



Investing in Student Potential

Designing systems to give *every* learner what they need, when they need it

Special Education Changes in 2019-21 Biennium

(All totals are for biennium)

- **\$77 million from changes to the special education cost multiplier**
 - 2019-20
 - Multiplier will increase to .995 (up from .9609)
 - 2020-21
 - Tiered multiplier will be implemented starting in 2020-21 at the following rates:
 - 1.0075 for students receiving special education services in a general education setting 80% or more of the day
 - .995 for students receiving special education services in a general education setting less than 80% of the day
 - The limitation on districts being able to generate special education funding for up to 13.5% of their enrolled students, even if more than 13.5% of their students receive special education services, remains in place.

- **\$25 million one-time professional development (PD) investment**
 - Directed to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to support PD in inclusionary practices for classroom teachers.
 - The primary form of support must be for mentors who are experts in best practices for inclusive education, differentiated instruction, individualized instruction.
 - Funding is prioritized to the districts whose students on IEPs spend the least amount of time in a general education setting

- **\$16 million to lower the safety net threshold to 2.3x the average per-student expenditure**
 - This accounts for the cost of lowering the threshold to increase potential award amounts.

- **\$33 million for anticipated increases in safety net awards**
 - The reduction of the threshold will expand eligibility and allow more students to generate funding for their district.



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- **Special education financial or accountability audit of 2018-19 funding and spending**
 - Revenues and the sources of those revenues
 - Expenditures and the object of those expenditures
 - Report will be completed by June 2020

Long-term funding outlook

- Of the \$151 million more for policy enhancements to special education:
 - \$25 million (PD) is thru a budget provision that will expire after this biennium
 - \$126 million or \$63 million per year will continue forward based on policy changes made in [Senate Bill 5091](#)

Our Vision: Every individual thrives in a learning-friendly environment where they feel safe, supported and challenged.

We believe Washington state needs to assess and adjust how we accommodate and support the diverse and complex needs of students in public schools. Human potential is our state's most important asset. When we design schools and learning to be accessible and inclusive, we reach the greatest number of learners - and ultimately benefit from what they later contribute to our communities.