



Healthy Kids – Healthy Schools *2023–25 Capital Project Request*

Project Title: Healthy Kids – Healthy Schools

Starting Fiscal Year: July 1, 2023

Project Summary

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) requests \$14.5 million to continue the Healthy Kids-Healthy Schools grant. This grant program creates opportunities to help Washington’s K-12 students maintain a healthy weight, enjoy active lives, and encourage good eating habits by creating healthy learning environments. This grant is designed to support the Healthiest Next Generation Initiative launched by Governor Inslee in September 2014.

Project Description

The Healthy Kids-Healthy Schools grant creates opportunities to help Washington’s children maintain a healthy weight, enjoy active lives, and encourage good eating habits by creating healthy learning environments. Beginning in the 2015-17 biennial Capital Budget, funds for the Healthy Kids-Healthy Schools grant were appropriated to purchase water bottle filling stations as well as other renovations to improve the health of our K-12 students. In the following biennia, grant funds could be used to purchase kitchen equipment or renovate kitchens, build garden-related structures and greenhouses to provide students access to fresh produce, replace lead contaminated drinking water fixtures purchase and install playground equipment, build covered play areas, and purchase physical education equipment. Districts could apply for a maximum grant of \$200,000 to be used for various project requests at one or more schools. Grant applications were scored based on the direct benefit to students, then prioritized based on the percentage of students eligible and enrolled in the free and reduced-price meals program.

The Legislature has continued its support of this grant program by providing funding in the previous biennia. This proposal for the 2023-25 biennial Capital Budget continues funding projects which support the Healthiest Next Generation Initiative and State Superintendent Chris Reykdal’s value of supporting the whole child.

Children’s Nutrition and Physical Health Grants: \$10 Million

The Superintendent encourages students to maintain a healthy lifestyle that includes access to healthy meals and physical activity. This request continues the nutrition and physical health grants funded by the Legislature starting in the 2015-17 biennial Capital Budget. Grant funds can be used for purchasing fitness or playground equipment, building covered play areas, creating areas to promote physical health opportunities, and purchasing kitchen equipment or upgrades, such as ovens, dishwashers, or other equipment to encourage cooking school meals from scratch. Grant funds can also be used to purchase

water bottle filling stations to help eliminate plastic waste and encourage students to drink water over sugary beverages.

The need for continued grant funding is demonstrated by the nutrition and physical grant applications received in the 2021-23 biennium. OSPI received applications from 76 school districts totaling \$10.6 million in project requests. Due to the continued strong demand for this grant funding, OSPI requests \$10.0 million for children’s nutrition and physical health grants.

Remediation of Lead: \$3 Million

During the 2021 Legislative Session, ESSHB 1139 was enacted requiring schools built before 2016 to have their drinking water outlets tested for lead by the Department of Health (DOH). As DOH ramps up testing and the results are made public, school districts will request funds for remediation of lead in drinking water. The remediation measures include fixture replacements in schools that test above 5 parts per billion, replacing pipes that carry the drinking water, automated flushing of water fountains and sinks, and installation of certified water filters or bottle filling stations.

The need for continued funding for remediation of lead is demonstrated by the fact that the grant in the 2019-21 biennium had to be closed after awarding funding to just nine districts. The funds awarded in the 2021-23 biennium will be obligated as DOH continues testing and publishing the results. OSPI requests \$3.0 million to continue assisting school districts with measures for remediation of lead in drinking water.

T-12 Lighting: \$1.5 Million

In the 2021-23 biennium, OSPI was provided funding for providing grants to public schools, including charter schools and state-tribal education compact schools, for the removal, disposal, and replacement of T-12 lighting fixtures and ballasts manufactured in or before 1979 with energy-efficient LED lighting. The grant must be prioritized for buildings that are not under contract to be replaced or modernized. All applicable funding from utility company rebate programs must be exhausted before grant funding is requested.

As OSPI works on building a program to administer the grant, OSPI requests the current level of funding to be continued in the 2023-25 biennium to ensure program continuity and extended inclusivity of school districts that may not have had grant funding during the first biennium of the grant program. OSPI request \$1.5 million for awarding T-12 lighting grants.

Total Request for Healthy Kids-Healthy Schools: \$14.5 million

What will the request produce or construct (i.e., building predesign or design, construction of additional space, etc.)? When will the project start and be completed?

The grant awards made to school districts will help build safer and healthier schools and learning environments in the state of Washington. The improvements made by this program address multiple

student health concerns by targeting specific facility improvements. Students have better access to fresh water; increased opportunities for fresh foods in the school meal programs; safe, accessible, and covered playground structures and, better lighting leading to a better learning experience.

The grant program awards will be made to numerous school districts and the projects will have varied start and end dates.

How would the request address the problem or opportunity identified by your proposed project? What would be the result of not taking action?

The Superintendent supports this grant program due to the strong demand from school districts and in support of the Governor's Healthiest Next Generation Initiative. The grants awarded will help schools provide access to fresh drinking water and offer fresh fruits and vegetables grown on site. Updating kitchen equipment makes it cost effective to provide nutritious meals. The grant also supports promoting an active lifestyle with improved equipment and covered play areas. The funding enables schools to address and remedy health concerns such as lead in drinking water fixtures and PCB ballasts in lighting. Not funding the program would result in a significant setback to schools in providing a safe learning environment where healthy lifestyle choices can be made and inculcated.

What alternatives were explored? Why was the recommended alternative chosen?

This option is the best alternative since it provides state funds aimed toward making our schools healthier and improving learning environments without requiring school districts to rely on voter-approved capital levies or bonds. Local levy and bond funding is not a dependable or reliable funding source for these important programs to ensure our students have the healthiest, safest learning environments possible.

Which clientele would be impacted by the budget request? Where and how many units would be added, people or communities served, etc.

All the public schools, including charter schools and state-tribal education compact schools will be better equipped to carry out the Healthiest Next Generation Initiative. They will be able to reduce environmental pollutants and safety concerns in their buildings and on their playgrounds, while addressing facility preservation and improvement. New kitchens and kitchen equipment allow schools to prepare meals from scratch instead of from packaged food. This creates cost savings for school districts and allows districts to provide healthy choices for students.

Will non-state funds be used to complete the project? How much, what fund source, and could the request result in matching federal, state, local, or private funds?

Non-state funds will not be used to complete the project.

Describe how this project supports the agency's strategic master plan or would improve agency performance. Reference feasibility studies, master plans, space programming, and other analyses as appropriate.

This project supports State Superintendent Chris Reykdal's K-12 education vision of his goal for Washington's public education system to prepare every student who walks through our school doors for post-secondary pathways, careers, and civic engagement.

Does this project include IT-related costs, including hardware, software, cloud-based services, contracts or IT staff?

No

If the project is linked to the Puget Sound Action Agenda, describe the impacts on the Action Agenda, including expenditure and FTE detail.

This project does not impact the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

How does this project contribute to meeting the greenhouse gas emissions limits established in RCW 70A.45.050, Clean Buildings performance standards in RCW 19.27A.210, or other statewide goals to reduce carbon pollution and/or improve energy efficiency? Please elaborate.

The grant funding provided by the proposed T-12 lighting replacement project will replace inefficient fluorescent light with energy efficient LED lighting. These lighting improvements will decrease overall energy use and assist school districts to meet energy intensity benchmarks.

Does this project contribute to statewide goals to reduce carbon pollution and/or improve energy use? If yes, please elaborate.

The grant funding provided by the proposed T-12 lighting replacement project will replace inefficient fluorescent light with energy efficient LED lighting. These lighting improvements will decrease the overall energy use.

Historical Significance

No

Location

Statewide

Describe Growth Management Impacts

N.A.

Grant Recipient Organization

Local School Districts

Application Process Used

OSPI will continue to offer a competitive grant funding process to ensure all school districts have an opportunity to apply for grant funds.

Funding Requested

2023-25 \$14,500,000

2025-27 \$

2027-29 \$

2029-31 \$

2031-33 \$