

2016 NCAA TOURNAMENT

# BIG DAY FOR UW, ZAGS

Husky women top Penn; Gonzaga routs Utah

SPORTS > C1



# Light-rail launch

Big crowds greet new service to UW, Capitol Hill

NW SUNDAY > B1



# Boeing rival Airbus finds sweet home in Alabama

BUSINESS > D1



MARCH 20, 2016



CLOUDY, RAIN  
High, 57. Low, 46. > B8  
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# The Seattle Times Sunday

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## EDUCATION LAB

# Massachusetts turnaround: A lesson for Washington?

**HEAD OF THE CLASS** | Money, lots of it, and carefully calibrated education strategies propelled state's school system to top scores, student success.

By CLAUDIA ROWE  
Seattle Times education reporter

**B**OSTON — For more than a decade, fourth-graders in Massachusetts have been, on average, the most literate children in the country. They also compute at higher levels. The same is true for eighth-graders. And for overall K-12 achievement.

Yet the predominant sentiment in school hallways and policy offices around the state is discontent.

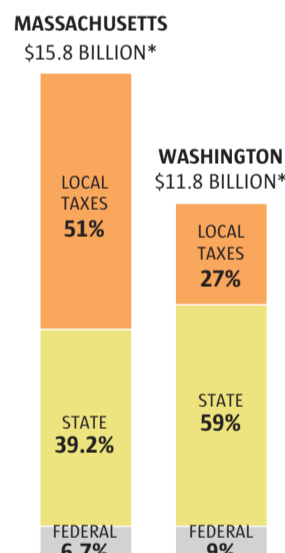
This stands in striking contrast to Washington, where students' scores have hovered at middle-of-the-road status for years, and schools chief Randy Dorn recently trumpeted an uptick in graduation rates, though they lag behind the national average by five points.

Horse-race competition between schools or districts is frequently derided as a superficial metric that fails to account for the effects of poverty and other disadvantages. But in this case, the two states are educating comparable populations.

Both are about 80 percent white, with similar rates of homeownership and non-English speakers. Both boast household incomes well above the national average, yet see their schools filled with

### Education finance compared

School funding comes from four sources: state coffers, local taxpayers, federal dollars and grants. While income, sales and property taxes supply Massachusetts' budget, Washington relies primarily on sales and property taxes.



\*Numbers do not total 100% because they don't include funds from grants and private foundations

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 2011-12  
GARLAND POTTS/THE SEATTLE TIMES

increasing numbers of low-income kids.

The Bay State, however, soars in national comparisons, as well as international ones that place its eighth-graders second in science on one exam, behind Singapore, and sixth in math on another.

Washington middle-schoolers — less than half of whom rated proficient in math on our state test last year — don't even take the international exams.

The differences in performance echo each state's approach to funding.

Washington's Supreme Court says our lawmakers are failing their constitutional duty to provide an adequate education — by at least \$3 billion. In the four years since that ruling, legislators have

See > SCHOOLS, A8

### PART 1 OF 2

**Today:** Why Massachusetts is No. 1 in education.

**Monday:** The push to help all Massachusetts students achieve.



MIKE SIEGEL / THE SEATTLE TIMES

**TRANSFORMATION:** Nhu Le cooks in class at Worcester Technical High School's commercial kitchen. A \$90 million facility and a new curriculum have made the school, once among Massachusetts' worst, a showplace.



MIKE SIEGEL / THE SEATTLE TIMES

**PARTNERSHIPS:** Worcester Tech student Loreine Figueroa, second from left, observes a neutering procedure by Tufts University senior Kayla Sakolsky, right, as part of the school's Tufts at Tech Community Veterinary Clinic program.



MIKE SIEGEL / THE SEATTLE TIMES

**HANDS-ON LEARNING:** Teacher Louis Desy, right, watches as Zaire Peart, left, holds a flashlight for Kyle Dipilato, who is disassembling a car donated by a local salvage company.

## ELECTION 2016

# State takes its turn at selecting a Democrat

### SATURDAY CAUCUSES

Strong support in Washington could give Sanders a chance at a needed win over Clinton

By JIM BRUNNER  
Seattle Times political reporter

The battle for the Democratic presidential nomination will roll through Washington state this week, with Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders badly in need of a win over former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Saturday's caucuses.

Sanders may get one.

Big crowds are expected at Sanders rallies Sunday in

Seattle, Spokane and Vancouver. Preregistrations for the March 26 precinct caucuses have skewed toward younger voters, who have backed him.

Even Clinton advisers predict Washington will feel the Bern. They just hope to limit the scalding.

"We expect him to have a good few days coming up, but not enough to capture the nomination," said Marlon Marshall, director of states for the Clinton campaign. "We expect to earn some delegates coming out of Washington and are excited about it."

Clinton plans public events in Seattle  
See > CAUCUS, A12

### HOW IT WORKS Q&A about the state Democratic caucuses > A12

# Obama's historic trip to Cuba aims to coax changes, not force them

By JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS  
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — President Obama and his family will arrive in Cuba on Sunday afternoon aboard Air Force One and receive a red-carpet welcome from a country that has been a bitter adversary of the United States since before he was born.

Obama will stroll the streets of Old Havana and meet with Cuba's president, Raúl Castro; watch Cubans and Americans face off in a baseball game; and deliver a televised address in the historic theater where Calvin Coolidge, the last U.S. president to visit, spoke 88 years ago. He will meet with entrepreneurs and dissidents — Cubans who have found ways to challenge the status quo in a country undergoing vast change.

But Obama does not plan to use his visit to issue an ultimatum to Castro on human rights, nor does he go bearing pledges to

See > CUBA, A13



Obama: First U.S. president to visit Cuba in 88 years.

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