



# MORE AND BETTER OPPORTUNITIES

**A+WASHINGTON**  
A way forward for all students

**Every child has untapped potential.** When children are afforded great opportunities, there is virtually no limit to what they can achieve in school and in life. Some of the most critical opportunities come early in life, many through high-quality early learning. When these opportunities are available to every child, more of them get the start they need to graduate high school and become healthy, caring adults.

But early learning is just the beginning. We must set high expectations for our students and give them options and opportunities to realize their dreams. That's why providing more opportunities is a central theme of **A+ Washington**, a comprehensive plan to transform education in our state. When great opportunities are coupled with great teachers and communities that hold schools accountable for achievement, every student's future is brighter.

## **+** START EARLY

We know that high-quality early learning programs are some of the best investments we can make for our children and our community. Washington has made significant progress, but we must do more: too many children don't have access to high-quality early learning. Washington must give child care providers tools and resources to help them improve the quality of their programs.

## **+** CONNECT PRE-K TO ELEMENTARY

To create excellent schools, we must support children's transitions from pre-k to kindergarten. We can do this by giving families, kindergarten teachers and child care providers the opportunity to share information and determine the best way to support each child. The state must also provide full-day kindergarten, which provides young learners with more time in the classroom to get the support and tools they need to be successful throughout school.

## **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.



## **+** GIVE FAMILIES CHOICES

One-size-fits-all approaches rarely suit anyone well. Students and families need high-quality options tailored to their dreams and goals, such as Advanced Placement (AP) or Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) courses. Whether it's preparing for a great job or for college, every student will find his or her own path to success. It's our job to help them find that path, and to equip teachers and schools with the resources and tools to do it.



### **THE BREMERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT MODEL**

Launched in 2006, Bremerton's PreK-3 Early Childhood Care and Education Initiative has already seen promising results in increasing early literacy skills. In 2001, only 4 percent of Bremerton students entered kindergarten knowing the alphabet. Now—after the Initiative's work to increase high-quality early learning opportunities—more than 65 percent of children start kindergarten knowing their letters, and more than 90 percent are consistently reading at benchmark levels by the end of kindergarten.

## **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](http://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*.