



## 2012 Legislative Session Review

### EFFECTIVE TEACHERS AND LEADERS

#### ► Supported continued implementation of teacher/principal evaluations, SB 5895

Five corners compromise bill furthers the implementation of the four-tier evaluation system for teachers and principals. Phase-in of the new evaluation system begins in 2013-14 and must be completed by the end of 2015-16. This bill:

- Requires districts to adopt one of three frameworks adopted by OSPI
- Creates defined performance ratings: (1) Unsatisfactory; (2) Basic; (3) Proficient; and (4) Distinguished
- Includes multiple measures of student growth data as a substantial factor in teacher and principal evaluations in at least three of the eight criteria for evaluation
- Gives evaluations meaning by including them as a factor in personnel decisions (including placements and layoffs), beginning in 2015-16
- Prevents unsatisfactory new teachers from receiving continuing contracts; new teachers rated unsatisfactory in their third year would remain on provisional, year-to-year status
- Requires teachers, principals and superintendents to be trained on new evaluation systems prior to implementation, and helps align professional development with performance evaluation criteria

### PRIORITIZE HIGH-IMPACT K-12 INVESTMENTS

#### ► Supported expansion of WA Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS), HB 2586

This bill supports the scale up of WaKIDS, the state's kindergarten readiness transition program. The intent is for WaKIDS to replace other assessments required by school districts; however, it does allow waivers from WaKIDS until full implementation of full-day kindergarten. This bill:

- Creates a work group to make recommendations to the Legislature by December 1, 2012 and again by December 1, 2013
- Does not require full implementation of WaKIDS by 2014-15, despite the goal in our successful Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge application

#### ► Opposed reducing assessments and graduation requirements, HB 2538, 2411, 2231

These bills, which did not pass, would have either reduced graduation requirements, including passing assessments, or eliminated certain state assessments. Together or separately, these bills would have been a step backward in maintaining high standards for students, schools and the state.

#### ► Supported priority investments in the 2012 Supplemental Operating Budget

After what turned out to be a long "short" session, the Legislature passed a budget sparing education funding at all levels from cuts. This ends the trend over the last three years where billions were cut from early learning, K-12 and higher education. Specifically, the final budget provides full funding for the following ESN priority programs:

- Basic education
- WaKIDS
- Full-day kindergarten
- Mentor program for beginning teachers (BEST)