“It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders…”

Article IX, Section 1, Washington State Constitution

The red line is the per-pupil State funding level that was in place when ESHB 2261 was enacted in 2009. The black boxes through 2012-2013 show the woefully poor “progress” made since ESHB 2261 was passed, and how the Legislature actually cut K-12 funding in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. The gray boxes represent funding levels in the December 2012 Final Report of the Legislature’s Joint Task Force on Education Funding – which called for some additional funding for K-12 public schools, but far less than what is needed to demonstrate steady progress toward full funding by 2018. The $12,546 per-pupil figure for full funding is based on the State’s own trial testimony, exhibits and reports.¹

¹ The State testified that it would cost $9,710 per student to fund ESHB 2261 without the additional increases needed to fund market-rate salaries, capital construction needs and inflation. The State later determined that it would cost $2.836 billion per year (about $2,836 per pupil for 1 million students) to fund market-rate salaries. Even ignoring inflation and capital construction needs, that adds up to State per-pupil funding of more than $12,500 a year ($9,710 + $2,836 = $12,546) above and beyond existing local and federal funding. Steady progress reaching that over $12,500 per pupil funding figure by 2018 requires the State to increase per-pupil funding by more than $650 in each of the nine years from 2009-2010 to 2017-2018.