



FLEXIBILITY CAN HELP MORE STUDENTS SUCCEED

A+WASHINGTON
A way forward for all students

Students don't all learn in the same way. They don't all learn at the same pace or in neat and tight groups. Yet our schools are set up as if they do. And as a result, too many children are falling through the cracks: One student in four will not graduate high school on time.

When teachers and school leaders have the flexibility and freedom they need to meet students' needs, every student has a better opportunity to succeed in school, graduate, and go on to advanced learning and a good job. That's why giving schools flexibility is a central theme of **A+ Washington**, a comprehensive plan to transform education in our state. When flexibility is coupled with teachers who have the support they need to be great and tools that help communities hold schools accountable for achievement, every student's future is brighter.

+ FREE THE TEACHERS

Teachers and school leaders need the freedom to design new programs, the flexibility to tailor instruction to students' individual needs, and our community's support to use proven models to help students succeed. Teachers and principals are professionals and they know how to reach students best. A+ Washington supports policies that give them the latitude to do just that.

+ ENABLE SCHOOL LEADERS

This could include longer school days or extended school years. It could be providing students with more choices in the kinds of programs and schools they attend. It could mean giving principals the authority to decide who works in their schools. Whatever the idea or topic, we need to give teachers and principals more say in what they do and how they do it.

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.



+ EMPOWER COMMUNITIES

Teachers, school leaders, and families need the flexibility to transform schools that chronically fail to help students succeed. To fix a low-performing school, leaders must be able to use a different approach, like incentives to attract the best teachers, longer school days, and online learning.

+ REPLICATE WHAT WORKS

A+ Washington builds on what is already working in communities across the country. There is evidence that many of the ideas in A+ Washington will improve student achievement and be implemented at a reasonable cost in our own communities. By adopting and replicating successful schools and innovative approaches, we eliminate the guesswork and can improve student achievement.



ROCKETSHIP EDUCATION: FLEXIBILITY TO HELP STUDENTS THRIVE

We can learn a lot from Rocketship Education, which was created in 2007 in the San Francisco Bay Area. By using flexible teaching tools, Rocketship's outstanding classrooms are helping students thrive. Teachers at Rocketship use a variety of teaching methods, including online education, in-house tutors, and real-time evaluation of student achievement to create an inclusive, yet individual learning experience. Rocketship's model has been lauded nationally for its innovative uses of limited resources.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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*.