1987-89 Operating Budget

The 1987-89 biennial budget for the State of Washington adopted during the 1987 session of the Legislature totals $17.568 billion. Of that total, $10.176 billion is from the state's general fund, $2.661 billion is from the federal government and $4.730 billion is from other state sources.

The total budget represents a 12.4% increase over the 1985-87 state budget. The largest increase in expenditures is from the federal government which increased 22.6% while state general fund expenditures increased 9.7%. These percentage increases are low by historical standards. Not since the 1971-73 biennium has the state experienced a growth rate in state general fund expenditures below 10% for a two year period. In terms of expenditures from all funds, the 12.4% growth rate was exceeded in every biennium since the 1971-73 biennium (see historical information in subsequent charts).

The state general fund increase equates to a $896 million increase over the prior state budget. About $426 million of this increase was needed simply to continue the 1985-87 expenditures into the new biennium. The cost of continuing existing programs into the new biennium takes into account such costs as inflation and the annual cost of programs started during the last fiscal period of the prior biennial budget. The remainder of the budget increase, totalling about $470 million, is for new or enhanced state programs. Improvements to the state's education system accounted for almost two-thirds of the increase in the state general fund budget. The largest share of education improvements went to increase college faculty and school teacher salaries and to improve class size and other instruction support services. A 3% state employee salary increase each year of the new biennium, a new basic health care plan, expanded medical and dental care for needy people, improved water quality in the Puget Sound and other program changes account for the balance of the budget increase.

The overall growth from existing state tax sources enabled the Legislature to adopt the 1987-89 budget, including program enhancements, without increasing taxes.

Budget Highlights (General Fund-State)

Highlights at a glance. The 1987 Legislature provided the following major enhancements to government services. Greater detail on all these items and more are contained in the body of the publication.

K-12 Enhancements

Salary Equalization/$17,600 Minimum Teacher Salary	$24.0
K-3 Class Size Improvement (52/53:1000 with NERC)	28.0
Prenatal Care	13.8
Early Childhood Education	6.1
Voc-Tech	
Enrollment Expansion	4.0
Equipment	2.0
Drop-Out Programs	5.5
Schools for the 21st Century	2.0
Adult Literacy (Even Start)	1.6
Education Clinics Expansion	1.2
SOIC Operating	3.0
Block Grants	49.5
Total	**$140.7**

Higher Education Enhancements

Salary Increases	$ 74.5
Instructional Support & Equipment	45.0
Financial Aid	10.0
Plant Maintenance	4.4
Summer Term Funding	5.0
Distinguished Professors	5.0
Minority Recruitment	1.2
CC Faculty Salary Equalization	1.1
Other (SWW Joint Center, Spokane Health Center, Adult Literacy, etc.)	6.7
Total	**$152.9**

Human Resource Enhancements

Low Wage Earner Salary Increases (Nurse Aides, Chore Service Workers, etc.)	$16.3
Childrens Services (Child Protective Services and Mental Health)	17.4
Expanded Medical, Dental and Prenatal Care	35.5
Basic Health Plan	19.1
Total	**$ 88.3**

Natural Resource Enhancements

Washington Technology Center	$3.4
Timber, Fish, Wildlife Agreement	4.5
Department of Wildlife	8.0
Puget Sound Plan - Statewide Water Quality Efforts	12.3
Total	**$ 28.2**

General Government Enhancements

Legal Services Augmentation	$2.5
Dept. of Revenue - (Data Systems Improvements and Increased Audit & Appeals Staff)	4.9
Total	**$ 7.4**

Transportation Enhancements

Automated Fingerprint Identification System	$5.5

Other Special Appropriations

Salary Increases for State Employees (State Personnel Board)	$30.8
Comparable Worth	15.0
Total	**$45.8**