### 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.
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

To learn more about what we measured, what we found, and ways to move forward, please visit www.educationvoters.org/reportcard