Teachers and school leaders are dedicated to their students and want them to succeed. Great teachers change lives, yet we do very little to help them be their best. Mostly, they’re on their own when it comes to understanding how well their students are learning.

Our schools, teachers and school leaders need better tools and information to spot struggling students before they fail and to target interventions to quickly get them back on track. By purposefully collecting and sharing information we can spotlight success—giving teachers and schools the opportunity to learn and grow from others’ experiences.

When teachers, schools and communities have tools to track the progress of every student, then every student will have a much better chance to succeed, graduate, pursue an education beyond high school and compete for a good job. That’s why accountability is a central theme of A+ Washington, a comprehensive plan to transform education in our state. When accountability is coupled with schools that have the flexibility to meet each student’s needs and teachers who have the information and support they need to be great, every student’s future is brighter.

CREATE TOOLS TO SUPPORT ACHIEVEMENT

Schools leaders and teachers need additional tools, information and resources to meet new standards and higher expectations. Washington has already made progress in creating a statewide preschool through a higher education system that allows us to gather and share school information. It’s important that we continue this effort so that our schools can better communicate their successes and support their students’ needs.

A+ WASHINGTON: A WAY FORWARD FOR ALL STUDENTS

A+ Washington offers big ideas that add up to a bright future—where every student gets what they need to succeed in work and in life. A+ Washington is built on big ideas: making sure every student has a great teacher; giving teachers the flexibility and support they need to serve students best; providing families and the community new tools to hold schools accountable; and expanding opportunities for students to reach their full potential. These ideas will help every student be successful in work and life.
MAKE TRACKING PROGRESS EASY

Families and the community need better information to more fully understand how schools are performing. Through easy-to-understand reports and data dashboards, families and the community should be able to see how schools are performing and understand what needs to be done to support their continued improvement.

COLORADO’S SCHOOLVIEW

In Colorado, the Department of Education launched SchoolView, an interactive, user-friendly web tool that allows families and the community to see how schools are improving. Through SchoolView, the user can track how individual schools are performing and can use the interactive tools to create custom charts to track growth based on state assessments.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We are all accountable for our children’s success. It will take all of us—parents, families, educators, business and community leaders—working together to help every student reach his or her full potential.

It’s up to all of us. Join A+ Washington. Go online today: APlusWA.org.

EXCELLENT SCHOOLS NOW

Excellent Schools Now (ESN) is a statewide coalition of 36 organizations committed to improving Washington’s education system. ESN developed A+ Washington: A way forward for all students.