

## State of Education in Seattle

### Baseline Data for Seattle

- For being a highly educated city, Seattle has large race and income based inequities. For example, 78 percent of white students met the state math standard, while just 39 percent of Latino students and 29 percent of African Americans did. 40 percent of public-school students are on free and reduced lunch and 63 percent of them have not met state math standards. There is a 33 percentage point gap in math achievement between low-income and more well-off students.

### Biggest Challenges

- Creating public will for education reform
- Ensuring that we have enough resources in public education

### Areas of Opportunity

- The **Seattle Early Education Collaborative (SEEC)** is an effort to enhance the City's early learning investment. This collaborative includes early learning programs funded by federal, state, city, and private sources. Programs leverage their resources by collaborating on assessment, professional development, and kindergarten transition strategies.
- In 2004, Seattle voters overwhelmingly approved a seven-year, \$117 million, **Families and Education Levy**. The Levy invests in Seattle students, pre-kindergarten through high school, who are the most academically challenged, with the goal of directly improving their achievement in school. Accountability measures are in place to track indicators of student progress and educational outcomes. The upcoming renewal of the Levy in 2011 provides an opportunity to further refine the use of evidence-based strategies to improve student outcomes.
- The Seattle Public School's **New Student Assignment Plan (NSAP)** for 2010-11, assigns students to a school based on their home address, reversing over a decade of school choice in Seattle. While strong neighborhood schools are important, the current quality of schools varies widely.
- During his inaugural speech, Mayor Mike McGinn announced the **Youth and Families Initiative**. The goal of the Initiative is to identify challenges youth and families face and to collectively mobilize towards solutions so that all children in Seattle can succeed. To date 1,600 residents in Seattle provided input and feedback on the top challenges and issues related to youth and families. Mayor's Office is holding a "Kids and Families Congress" on June 5<sup>th</sup> for community delegates to further prioritize and then develop areas for action. See <http://youthandfamilies.seattle.gov> for any additional information.