



# Excellent Schools Now Coalition

## *Working to Improve Public Education in Washington*

Excellent Schools Now is a statewide coalition of nearly 40 organizations. ESN believes we can and must accelerate career- and college-readiness and success for all young people, especially for low-income students and students of color. To achieve our vision, we crafted an ambitious six-year plan with five strategies. The chart below describes the strategies and the legislative and implementation progress to date.

### A+ Washington: A Way Forward for All Students

**Our Vision:** Washington can and must accelerate career- and college-readiness and success for all young people, especially for low-income students and students of color.

[www.ExcellentSchoolsNow.org](http://www.ExcellentSchoolsNow.org)



A+ Washington Strategies	ESN Statewide Accomplishments 2010-2013
<b>Strategy 1: Expand Access to High-Quality Pre-Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Education</b>	
<p>Expand WaKIDS, the state Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills, which helps parents and teachers make sure their 5-year-olds are ready for kindergarten.</p> <p>Make sure WaKIDS data is regularly shared between early learning providers, schools districts, and parents.</p>	<p>More kindergarteners will be participating in WaKIDS with full statewide participation by 2017-18 when full-day kindergarten is fully implemented (HB 2586, SB 5427).</p> <p>WaKIDS requires data sharing between early learning providers, schools districts, and parents.</p>
<p>Develop and implement QRIS (Quality Rating &amp; Improvement System), a clear and transparent rating system to help parents make smart choices about early learning options and help early childhood centers improve.</p>	<p>Supported Washington’s Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge application which includes funding for the expansion of Early Achievers (QRIS).</p> <p>The Quality Rating &amp; Improvement System was signed into law (HB 1723).</p>
<b>Strategy 2: Provide All Students with Access to Excellent Teachers and Leaders</b>	
<p>Develop and implement teacher and principal performance evaluations using multiple measures of educator effectiveness, including state- and locally-decided student growth measures, test results, and student surveys.</p>	<p>Passed a four-tiered statewide teacher and principal performance evaluation system that allows for more meaningful feedback (SB 6696).</p> <p>Performance evaluation system to include multiple measures of student growth and to be used in staffing decisions and identifying professional development needs (SB 5895).</p>

A+ Washington Strategies	Statewide Accomplishments 2010-2013
<b>Strategy 3: Position the State’s Students for Career and College Readiness</b>	
Implement the Common Core State Standards in math and English language arts, and the Next Generation Science Standards, and provide professional development on the new standards for educators statewide.	Formally adopted the Common Core (SB 6696) and these higher, more rigorous, math and English standards will be used in every district in Washington in the 2013-14 school year.
Expand access to, and enrollment in, college- and career-prep courses, including four years of math and science in high school, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Cambridge, Running Start and Tech Prep.	New state law provides financial incentives for districts that implement an Academic Acceleration policy like the one in the Federal Way School District that automatically enrolls students into more advanced classes (HB 1642).  Passed a law to make sure that Advanced Placement computer science courses count as a high school mathematics or science course towards graduation requirements (HB 1472).
<b>Strategy 4: Implement Flexible and Transformative Approaches to K-12 Education</b>	
Explore high-quality public charter school options for Washington.	Discussed charter schools during statewide A+ Washington campaign; ESN did not take stance on Initiative 1240, which passed in November 2012 to allow up to 40 charter schools in Washington during a five-year period.
Allow the state to intervene in the lowest-performing schools in order to help them improve.	OSPI now has the authority to help transform our lowest-performing schools (SB 5329).  Under this policy, OSPI identifies a subset of the most challenged schools, which then must develop a three-year turnaround plan. After three years, if the plan has not yielded positive change, OSPI may develop a turnaround plan and directly intervene.
<b>Strategy 5: Develop Effective Data and Accountability Systems</b>	
Provide clear, transparent and easy to understand data about school and school district performance.	Washington now has a statewide dashboard on the health of our states’ educational system.  Under this policy, six statewide indicators of educational system health are monitored and reported annually. Measures include: WaKIDS assessment, fourth grade reading, eighth grade mathematics, graduation rates, and post-secondary obtainment (SB 5491).

Please visit [www.ExcellentSchoolsNow.org](http://www.ExcellentSchoolsNow.org) to view the A+ Washington plan and learn more about our efforts to improve public education for all students.