

# Executive Summary Cradle Through College Coalition

*“Time to Advance Equity—Every Step of the Way”*

## Coalition Statement of Core Principles

1. State investments must be made cradle to college
2. Strong accountability for results
3. Encourage innovation and spread of best practices
4. Additional funding is needed

This Executive Summary presents the pertinent points of the Cradle Through College Coalition core principles that must guide all new state investment. The full background document is also available for review and expands on each of these four areas. Please consider signing onto the document and standing with us in support of these principles. Full documents can be found at: [www.c2cCoalition.org](http://www.c2cCoalition.org).

## Key Background Points

- The bills for the *McCleary* ruling are now overdue.
- Progress on closing the opportunity gap cannot be achieved simply by adding money.
- New strategies are needed which will combat the negative effects that poverty and institutional racism have long had on learning.
- There is consensus recognizing the importance of early learning.
- Similarly, higher education—from community colleges to four-year research institutions—is more important to the State’s STEM-intensive economy than ever.
- Additional funding will be necessary in order to fulfil our *McCleary* obligation.
- We do not have to accept opportunity gaps for low income children and children of color as a permanent condition.

## Coalition Principles

1. **Investments must be made cradle through college**
  - a. Investments in quality education must span cradle through college, meaning that early learning *through* postsecondary (technical, two-year, four-year) education must be supported.
  - b. An equitable cradle through college system approach must be embraced and the needs of the whole child and family must be addressed.
2. **Strong accountability**
  - a. As new dollars are added across the continuum, cradle through college, it is critical that the state be clear on expected results.
  - b. Accountability should be viewed as a reciprocal relationship between the state and education institutions; the state cannot simply demand performance without additional resources. However, local administrative flexibility over state resources should be calibrated to results obtained and actual gap closure.
  - c. Money should be carefully invested for a specific purpose with progress monitored. For example, money for parent engagement should go to engaging parents and families. Likewise, money allocated for a stronger college/career counseling function should be spent on that.

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- d. Higher weights should be included in the K-12 school formula for student supports for high poverty schools. Teacher pay should be dealt with comprehensively and head-on by the State. Instructional excellence in high-need schools should be incentivized.
  - e. WASBCTC’s Student Achievement Initiative is a strong approach to accountability.
3. **Encourage innovation and spread of best practice**
- a. We need to find ways to incentivize and spread effective practices from cradle through college
  - b. Learning can be effectively extended outside the school day and all summer. Well-structured community and school partnerships can help boost student success through expanded learning opportunities, as can dual-language instruction and strong use of early warning indicators for dropout prevention and re-engagement programming.
  - c. As part of the overall cradle to college investment strategy, the state should provide additional resources to fund critical innovations and best practice adoptions that can help the state better serve its growing diverse student population.
4. **Additional funding is needed**
- a. We cannot make the level of progress our students deserve without additional funding.
  - b. In addition, to comply with the Supreme Court *McCleary* order, we need to shift the responsibility for K-12 funding to the state and away from local levies.

### Join the Coalition

We are individuals, organizations, institutions and coalitions who feel a strong sense of responsibility for the future of the children of the state of Washington. We are asking the Governor and the legislature to make the 2015 session the time that we chart a new course. We ask for the enactment of a results oriented cradle through college investment strategy that spurs innovation and leads to dramatically greater student success. We must provide all students with an equitable educational system that offers greater opportunities to each and every child in Washington State.

We ask YOU to join the undersigned in our efforts to help our state change the course of history for the children of Washington. We welcome your ideas and your energy!

### **Supporters:**

Equity in Education Coalition

Road Map Project

League of Education Voters

OneAmerica

*[more signatories being added...]*

For more information email:

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Background document can be found at: [www.c2cCoalition.org](http://www.c2cCoalition.org).