



May 8, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee  
State of Washington  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504

Superintendent Chris Reykdal  
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction  
PO Box 47200  
Olympia, WA 98504

**Subject: K-12 Educational Recovery Priorities**

Dear Governor Inslee and Superintendent Reykdal,

The Senate Republican Caucus is proud of the steps our state has taken in recent years to satisfy the *McCleary Decision* on basic education, funding our K-12 system at record levels and providing more equity for students across our state. As a result of bipartisan efforts, our K-12 investments now represent 51 percent of the \$54 billion operating budget. This is a substantial contribution from taxpayers, including many families with students in our schools.

Unfortunately, as a result of the ongoing disruption and uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, many of these families and students are struggling under the current restrictions and limitations placed upon them. Even in areas with excellent internet access, there are reports of extremely low participation rates by students. With over one million public, private, and home school students in our state, we must do everything we can to meet their needs, ensure continuity in their academic progress, and provide a return on significant taxpayer investments.

As you and your staff continue to focus on our state's health and safety as well as the reopening of the economy, we urge you to keep in mind the health and academic needs of the staff and students associated with our basic educational system. In the spirit of helpful and open communications, please review the attached *K-12 Educational Recovery Priorities* from our caucus and consider this document in your current and future planning efforts.

Our Senate Republican Caucus hopes you find this document helpful.

Sincerely,

Mark Schoesler  
Senate Republican Leader