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## SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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*Chris Reykdal* · Old Capitol Building · PO BOX 47200 · Olympia, WA 98504-7200 · <http://www.k12.wa.us>

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April 19, 2017

The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Adam Smith, U.S. Rep  
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, U.S. Rep.  
The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler, U.S. Rep.  
The Honorable Denny Heck, U.S. Rep.  
The Honorable Dan Newhouse, U.S. Rep.  
U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Rick Larsen, U.S. Rep.  
The Honorable Dave Reichert, U.S. Rep.  
The Honorable Suzan DelBene, U.S. Rep.  
The Honorable Derek Kilmer, U.S. Rep.  
The Honorable Pramila Jayapal, U.S. Rep.  
U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation:

I know we share the belief that every child deserves to learn from excellent teachers and experience effective school leadership. We know an excellent teacher can push a child to achieve more than they could have ever envisioned for themselves.

Despite this, we are getting two different messages from the federal government. On one hand, the federal government passes down to the states volumes of regulations, reporting, and accountability measures, all in the effort to improve student outcomes through educator improvement and excellence.

On the other hand, the White House is pushing for a cut to education funding of nearly \$3 billion in the next five months and a 13.5 percent cut to the U.S. Department of Education in Federal Fiscal Year 2018 (FFY18). This funding helps schools and districts provide critical services for our most disadvantaged students, Teacher Quality Partnership programs, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, and other training programs for teachers.

Of particular concern is how the White House's proposed budget would cut Title II, Part A funding in half for FFY17. For FFY18, the White House proposes completely eliminating funding for Title II, Part A. In Washington State, this cut to Title II, Part A alone would mean a loss of \$18 million in the 2017-18 school year and \$36 million in the 2018-19 school year. This funding helps districts increase student achievement by improving teacher and principal quality.

Instead of reducing the federal commitment to education funding, I urge you to please support the current funding levels through FFY17 and fully fund the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in FFY18. Action on the FFY17 budget is needed. Our federal funding allocations have not yet been released by the Department of Education for the 2017-18 school year. As a result, districts are unable to plan and determine strategic resources for their highest poverty schools.

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The success of Washington state and the economy back home rests on the shoulders of our students. We must provide them with everything they need to succeed.

Thank you for your time. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to further describe the impacts of federal education cuts on the State of Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris P.S. Reykdal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a stylized "R".

Chris Reykdal

Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction