



TRUST | LEADERSHIP | ADVOCACY



2017 Legislative Session Guide

A publication of the Washington Association of School Administrators

The 2017 Session began on January 9 and is scheduled to end on April 23.

It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex. (§ 1)

The legislature shall provide for a general and uniform system of public schools. (§ 2)

—Constitution of the State of Washington, Article IX, Education

2017 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Comply with the Paramount Duty

WASA believes the Legislature should continue to be held accountable for complying with its constitutional “paramount duty” to provide ample funding for all K–12 children by implementing the new basic education finance system as adopted in both ESHB 2261 (2009) and SHB 2776 (2010). To ensure the new system is completely implemented—with full and equitable funding—as consistently ordered by the Supreme Court in *McCleary v. State*, the 2017 Legislature must act now to provide ample funding for basic education.

Expand Available State Resources

The current state budget structure cannot accommodate the required increases in basic education to comply with the Supreme Court’s *McCleary* decision, nor allow the state to address educator compensation or capital costs in a comprehensive way. WASA supports the enhancement of state revenues to ensure the Legislature is able to fully comply with its constitutional paramount duty with “regular and dependable” sources of funding and also prevent drastic reductions of other necessary government services—which would have significant impacts on K–12 education.

Ensure Competitive Public School Employee Compensation

WASA urges the Legislature to fully fund a competitive compensation system to ensure the state not only meets its responsibility to establish an equitable and ample allocation

system, but maintains the present pension offerings and provides competitive benefits. Additionally, funding of the prototypical school funding model must ensure appropriate resources are provided to hire sufficient numbers of support staff, including paraeducators, school nurses, guidance counselors, and safety personnel. The 2017 Legislature must promptly act to prevent the approaching “levy cliff” by addressing the state’s obligation to adequately fund educator salaries, ending the unconstitutional overreliance on local levies. Current basic education labor costs must be funded first, before any potential reduction of local levies; however, any proposal to fund compensation that simply “swaps” state and local property tax authority without providing new state funding will not work and cannot be supported.

Enhance School Construction Assistance

To ensure all school districts have the resources to secure additional facility space necessary to accommodate all-day kindergarten and K–3 class size reduction, WASA urges the Legislature to: advance a constitutional amendment to the people authorizing school district bond issues to be approved with a simple majority vote; enhance the State’s investment in K–12 construction by updating the current, outdated funding formulas for the Construction Cost Allowance and Student Space Allocation to ensure funding more closely reflects actual construction costs and educational space needs; and provide a significant increase in capital funds to assist school districts with necessary new construction or modernization.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS

In the 2017 Session, K–12 education will take center stage. This is the Legislature’s last opportunity to comply with the Supreme Court’s *McCleary* ruling and implement a budget that will fully fund basic education. Legislators must come to consensus on an updated educator compensation system and a funding solution that lessens local school districts’ overreliance on levies. To find a final and appropriate solution, legislators in all four caucuses must be prepared to compromise at a time when the Legislature has become even more partisan and divided.

Given the monumental task before this Legislature, it remains incumbent upon administrators to remain engaged—and be more

engaged in the legislative process than ever before. Use *TWIO* and other WASA legislative resources, including this Session Guide, to regularly engage with your local representatives. Continue to build relationships with your local legislators so they know that you are the “go to” person when education issues are being discussed in the Legislature. Tell your “story” and remind legislators of your schools’ needs. And remind them that K–12 education is not just another budget expenditure, it is a wise and sound investment in the state’s future. Our efforts may not ultimately be successful; however, not participating in the legislative process will guarantee our failure.

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Deputy Majority Floor Leader	Rep. Steve Bergquist	786-7862

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1520 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
kilmer.house.gov | Tel 202-225-5916 | Fax 202-226-1176

LOCAL 950 Pacific Ave., Suite 1230, Tacoma, WA 98402
Tel 253-272-3515

LOCAL 345 6th St., Suite 500, Bremerton, WA 98337
Tel 360-373-9725 | Fax None

LOCAL 332 E. 5th St., Port Angeles, WA 98632
Tel 360-797-3623

7th District Representative Pramila Jayapal (D)

319 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
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LOCAL 1904 3rd Ave., Suite 510, Seattle, WA 98101

8th District Representative Dave Reichert (R)

1127 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
reichert.house.gov | Tel 202-225-7761 | Fax 202-225-4282

LOCAL 22605 SE 56th St., Suite 130, Issaquah, WA 98029
Tel 425-677-7414 | Fax 425-270-3589

LOCAL Fifth S. Wenatchee Ave. Suite 315, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Tel 509-885-6615

9th District Representative Adam Smith (D)

2264 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
adamsmith.house.gov | Tel 202-225-8901 | Fax 202-225-5893

LOCAL 101 Evergreen Bldg, 15 S. Grady Way, Renton, WA 98057
Tel 425-793-5180 | Fax 425-793-5181

10th District Representative Denny Heck (D)

425 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
dennyheck.house.gov | Tel 202-225-9740 | Fax 202-225-0129

LOCAL 420 College St. SE, Lacey, WA 98503
Tel 360-459-8514

LOCAL 6000 Main St. SW, Suite 3B, Lakewood, WA 98499
Tel 253-208-6173

THIS WEEK IN OLYMPIA (TWIO) KEEPS WASA MEMBERS INFORMED

TWIO is published weekly by the Washington Association of School Administrators to keep you informed during the legislative session.

<https://wasa-oly.org/wasa/TWIO>

LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE (800-562-6000)

8 a.m.–8 p.m., Monday–Friday; 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Saturday

This quick and effective service allows you to communicate your views and to obtain information about bills. You will be asked for your name, address, telephone number, the bill number about which you are calling, your legislative district, and a brief message.

ONLINE BILL INFORMATIONapps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo

- Specific bill title and number
- Bill status
- Committee considering bill
- Name/phone of committee staff
- Mailing (upon request)

2017 LEGISLATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Region 101

Brian Talbott, Nine Mile Falls

Region 105

Mike Brophy, West Valley

Region 108

David Forsythe, NWESD 189

Region 109

Marci Larsen, Mukilteo

Region 110

Duggan Harman, Highline

Region 111

Tom Seigel, Bethel

Region 112

Sandra Yager, Hockinson
Nathan McCann, Ridgefield

Region 113

Lisa Grant, Mossyrock

Region 114

Patty Page, North Kitsap

Region 123

Dave Bond, Kennewick

Region 171

Garn Christensen, Eastmont

BPAC

Corine Pennington, Puyallup

ESDs

John Welch, Puget Sound ESD

IPAC

Mike Olson, Sedro-Woolley

Principals

Devin McLane, Mukilteo

Small Schools

Marcus Morgan, Reardan-Edwall

Special Education

Tracy Wilson, Pasco

Superintendents

Randy Russell, Freeman

Federal Liaison

Randy Russell, Freeman
Frank Hewins, Franklin Pierce

At-Large

Jim Kowalkowski, Davenport
Stephen Nielsen, Seattle

Consultants (non-voting)

Mitch Denning, AEA
Fred Yancey, The Nexus Group
Pensions/Health Benefits
Jim Shoemake, AESD
Marcia Fromhold, AESD
Melissa Gombosky, AESD

KEY PHONE NUMBERS

ALL AREA CODES (360)

Office of the Governor	902-4111
Office of the Lieutenant Governor	786-7700
Secretary of State.....	902-4151
Legislative Service Center	786-7000
Operator	753-5000
Legislative Information Center (Bill Room)	786-7573
Tour Information.....	902-8880
Secretary of the Senate	786-7550
Chief Clerk's Office (House)	786-7750
Senate Committee Services	786-7400
House Office of Program Research.....	786-7100

WEBSITES

Washington Association of School Administrators	www.wasa-oly.org
Washington State School Directors' Association	www.wssda.org
Association of Washington School Principals	www.awsp.org
Washington Education Association.....	www.washingtonea.org
Washington State PTA	www.wastatepta.org
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	www.k12.wa.us
Office of the Governor	www.governor.wa.gov
Washington State Legislature	www.leg.wa.gov

The Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) represents approximately 1,000 active school administrators statewide.

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

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Assistant Executive Director, Administrative Operations
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Assistant Executive Director, Professional Development
Helene Paroff (hparoff@wasa-oly.org)

2017 SESSION CUTOFF CALENDAR

These are the dates in the resolution as introduced; the schedule is not final until it has been adopted by both the House and Senate.

January 9	First Day of Session
February 17	Last day to read in committee reports in house of origin, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
February 24	Last day to read in committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees in house of origin.
March 8	Last day to consider bills in house of origin (5 p.m.).
March 29	Last day to read in committee reports from opposite house, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
April 4	Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
April *12	Last day to consider opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session).
April 23	Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

** After the 94th day, only initiatives, alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, messages pertaining to amendments, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session may be considered.*

2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

(Times are subject to change. Please visit www.leg.wa.gov and select "Agendas, Schedules, and Calendars" for updated schedules.)

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8–9:55 a.m.				House Education HHRA	
1:30–3:25 p.m.	Senate Early Learning & K–12 SHR1 House Education HHRA	Senate Early Learning & K–12 SHR1 House Education HHRA		Senate Early Learning & K–12 SHR1	
3:30–5:30 p.m.	Senate Ways & Means SHR4 House Appropriations HHRA	Senate Ways & Means SHR4	Senate Ways & Means SHR4 House Appropriations HHRA	Senate Ways & Means SHR4 House Appropriations HHRA	