



## Superintendent cheers governor's math and science proposal

*Investments will help equip Washington students for global market*

OLYMPIA – Dec. 11, 2006 -- Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson applauded Gov. Chris Gregoire's proposal to the Legislature that the state invest an additional \$196.9 million in K-12 education during the next two years to improve math and science education.

"I am very pleased and excited about the governor's math and science proposals," Bergeson said after Gov. Gregoire's Monday announcement. "This is the level of investment we need to ensure that all our students get the math and science skills they need to be ready for college, work and life in the 21st century."

Among other things, the governor's math and science initiative would reduce class sizes, recruit additional teachers and expand teacher training, establish a salary bonus system for nationally board-certified teachers, help students who are struggling with the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) and standardize math curricula across the state.

"This investment in our educators and schools will help ensure that we can get back to our full math graduation requirement within three years," Bergeson said. "This budget package strengthens the ability of school districts to provide appropriately rigorous math classes to struggling students, so that they will either pass the WASL or, at minimum, continue to improve their math skills until they graduate."

Last month, Gov. Gregoire and Superintendent Bergeson proposed that students who have not passed the high school WASL continue to take rigorous math classes until they graduate or pass the test. The option of allowing students to graduate without passing the math WASL would remain in place for three years – for the graduating classes of 2008, 2009 and 2010.

"I am especially pleased to see the governor's proactive emphasis on investing in science so that we can build the science program we need to avoid the crisis we now face in math," Bergeson said.

Passing the science WASL is to become a graduation requirement for the class of 2010.