



2017 LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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OUR KIDS.

Took actions that improve instruction and learning to support all kids.

Extended the age for classification **of developmental delays** to age nine, allowing these children to continue receiving services which help their academic, social, mental and physical well-being [SEA 475].

Replaced ISTEP with a new standardized test with fewer regulations. Offers the possibility of using off-the-shelf tests, which could reduce testing times and save the state money [HEA 1003].

Expanded the state's pre-K program to an additional 15 counties, more than doubling the program's funding [HEA 1004 & HEA 1001].



OUR SCHOOLS.

Increased funding and support to allow our public schools to thrive.

Retained teacher bonus grants and succeeded in removing their link to test scores. Local school districts can determine how teachers will receive the grants [HEA 1001].

Provided school districts limited flexibility in funding with intent to get **more money into classrooms** [HEA 1009].

Increased funding for most severe category of special education at two percent each year [HEA 1001].

Increased investment for English language learner programs in school districts with the highest need receiving a 43 percent increase in the first year [HEA 1001].

Moved collective bargaining dates to begin Sept. 15 **to provide better information for bargaining** units and administrators to negotiate agreements [SEA 409].



OUR FUTURE.

Fostered the recruitment, support and retention of the best educators into the future.

Restricted use of test scores for teacher evaluations, allowing school districts to reconsider percentage of student test scores used in evaluations [HEA 1003].

Restored master's degree compensation. A teacher with a master's degree may receive pay increases for "possession" of the master's [SEA 498].

Secured a **two-year commitment to fund a 13th check stipend** for retired members of teachers' retirement fund and other public employee retirement plans. [HEA 1537].

Established a program to **provide mentoring to new teachers** in hopes of reducing attrition, improving instructional practice and increasing job satisfaction [HEA 1449].