

# OSPI's 2021–23 Operating Budget Priorities

## **Building Staffing Capacity to Support Student Well-Being**

**\$0M in FY22, \$346M for the 2021–23 Biennium**

The needs of students have changed significantly over the past several years and the model for supporting school districts has not kept up. This request is for the implementation of the first of two evidence-based phases recommended by the Staffing Enrichment Workgroup. This initial phase, to be implemented no later than the 2024–25 school year, closes opportunity gaps through the prototypical school funding model. Funding this request will allow school districts to better meet safety and social-emotional needs of students, provide more professional development for school staff, increase allocation for school principals, and add continuous learning coaches to the prototypical model.

## **Closing Gaps in Access to Learning Devices and Connectivity**

**\$77.9M in FY22, \$174.2M for the 2021–23 Biennium**

In our modern economy, use of technology and internet-based tools have become an essential skill for students and educators alike. This request is aimed at closing the digital opportunity gap in K–12 learning by helping districts and families acquire learning devices and mobile hotspots for students, and by supporting broadband access outside of school. Funding is also needed to ensure providers caring for school-aged children have sufficient broadband access, allowing students to engage in school-based learning in their facilities.

## **Expanding Inclusive Teaching Practices**

**\$7M in FY22, \$12M for the 2021–23 Biennium**

Positive outcomes occur when students with disabilities learn in the same environments as their non-disabled peers, and Washington is one of the 10 least inclusive states in the nation. This request would continue the Inclusionary Practices Professional Development Project (IPP) and capitalize on positive momentum built by the current project. The project includes professional development to help teachers develop instructional skills and their ability to teach all students in general education settings across school reopening models. The first two years of the project focused on K–12 educators. This additional funding could be made available to support pre-K learning as well.

## **Supporting Students through Multi-Tiered Systems of Support**

**\$2.3M in FY22, \$4.5M for the 2021–23 Biennium**

Students do not come to school with equal opportunities for success, and many schools and districts do not have the infrastructure or capacity to implement a comprehensive system of



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support that would benefit each individual student. This request would deliver the benefits of multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) to Washington's K–12 students through statewide implementation and data reporting and regional implementation specialists. These benefits include a tiered continuum of supports; evidence-based practices; data-based team decision making, and student, family, and community engagement.

## **Aligning Mathematics Pathways with Student Career Goals**

**\$553K in FY22, \$1.1M for the 2021–23 Biennium**

Algebra II is the most frequently used course for a student's third credit of math, despite its lack of relevance to a wide range of careers. This request would fund a pilot project that strengthens mathematics pathways, increasing opportunities for students to develop diverse foundational skills crucial for modern careers, such as statistics and quantitative reasoning. As both college degree-based and technical skill-focused careers change, mathematics curricula must adapt to suit the educational needs of all students.

## **Supporting Families with a Special Education Family Liaison**

**\$152K in FY22, \$299K for the 2021–23 Biennium**

There is currently just one Special Education Family Liaison to support the needs of families of students with disabilities across Washington. To fully meet the needs of constituents, OSPI needs an additional liaison to respond to the high volume of inquiries. This request would increase state funding for 25% of the cost of a second Liaison. Alongside new state funding, OSPI requests an increase in federal authority to ensure the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) can support the remaining 75% of the new position. This split funding ensures the position will comply with both state and federal requirements.

## **Enhancing Agency Digital Security**

**\$80K in FY22, \$160K for the 2021–23 Biennium**

The State Chief Information Officer has requested all state agencies to upgrade their Microsoft licensing to a level with more enhanced security features. This request includes \$160,000 for the 2021–23 biennium to upgrade OSPI's Microsoft Office 365 licensing level from A3 to A5 for all agency accounts, and to maintain the new server and data backup application needed to support the new hardware installed as part of the mandatory State Data Center (SDC) move. OSPI provides shared service to the following additional agencies: the State Board of Education (SBE), Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB), Charter Schools Commission (CSC), and Financial Education Public-Private Partnership (FEPPP). This upgrade has been requested by the State CIO for upgraded security to support a remote workforce.