



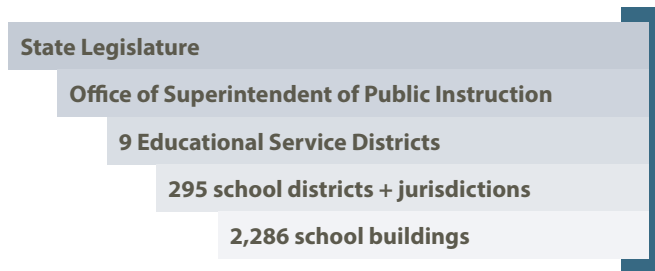
**HOT TOPIC**

# Education Facts

OSPI regularly collects data about our state's education system, including faculty, testing, funding and a range of other issues. What follows is a series of data snapshots about our system.

## Who makes education decisions?

Decisions are made roughly in the following order:



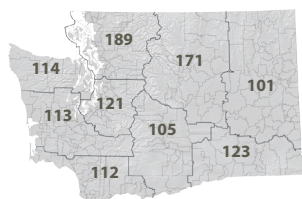
The fact that districts are near the bottom of the list, though, doesn't mean that they lack power.

Washington is a "local control" state. Each school district functions largely as a separate company, with that district's school board as its governing body. Districts handle day-to-day operations without a lot of influence by the state. For example, they hire and fire staff, spend money as they see fit and choose classroom textbooks.

Districts are held accountable by a number of agencies. The state Legislature, OSPI and the State Board of Education, among other agencies, help determine the rules districts must follow.

Another key structure is the educational service district. Washington is divided into nine ESDs. They provide regional services to school districts, such as help with finances or curriculum materials.

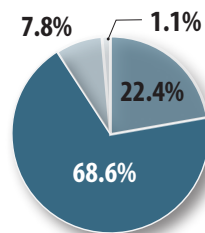
**Educational Service Districts**



## How much do we spend on education?

Washington schools are funded by three main sources: federal, state, and local money. For many years now, the state has ranked below the national average in how much it spends per student.

### Funding sources for K–12 public schools (2014–15)



Type	\$ (in millions)
Local revenue	\$2,578.5
State	7,888.9
Federal	898.7
Other sources	130.2
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$11,496.2</b>

Items may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

### Spending per student for public K–12 schools, adjusted for regional costs, by state (2013)

Spending per student	
1	Vermont \$18,853
2	Alaska 18,565
3	New York 17,291
4	United States (average) 11,667
<b>39</b>	<b>Washington \$9,246</b>

Source: Education Week, Quality Counts, Jan. 2016.

## For more information

Education data and sources [bit.ly/WAschools](http://bit.ly/WAschools)

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is the primary agency charged with overseeing K–12 education in Washington state. Led by State School Superintendent **Randy Dorn**, OSPI works with the state's 295 school districts to administer basic education programs and implement education reform on behalf of more than one million public school students. [www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us)

## What does our school personnel population look like?

A total of 110,826 full-time equivalent staff worked in Washington's schools in 2015-16. A breakdown of the major categories is below.

School personnel, by category		
	Job title	Number
CERTIFICATED	Superintendents	244
	Elementary principals	1,140
	Secondary principals	726
	Elementary teachers	25,890
	Secondary teachers	22,435
	Other teachers	6,432
	Other certif. staff (Extracurricular, substitute teachers, etc.)	498
	Library media specialist	1,110
	Counselor/Social worker	2,326
	Occupational therapist	339
	Psychologist	951
	Nurse/Physical therapist	604
	CLASSIFIED	Professional/Supervisor
Aides		13,910
Office/Clerical		7,730
Service workers		8,216
Other (Crafts, trades, operators, laborers, technical workers)		6,615

## How do Washington students perform on state tests?

State testing began in 1997. Students in grades 3-8 and high school take at least two tests each spring. In 2015, Washington students began taking the Smarter Balanced tests in English language arts (ELA) and math.

Percent proficient, by grade, 2016			
Grade	ELA	Math	Science
3rd	54.3	58.9	NT
4th	57.0	55.4	NT
5th	60.1	49.2	65.3
6th	56.5	48.0	NT
7th	58.5	49.8	NT
8th	59.7	47.8	67.5
HS	75.5	21.8	72.2*

\* End-of-course biology exam

## What does our student population look like?

OSPI collects information about the number of students in public schools, private schools, and home-schoolers.

School enrollment, by school type			
Type	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Public	1,056,809	1,074,057	1,088,959
Private	81,574	81,179	81,224
Home	18,218	19,610	20,921

Public school population has changed dramatically. In 2002-03, about three out of every four students (72.5 percent) were white. In 2015-16, fewer than three out of every five students (56.1 percent) were white.

Public school enrollment, 2015-16			
Group	Number	%	
RACE	Amer. Ind./Alask. Native	15,714	1.4
	Asian	79,450	7.3
	Black/African American	47,943	4.4
	Hawaiian/Other Pac Isdr	11,192	1.0
	Hispanic	243,582	22.4
	White	610,601	56.1
	Two or More Races	80,427	7.4
	Not Provided	50	0.0
OTHER GROUPS*	Free/Red.-Priced meals	477,828	43.9
	Special education	146,807	13.5
	Transitional bilingual	117,223	10.8
	Section 504	33,130	3.0
	Homeless	35,511**	3.3

\* Percentages in the "Other groups" category are of the total student population and do not add up to 100.

\*\* 2014-15 data.

## What is the graduation rate?

Graduation rates in Washington have increased steadily during the past three years.

