



# Investing in Mastery-based Learning: Building on Washington's Success



## Our Ask: Support the Next Phase of the Mastery-based Learning Collaborative

The State Board of Education requests funding to continue the Mastery-based Learning Collaborative (MBLC). This initiative is helping schools transition to Mastery-based Learning (MBL), an approach that makes education more engaging and relevant for students. Continued funding ensures that Washington maximizes the return on its investment, enhances student outcomes, and builds a sustainable path forward for this innovative work.

## How the MBLC Is Already Impacting Education in Washington

Washington's Legislature has already invested significantly in MBL. This funding supported a workgroup, the creation of the Profile of a Graduate (outlining the essential transferable skills students need to develop), and the successful MBLC demonstration project.

The MBLC supports schools in developing effective practices that schools can use to successfully transition to culturally responsive Mastery-based Learning. Schools participating in the collaborative can access grants, professional learning tools and resources, and a network of participating schools to help transition to MBL.

Since 2021, the Collaborative has grown to 47 schools across 28 districts, collectively serving approximately 18,000 students. **Participating schools have reported increased student engagement and better alignment between teaching practices and students' diverse needs.** Studies also show that authentic, performance-based tasks — a cornerstone of MBL — narrow race and class gaps in educational attainment.

## Why Continued Funding Is Essential

**Building on this progress requires additional funding to:**



**Continue Professional Development and Evaluation:** This funding is vital to follow through on the four-year grant cycle for schools already in the collaborative. By supporting their third and fourth years, we ensure they receive the resources and professional development they need to succeed. Discontinuing this support would disrupt their progress and undermine the state's ability to gather data to guide future decisions.



**Extend Support to a Third Cohort of Schools:** Leverage the program's existing infrastructure to support a third cohort of schools — bringing the MBLC's reach to approximately 70 schools and 27,000 students annually. This continuation deepens our understanding of how MBL can succeed across diverse school contexts.



**Establish an Alumni-Led Training Network:** By equipping experienced educators to coach future schools, this strategy builds capacity for when grant funding ends and ensures sustainability.

## What Is Mastery-based Learning?

Mastery-based Learning (MBL) transforms education by shifting from a traditional "time-based" model to one where students advance based on their ability to demonstrate mastery of content. This approach:

- Empowers students to decide how they will create, apply, and demonstrate their knowledge in a way that supports their unique needs, interests, and goals.
- Champions culturally responsive practices that support equitable and meaningful learning experiences for all students.
- Prepares students for workforce and post-secondary success by focusing on authentic, performance-based tasks.

**With your support,** Washington can capitalize on its investment and build an equitable education system that ensures our state remains a leader in preparing students for success in an ever-changing world.

### For more information contact:

Alissa Muller

Director of Policy - State Board of Education

[alissa.muller@k12.wa.us](mailto:alissa.muller@k12.wa.us)