one phase of their education to the next, from early learning through higher education
- ✓ **Ensure that students don't need to repeat** high school level courses in college
- ✓ **Ensure affordable access** to classes in high demand majors in colleges and universities
- ✓ **Tailor interventions and support** for students to increase high school graduation and completion of degrees

68% of low-income students will graduate from high school. Of these, only 14% will graduate from college

14%



Source: OSPI, ERDC, and National Center for Higher Education Management Systems

GOAL:

70%

70% of all Washington students graduate with a degree or certificate

“IF I HAD THE FLEXIBILITY TO GIVE STUDENTS WHAT THEY NEED, WE COULD HELP EACH STUDENT SEE THE MANY POSSIBILITIES FOR THEIR FUTURE AND HELP THEM STAY MOTIVATED TO CREATE A SUCCESSFUL AND JOYFUL LIFE.”

—MARQUITA PRINZING, 4TH GRADE TEACHER,
DEARBORN PARK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

IT TAKES ALL OF US WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE LASTING CHANGE

The League of Education Voters (LEV) has a big vision: Every student in Washington receives an excellent education that provides the opportunity for success. Our work has influenced crucial issues such as education funding, school discipline, and charter public schools. The biggest successes have come when LEV leads, rallies, and supports partners and communities, working together to demand change.

HELP MAKE THIS VISION A REALITY!

We must build a statewide coalition. We will only succeed in improving educational results if students, parents, educators, legislators and business leaders build a common understanding of the problem and the solution. Working together, we can raise our state's educational attainment to one of the top 5 in the nation. We must prepare all of our students for rewarding and prosperous lives.

Washington state achievement rank



LEV sees three key strategies to improving results for students, and looks forward to working with partners across the state to develop specific policy and funding approaches. To achieve our goals we need to:

- 1. Increase investment while using existing funds more effectively to accelerate achievement and close gaps;**
- 2. Build a highly-effective, diverse and well-compensated instructional workforce that can meet each student's needs;**
- 3. Improve equitable access to, and supports for, degree and certificate completion.**

Visit www.educationvoters.org or call 206.728.6448 to learn how you can support the movement!

