



2013 CITIZENS' REPORT CARD ON WASHINGTON STATE EDUCATION

BRIGHT SPOTS

Auburn: Early Learning

Auburn School District's focus on early learning has resulted in an almost 20 percentage point increase in 3rd grade reading scores as well as multiple awards for elementary schools that have closed achievement gaps and raised reading and math test scores.

Toppenish High School: Meaningful High School Diploma

At Toppenish High School, efforts in counseling, advising, and planning as well as programs like GEAR-UP have inspired more students to enroll in math and science courses and resulted in almost half of graduating seniors planning on attending college. At a school where over 99 percent of the student body qualifies for free or reduced-price lunch, this increase in college attendance means a path out of poverty for these students and their families.

To read about more inspiring bright spots around Washington state, visit

www.educationvoters.org/reportcard

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GET INVOLVED

Please contact League of Education Voters at info@educationvoters.org to find out more about how you can get involved in improving Washington's grades.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter @edvoters.

Learn more at www.educationvoters.org/reportcard.

ABOUT LEV

The League of Education Voters (LEV) is a non-partisan organization that partners with parents, students, and civic leaders who believe in a quality education from cradle to career. LEV is the only Washington-based organization working to improve public education from early learning through higher education. We shape the debate, build powerful coalitions, and grow the grassroots to achieve meaningful reform and ample, equitable, and stable resources for education.

Our vision is that every student in Washington state receives an excellent public education that provides the opportunity for success.

To learn more about LEV, visit www.educationvoters.org

EARLY LEARNING

An excellent education in a child's earliest years has the potential to impact a lifetime of learning, and is one of the smartest investments we can make to ensure that all of our state's students start with the best chance at success.



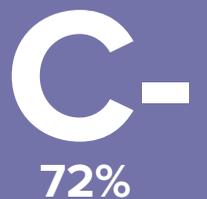
MEANINGFUL HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

All of Washington's students need to graduate with a diploma that represents the completion of meaningful, rigorous work that fully prepares them for success in college, career, and life.



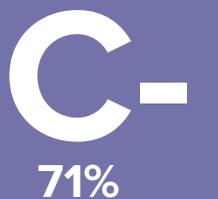
STEM

Science, technology, engineering, and math education is becoming increasingly important to preparing Washington state's future workforce as high-tech, medical, and other specialized industries grow.



SUCCESS AFTER GRADUATION

Continuing education after high school is now an important step to success as students enter the job market, whether it's a technical certificate or a two- or four-year degree.



FUNDING & ACCOUNTABILITY

Washington state's constitution declares that it is the "paramount duty" of the state to provide a basic education to every child. It is also critical that the state invest in higher education institutions to further prepare our future workforce.



ABOUT THE 2013 CITIZENS' REPORT CARD ON WASHINGTON STATE EDUCATION

Every two years, the League of Education Voters measures Washington state's progress towards providing every student with a world-class education. For the 2013 report card, we examined five broad categories – Early Learning, Meaningful High School Diploma, STEM, Success After Graduation, and Funding & Accountability – to measure our progress.

While there are bright spots of success across the state, this report card shows that Washington is not providing each student with an excellent public education that gives them the opportunity for success.

The state's progress in the 2013 report card is tied to our commitment to financial and policy reforms. In Early Learning, where Washington invested resources over the past two years, the state earned a C, meaning progress has been made but more work needs to be done. In areas where the state has cut funding, like in Success After Graduation, a C- was earned, indicating that things are stagnating or getting worse for Washington's students after high school. And most concerning, in Funding & Accountability, the state earned a D+, a grade that shows we are underfunding and not holding accountable our education system, with potentially devastating effects on our students.

We have seen that investments connected to student achievement improve the system for all students. In order to make the necessary investments, we must create ample, equitable, stable funding sources for education and increase the state's share in basic education funding. Only then can we create the world-class education system that all Washington students deserve.

“As we work to pass and implement policies that affect education, our measurement must be on whether what we are doing is good for kids' educational outcomes. We need measures that provide us with the hard truths of where our system is falling short and a clear path for a way forward... . We can do better.”

– Chris Korsmo, CEO
League of Education Voters

THE DATA

PUBLIC EFFORT IN K-12 SPENDING

In 2009-2010, Washington ranked 49th in the U.S. in K-12 spending relative to personal income.

(Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

K-12 PER-PUPIL SPENDING, ADJUSTED

In 2008-2009, Washington ranked 41st in per-pupil spending, adjusted for regional cost differences, spending \$9,329 per student.

(Source: EdWeek)

CHANGE FROM PAST REPORT CARD

While other categories have seen relatively little change over the last two years, Funding & Accountability has gotten significantly worse for Washington's students.

We must act now to create ample, equitable, and stable funding sources to invest in education and improve outcomes for all students.