



Budget cuts funding, support resources for public school students

Legislature's announced budget cuts all funding for 2026-27 school year for charter public school students, claws back funding for technical assistance efforts originally required by the Legislature

OLYMPIA — Every year, 5,000 Washington public school students, particularly Black and Latino students, low-income students, multilingual learners, mobile students, and students with disabilities, are expected to meet the same academic standards as their peers while receiving 25% fewer resources.

This session, state lawmakers eliminated funding charter public schools rely on for basic educational supports including teachers, special education services, transportation, and counselors, once again removing critical lifelines from students who are often the furthest from opportunity.

At the same time, lawmakers also stripped resources from the Washington State Charter School Commission (Commission) that the Legislature itself directed the agency to use to strengthen oversight and accountability under ESHB 1744.

Over the past eighteen months, the Commission implemented exactly what lawmakers asked: proactive oversight, structured technical assistance, and stronger transparency. The results were measurable, including a 90% reduction in complaint volume and an 81% reduction in public records requests, reflecting improved responsiveness, governance alignment, and clearer accountability systems.

Now the state has demanded stronger accountability while simultaneously removing the resources necessary to carry it out. This decision weakens the very accountability infrastructure lawmakers required the Commission to build.

The Commission remains undaunted in its commitment to these students and will continue fighting for the stability, accountability, and opportunity they deserve.

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