

# Building a Better School Construction Assistance Program

A road map to achieving a more equitable, accessible, and effective school construction assistance model.

## The Problem

- ⇒ Aging Facilities: Hundreds of schools are decades old, with substandard condition ratings.
- ⇒ Funding Gaps: 1/3 of districts are property-poor and struggle to raise local dollars.
- ⇒ Rising Costs: Construction cost increases have significantly outpaced state funding.

## The Study

At the direction of the State Legislature, OSPI conducted a year-long planning effort to develop a proposal to modify and improve the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP). Led by OAC Services, now a Consortus Company, this study was informed through extensive stakeholder engagement, informed by hundreds of school district staff, stakeholders, and industry experts.

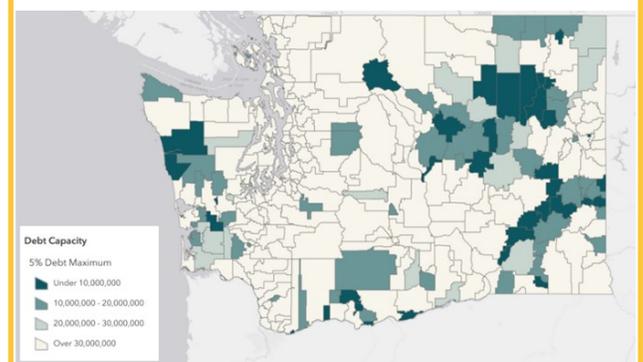
## What We Heard



Change in Costs and Funding Over Time



Map of Districts with Limited Debt Capacity



# Key Proposals for a Stronger Future

## Develop a Minor Modernization Pathway



Create a new SCAP eligibility pathway for smaller-scale modernization projects that don't meet the size or cost thresholds of full modernization.

## Education Specification Prototype



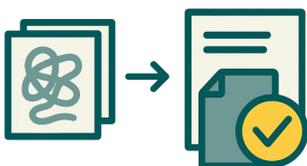
Develop voluntary, incentive-based education specifications focused on efficient space use.

## Accept All Non-SCAP Funds Towards Local Share



Allow federal, state, tribal, and other local funds to count toward SCAP local share.

## Streamline the D-Form Process



Simplify documentation, improve predictability, and reduce administrative burden.



### How You Can Help

Support recommendations that bring equity, transparency, and modernization to school construction in Washington.

Learn more at [ABetterSCAP.org](https://ABetterSCAP.org)

## Improved Planning Framework & Outreach Support

Establish clearer SCAP Planning guidance, expanded planning grants, & technical assistance.



## Sweep Funding for Strategic Capital Investments

Proactively allocate untapped K-12 capital bonding capacity each biennium toward targeted, high-priority capital investments.



## SCAP Enhancement Program

Supplemental funding mechanism to provide additional state support to property-poor school districts.



## Allow Phased Modernization

Enable school districts to pursue phased modernization projects — updating one part of a facility a time — without restarting their entire building's eligibility timeline.



## Update SCAP Calculation Methodologies

Update SCAP's core funding formulas by incorporating more dynamic and regionally responsive data.

