



## KEY POINTS

- The State Supreme Court noted that the state needs \$700+ million for K-3 facility investments.
- HB 2797 invests \$707 million in K-3 facilities for lower class sizes.
- HB 2797 has strong bi-partisan support to fund this unmet need using existing state resources.
- 91% of voters support investments in repairing and expanding schools.
- 77% of voters agree that “renovating existing school buildings” is an urgent need.
- High percentages of all demographic groups were in agreement on the need for renovating schools

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## SUPPORT K-3 SCHOOL FACILITY INVESTMENTS

### Support HB 2797 – Investing \$707 Million in School Facilities for All-Day Kindergarten and Early Elementary Class Size Reductions

*Sponsors: Dunshee, MacEwen, Stanford, Kochmar, Stonier, Young, Riccelli, Zeiger, Haigh, Magendanz, Fitzgibbon, Dahlquist, Morrell, Smith, Lytton, DeBolt, Seaquist, Wilcox, Freeman, Walkinshaw, Ryu, Tarleton, Hargrove, Jinkins, Appleton, Kagi, Tharinger, Sells, Goodman, Fey, Sullivan, Bergquist, Pollet, Senn, Moscoso, Springer, Habib, Blake, Ormsby, Reykdal, Van De Wege, Roberts, S. Hunt, Carlyle, Farrell, Green, Hudgins*

Starting in 2015, HB 2797 would utilize a portion of state lottery revenues to finance necessary school construction projects for class size reductions in kindergarten through third grade. Proceeds are deposited into the protected Education Construction Revenue Bond Proceeds Account. The legislature retains full control over spending decisions as it must appropriate the funds prior to use.

It also requires strict conditions to be met in order for a school district to receive the funds, including that grants be awarded solely for instruction space used by K-3 students and schools must demonstrate that their student population is not effectively served in current facilities.

### McCleary Decision Requires School Facility Investments

In the recent Washington Supreme Court Order regarding implementation of the McCleary Decision, the Court noted that the state needs to invest in facilities. The Court states “...that additional capital expenditures of approximately \$105 million for full-day kindergarten and \$599 million for K-3 class size reduction is essential, but the State must account for the actual cost to schools of providing these components of basic education.”

State facilities investments only match that already authorized by local school districts. Providing easier access to capital funds through a lowered voting requirement for bonds would ease the burden of providing additional investment dollars, and still reserve the decision to local voters.

### Americans Value Education Facility Investments

In a nationwide poll of voters (1,000 sample, margin of error +/- 3.1) by a bi-partisan partnership of two respected national pollsters, 91 percent said that “repairing unsafe and dilapidated school buildings” was an important priority when considering on which projects the government should spend tax dollars.

Of those, a large 66 percent rated it “very important.” Further, 77 percent said they agreed with the statement, “We are in urgent need of renovating existing school buildings.” High percentages of all demographic groups were in agreement on the need for renovating schools - notably, 82 percent of women and 86 percent of Hispanics were in agreement.

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