



# HEALTHY KIDS, HEALTHY SCHOOLS GRANTS: BETTER NUTRITION - BETTER PHYSICAL ACTIVITY - BETTER LEARNERS

The 2015 legislature appropriated \$5 million in the capital budget for the Healthy Kids, Healthy Schools grant. This new grant program was established to help schools remove barriers that hinder their ability to implement best practices and policies for improved student health and nutrition. The grants were to be used for improvements or renovations to existing buildings, site improvements, and purchasing new equipment under the following categories:

- **Nutrition** - kitchen, cafeteria, gardens, greenhouses
- **Physical Education and Physical Activity** - playground equipment, covered play structures, indoor and outdoor equipment
- **Access To and Appeal of Drinking Water** - water bottle filling stations

## THE PROBLEM: AN UNMET NEED

The first round of Healthy Kids, Healthy Schools grants was awarded in Spring 2016. The full \$5 million in available funds was awarded to 466 schools in 93 districts. Grants ranged from \$100 for a water bottle filling station retrofit to \$199,987 for kitchen renovations and equipment.

Despite this success, over \$17.9 million was requested by schools in 150 districts across the state, indicating strong interest from schools but insufficient funding to meet demand.

## WHAT'S TO GAIN? BETTER HEALTH AND BETTER LEARNERS

If students have more access to clean drinking water, nutritious food, and quality physical education and physical activity they will have better health outcomes such as lower rates of obesity and reduced risk of chronic diseases such as heart disease and diabetes. Studies now show that better health also results in improved academic achievement. The legislature has made incredible investments in basic education in recent years. Re-investing in the Healthy Kids, Healthy Schools grants is a smart choice that will bolster these investments.

## SOLUTIONS FOR WASHINGTON STATE

The legislature should reappropriate funding for the Healthy Kids, Health Schools grants. Of the applications submitted in the first round of grants, \$12.9 million in requested grants could not be funded and 72% of applicants did not receive funding; not because there wasn't a need or their application was insufficient, but because there was not enough funding to meet the need.

**Additional funding is needed to ensure more schools can make capital improvements to their schools to create those healthy choices that can contribute school success.**

**CONTACT:** Vic Colman, COPC Director  
Erin Dziedzic, COPC Lobbyist

[vic@copcwa.org](mailto:vic@copcwa.org)  
[erin@dzpublicaffairs.com](mailto:erin@dzpublicaffairs.com)

360-878-2543  
425-466-5177

# COALITION MEMBERS

ACTION FOR HEALTHY KIDS – WA CHAPTER  
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS – WA CHAPTER  
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, INC. (ACS)  
ACS – CANCER ACTION NETWORK  
AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION  
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