



Message Points in support of House Bill 1410 and Senate Bill 5444

- We support these bills because they are good for kids.
- HB 1410 and SB 5444 would build a better education system that will:
 - **Prepare students for college, work and life:** Students would take more math, science and art classes in order to graduate. The bills would implement CORE 24, which would raise high school graduation requirements from 19 to 24 credits. These changes mean all of our high school graduates would meet the minimum requirements to apply to a four-year university, or pursue community college, vocational education or work. The state would also pay for six periods per day, instead of five.
 - **Prepare every child for kindergarten:** The definition of basic education would include early learning for preschool children at risk of not meeting state learning standards. Investing in early learning may be the single best investment we can make in improving overall academic achievement.
 - **Ensure every child has an excellent teacher in the classroom:** For the next generation of teachers, a new compensation system would be based on their skills and responsibilities in the classroom, and won't require them to earn master's degrees and PhDs simply to earn a professional level salary.
 - **Make school budgets more transparent:** Instead of complex funding formulas, schools would be funded using a new "model schools" approach based on actual class sizes, teachers, counselors, librarians, etc. This new system would greatly improve the ability of legislators, educators and parents to understand and make the best budgeting decisions to improve student learning.
 - **Increase flexibility as well as accountability:** School leaders would have more budgeting flexibility to address the needs of their students. However, the state would also have the ability to go into chronically failing school districts to provide direction and resources to help turn them around.
- Our kids can't wait. We need to pass bold education reform legislation so every child in Washington State graduates from high school ready for life.
- This financial crisis should be no excuse for inaction. We need to build a better education system so, when the economy recovers, we will know how to invest every new dollar we can in our schools to drive improved student achievement.