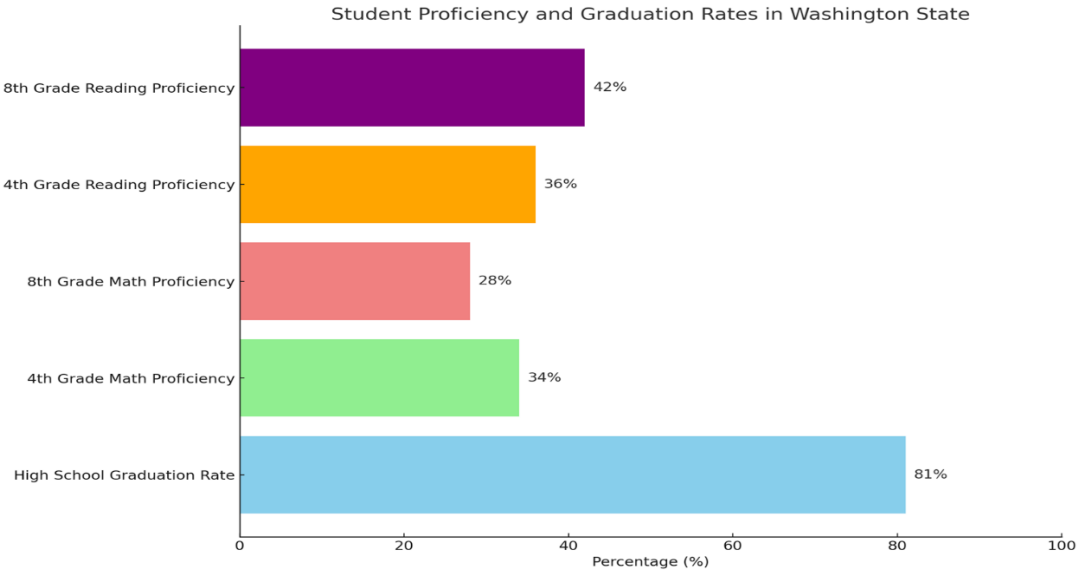


# Chris Reykdal and David Olson advance to General Election for Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction

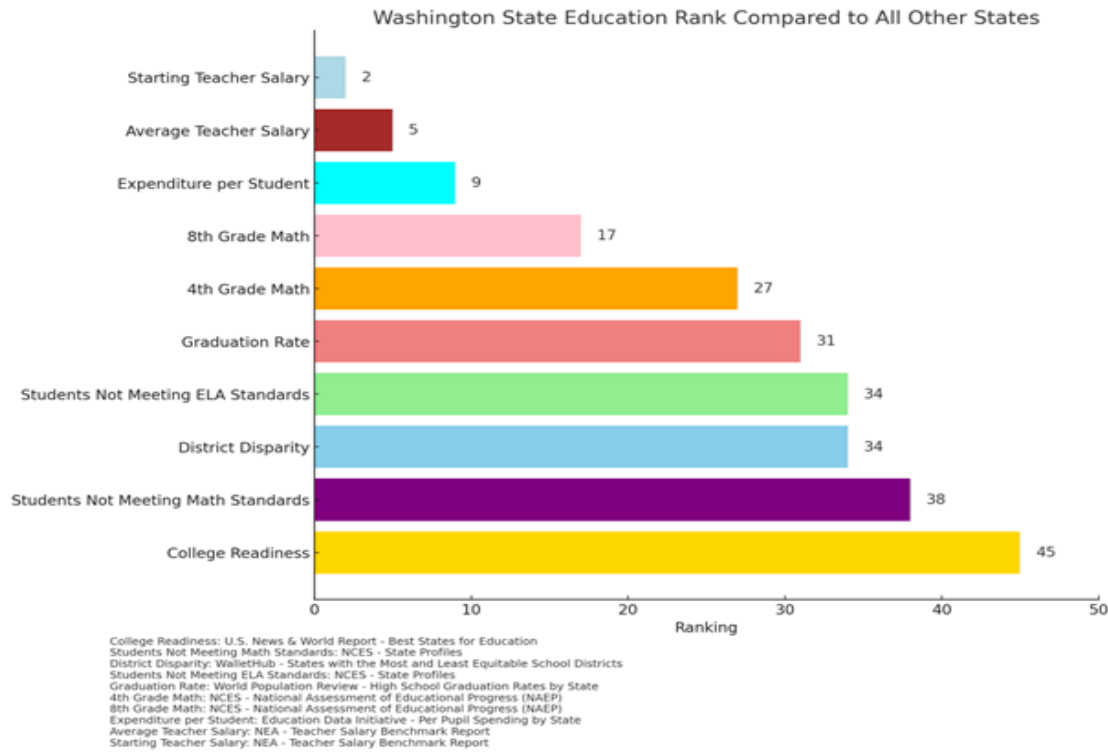
As we approach the upcoming general election, it is crucial to scrutinize the performance of Chris Reykdal during his tenure as the Superintendent of Public Instruction. With student proficiencies at an all-time low and Washington ranking near the top for teacher salaries yet falling into the bottom half in nearly all other educational metrics, we must ask ourselves whether education dollars have been effectively utilized. Reykdal's focus on a "whole child approach" and increasing school funding has not translated into improved academic outcomes, raising significant concerns about the efficacy of his leadership. Therefore, a thorough examination of his record is necessary to determine if continued support is justified.



Sources:  
1. High School Graduation Rate: World Population Review - High School Graduation Rates by State  
2. 4th Grade Math Proficiency: Seattle Times - Washington's Math Problem  
3. 8th Grade Math Proficiency: The Columbian - 72% of Washington eighth-graders not proficient in math  
4. 4th Grade Reading Proficiency: Annie E. Casey Foundation - National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)  
5. 8th Grade Reading Proficiency: Annie E. Casey Foundation - National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

**Chris Reykdal (Incumbent):**

Background: Chris Reykdal has served as the Superintendent of Public Instruction since 2017. He focuses on a "whole child approach," emphasizing mental health, school meals, and improving response systems for youth crises. Reykdal aims to increase school funding by addressing inflation and advocating for an additional \$1 billion in the next budget cycle.



As an incumbent, Reykdal has an advantage, but the declining statewide test scores since 2017 leave him vulnerable to lose his position. Most moderates are unhappy with the state of Washington Schools.

**David Olson:**

Background: Olson is a former school board member and focuses on absenteeism, declining enrollment, and restoring public trust in the education system. He emphasizes the importance of addressing mental health issues by reducing cell phone use in schools, which he has already implemented in his district.

Olson is seen as a strong challenger, especially appealing to voters concerned with declining academic performance and public trust in education. If people are ready for a change, Olson has a strong chance to unseat Reykdahl.

The below chart highlights the current disparities between expenditure vs. results. Looks like a good time for change for our Public Schools.

