

Keeping our Students & Educators Safe – OSPI’s Seismic Safety Plan

Prioritize Funding for Seismic Safety

1. A partnership between OSPI and DNR will identify seismically vulnerable schools.
2. Schools will be prioritized based on need and anticipated building life.
3. Schools with the greatest needs will be awarded a seismic retrofit grant administered by OSPI.

Why Washington Needs a School Seismic Retrofit Program

- DNR assessed 222 buildings statewide – 43% of which posed a “high” or “very high” risk.
- The average date of construction for school buildings assessed by DNR is 1963. Modern seismic code was established in 1995.
- A retrofit program will upgrade school buildings to the “life safety” standard, meaning educators and students will be safe during and after an earthquake.

2021–23: School Seismic Safety Retrofit Program (\$50 million)

- Establishes a new grant program to help districts with seismically at-risk school buildings perform needed seismic evaluations and retrofits to protect students and educators during a seismic event.
- Phases the costs of performing seismic retrofits over time.
- Initial geological site assessments will be performed by DNR. Districts will need to hire engineers to conduct structural assessments.
- Seismic and structural data will be used by OSPI and a newly formed Seismic Safety Committee, which will determine which schools will receive grants.
- Median retrofit costs are estimated between \$1.5 million and \$2.7 million.
- Grant funding will be available for districts with limited financial resources.

Learn more at:
**[k12.wa.us/
LegislativePriorities](https://k12.wa.us/LegislativePriorities)**

