

2019 Legislative Session Guide

A publication of the Washington Association of School Administrators

The 2019 Session began on January 14 and is scheduled to end on April 28.

2019 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

IMPROVE SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY

The School districts need to support their students and staff before—and after—a crisis occurs and providing sufficient nurses, mental and behavioral health counselors, and school security is an effective strategy. Unfortunately, current funding does not provide sufficient staffing support for schools. WASA urges the Legislature to enhance staff allocations, with a priority of providing additional staff in the categories of Health and Social Services (including school nurses and mental health counselors), Guidance Counselors, and Student and Staff Security. The Legislature is strongly encouraged to invest in the state's nine Educational Service Districts to create and support comprehensive Regional Safety Centers.

PROVIDE EQUITABLE EDUCATION INVESTMENTS

The Legislature has provided significant increases in K–12 education funding to comply with the constitutional paramount duty. The additional investments in basic education provided to implement EHB 2242 (2017) and E2SSB 6362 (2018) are appreciated; however, the Legislature must provide consistent and equitable resources to all school districts that will positively impact opportunities and learning of all K–12 children. Portions of the new education funding structure continue to need revisions, including:

- **Special Education.** The 2018 Legislature increased the special education excess cost multiplier, which increased per student funding; however, the increase was minimal. Special education continues to be underfunded, forcing many districts to use limited—and decreasing—local levy funds to backfill the state's funding gap.
- **Levies and Local Effort Assistance.** Inequities between districts were exacerbated by capping levy authority of property rich districts at a higher level than neighboring property poor districts—while diminishing levy capacity for all districts at the same time. While legislators stated their intent to “reform” levy/LEA policies in 2018, no action was taken.
- **Salary Allocations and State Schedule.** The new education funding model eliminated the state Salary Allocation Model

and instituted a new one-size-fits-all statewide average salary allocation, while also eliminating the staff mix factor. The 2018 Legislature reconsidered the decision to eliminate staff mix and instituted a new Experience Factor. Assisting less than 60 districts, however, the adjustment is not as broad-based as desired or needed. Another compensation consideration is health benefits; as the new School Employees' Benefits Board is implemented, the Legislature must ensure school employee health benefit costs for all covered employees are borne by the state, preventing unfunded mandates on school districts.

- **Regionalization.** Legislators generally understood EHB 2242's regionalization plan forced inequities and would likely pit districts against one another; however, the final “correction” adopted in 2018 only assisted six districts. Regionalization methodology and application of regionalization factors must continue to be evaluated and corrected.

SUPPORT SCHOOL FACILITIES

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; provide school districts that have difficulty passing local bonds with capital funds to support necessary new construction or modernization; and invest in safety-related school facility costs.

EXPAND AVAILABLE STATE RESOURCES

The current state budget structure cannot accommodate both stable and ample basic education funding and sufficient resources for other vital state programs. WASA supports expanded state resources or a restructured tax system to ensure ample, sustainable, and equitable revenues to enable the Legislature to support K–12 education and also prevent drastic reductions of other necessary government services—which would have significant impacts on K–12 education.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS

Following the adoption of EHB 2242 (2017) and E2SSB 6362 (2018), the Supreme Court relinquished jurisdiction over the *McCleary* education funding case. With the *McCleary* case ending, many legislators believe their work on K–12 is done and are ready to address other priorities. Much work remains to be done, however, and much of the WASA Legislative Platform (above) is focused on necessary revisions to the new education finance structure. It remains incumbent upon administrators to remain engaged to ensure the new funding system is implemented so it serves all children and school districts in a

fair and equitable manner.

Use *TWIO* and other WASA legislative resources, including this Session Guide, to regularly communicate with your local representatives. Continue to build relationships with your 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. Our efforts may not ultimately be successful; however, not participating in the legislative process will guarantee our failure.

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Majority Deputy Whip	Rep. Mike Chapman	786-7916
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Majority Assistant Whip	Rep. Jared Mead	786-7892
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Majority Deputy Floor Leader	Rep. Christine Kilduff	786-7958

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Tel 206-674-0040

8th District Representative Kim Schrier (D)

1123 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
schrier.house.gov | Tel 202-225-7761 | Fax 202-225-4282

LOCAL 445 NW Mall St., Suite 4, Issaquah, WA 98029
Tel 425-677-7414 | Fax 425-270-3589

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)

2452 Rayburn 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)

2019 LEGISLATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Region 101

Gene Sementi, West Valley-Spokane

Region 105

Mike Brophy, West Valley-Yakima (Chair)
Becky Imler, Wapato

Region 108

Phil Brockman, Sedro-Woolley

Region 109

Marci Larsen, Mukilteo

Region 110

Vacant

Region 111

Tom Seigel, Bethel

Region 112

Jeff Snell, Camas

Region 113

Cal Brodie, ESD 113

Region 114

Dana Rosenbach, North Mason
Monica Hunsaker, ESD 114

Region 123

Dave Bond, Kennewick

Region 171

Tom Venable, Methow Valley

BPAC

Corine Pennington, Puyallup

ESDs

John Welch, Puget Sound ESD

IPAC

Jennifer Bethman, Bethel

Principals

Devin McLane, Mukilteo

Small Schools

Krestin Bahr, Eatonville

Special Education

Jennifer Trauffer, Tacoma

Superintendents

Shane Backlund, Selah

Federal Liaison

Randy Russell, Freeman
Michelle Price, ESD 171
Anthony Smith, Riverview

At-Large

Jim Kowalkowski, Davenport
Stephen Nielsen, Seattle

Consultants (non-voting)

Mitch Denning–AEA
Fred Yancy–The Nexus Group
Pensions/Health Benefits
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, Government Relations
Dan Steele (dsteele@wasa-oly.org)

Assistant Executive Director, Administrative Operations
Andy Wolf (awolf@wasa-oly.org)

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

2019 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 14, 2019	First Day of Session
February 22, 2019	Last day to read in committee reports (pass bills out of committee and read them into the record on the floor) in house of origin, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
March 1, 2019	Last day to read in committee reports (pass bills out of committee and read them into the record on the floor) from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees in house of origin.
March 13, 2019	Last day to consider (passed) bills in house of origin (5 p.m.).
April 3, 2019	Last day to read in committee reports (pass bills out of committee and read them into the record on the floor) from opposite house, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
April 9, 2019	Last day to read in opposite house committee reports (pass bills out of committee and read them into the record on the floor) from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
April 17, 2019*	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 28, 2019	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.

2019 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	Senate Early Learning & K–12 SHR1
1:30–3:25 p.m.	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 House Education HHRA	Senate Ways & Means SHR4 House Appropriations HHRA	Senate Ways & Means SHR4 House Appropriations HHRA	