

Quick Facts on the State Budget

The state budget on education for 2017-2018 is fairly straightforward. Beyond that, however, there are still too many unknowns to make predictions about how the budget will impact individual school districts.

Top 7 facts for 2017-2018:

1. The Legislature came through on funding K-3 class size at 17:1, regardless of the poverty qualifying factor. Class size compliance requirements will not go into effect until 2018-19.
2. Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Skills Centers will be funded at a higher level with additional money for class size and materials, supplies and operating costs (MSOC).
3. The State will fund a 2.3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all state funded staff FTEs.
4. Special education funding will increase because the percentage of the basic education students that can be counted will increase from 12.7% to 13.5%.
5. Funding for highly capable students is increased to 5%.
6. An additional 1.1 hours per week will be funded for the Learning Assistance Program (LAP) for students in high poverty schools.
7. The allocation for health benefits increases from \$780 to \$820 per employee.

Preliminary reflections on the 2018-19 budget:

1. Over a two-year period, beginning in 2018, average statewide salary allocations will increase.
2. A regionalization factor will be applied to base salaries. The districts will receive 6%, 12%, 18% or 24% salary adjustment.
3. The staff-mix ratio, a formula that allocates money to schools based on teacher expertise and education level, will be eliminated.
4. A change in the allocation model delays apportionment payments to school districts. Some districts may be required to dip into their fund balances to cover costs in the meantime
5. Beginning in 2019, levies must be pre-approved by OSPI and used only for “enrichment” activities. They will be capped at \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed value or \$2,500 per student, whichever is less. The rules around enrichment levies—and what constitutes “enrichment”—are still being created.

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