

Old Capitol Building
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Olympia, WA 98504-7200

k12.wa.us



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, Superintendent

September 19, 2023

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

I am pleased to submit my 2024 Supplemental K–12 Capital Budget proposal. Providing our students with a well-rounded, high-quality public education is not possible without safe and effective classrooms and support space for learning.

All of Washington's students should have the opportunity to learn in a facility that is healthy, safe, and provides an environment for the best educational outcomes for every child, regardless of a school district's ability to raise local capital project funds.

The state's primary school facility funding program, the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP), is designed to serve school districts that can raise local funding for their capital facilities through the passage of a capital bond or levy. The SCAP's funding drivers have been significantly underfunded for several decades. The market rate per square foot of construction in Washington is currently around \$600 and the current SCAP construction cost allocation provided to school districts is a mere \$258.92, not even half the cost of market price construction. This inequity causes disparities between school districts, with wealthy school districts able to provide newer, high-quality learning environments, while students in school districts without significant local resources attend classes in unsatisfactory environments, many of which do not meet modern health, energy, or seismic codes.

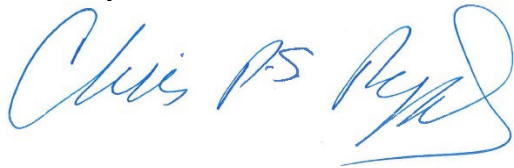
My 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget proposal focuses on improving immediate health and safety concerns, as well as addressing longstanding facility concerns. The key priorities included in my Capital Budget request are:

- Improved funding for the School Construction Assistance Program, which has been historically underfunded to the detriment of medium and small school districts.
- Continued funding for the Small District Modernization Grant Program to complete projects and fund planning grants that were not funded in the 2023–25 biennial budget.
- New funding for improving air quality in classrooms and energy efficiency in small districts with demonstrated funding challenges.

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Thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring equity for all our students, regardless of their zip code or their district's ability to pass a bond or levy, have the opportunity to learn in safe, effective, and modern spaces.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Chris Reykdal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Reykdal" clearly legible.

Chris Reykdal
Superintendent of
Public Instruction