K–12 Education in Washington

An Annual Update from Superintendent Chris Reykdal
Our Plan For Today

- Omicron Update
- Student Mental Health & Well-Being
- 2021 Graduation Data
- Fall 2021 Assessment Data
- School Funding
- Flexibility in Grades 11 & 12
- Supporting Educators
- Further Transformation
- K–12 System Governance
Omicron Update

• Some schools may need to switch to remote learning temporarily
• We do not expect a statewide school building closure
• Nearly all school districts are participating in our state’s COVID-19 testing program
Vaccination Percentages of Washington’s School-Aged Youth

Source: Washington State Department of Health
Mental Health

• Over the past two years, students have navigated isolation, loss of loved ones, and adjusting to new ways of learning

• We are seeking funding for additional school employees dedicated to supporting students’ mental health and well-being
2021 Graduation Data

• The Class of 2021 graduation rate remained steady at 82.5%
• Data show an increasing number of students continuing past their fourth year to earn their diploma
4-Year Graduation Rate Trend

Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Fall 2021 Assessment Data

- Caution should be used when comparing scores to previous or future years
- Students will take federally-required spring assessment in a few months
School Funding

- Washington continues to make progress in funding our public K–12 schools
- Districts are on track to spend all their federal emergency relief funds
Investment in K-12 Education as a Percentage of Gross State Product

Source: School Finance Indicators Database
Flexibility in Grades 11 & 12

• Students have now experienced greater autonomy over their learning
• The last two years of high school should be leveraged to prepare students for their next steps after graduation
• OSPI is requesting legislation for flexibility over credit requirements in grades 11–12
Student Perceptions of Coursework Relevancy

Percentage of Students Finding Coursework Meaningful and Important

- 10th Grade:
  - 2012: 42.3%
  - 2014: 40.5%
  - 2016: 40.4%
  - 2018: 36.8%

- 12th Grade:
  - 2012: 46.4%
  - 2014: 40.5%
  - 2016: 40.3%
  - 2018: 36.8%

Percentage of Students Thinking What They’re Learning Will be Important Later in Life

- 10th Grade:
  - 2012: 54.9%
  - 2014: 47.6%
  - 2016: 41.2%
  - 2018: 38.7%

- 12th Grade:
  - 2012: 57.7%
  - 2014: 47.6%
  - 2016: 41.2%
  - 2018: 38.7%

Source: 2018 Healthy Youth Survey
Supporting Educators

• As our students become more diverse, our educators must mirror that – and the racial diversity of our educators has increased steadily over the last 5 years
• We are continuing to advocate for evidence-based strategies to recruit and retain educators of color
Further Transformation

- We are continuing to expand dual language programs
- Districts are rethinking their school calendars to better support student learning
- We are working to expand access to high-quality, affordable early learning

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K–12 System Governance

• With so many boards and commissions governing our K–12 system, it is often confusing and duplicative, and hinders our ability to set a sustainable vision for our students
• We have been asking for this governance to be examined for 5 years
Closing & Questions