

Education–Related Bill Summary

WASA 2026 Legislative Session

Bill #	Sponsor	Title	Description	Implementation	Resources
NEW REQUIREMENTS					
5272	Sen John Lovick	School interference/intimidation penalties	Expands the school-related crimes of interference by force or violence and intimidation by threat of force or violence, and increases penalties for interference by force or violence.	<p>Effective Date: June 10, 2026</p> <p>District requirement: Yes. Update safety notices, family/student handbooks, event-management procedures, and coordination protocols with local law enforcement and extracurricular activity administrators.</p>	<p>Final Bill Report</p> <p>OSPI School Safety Center: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/health-safety/school-safety-center</p>
1295	Rep Gerry Pollet	Evidence-based K–4 literacy requirements	Beginning in 2027 , requires updated or newly adopted literacy curricula for K–4 grade to meet specified criteria, revises literacy-related teacher endorsement standards, directs teacher preparation programs to incorporate revised standards within two years, and requires OSPI to develop and update educator literacy training.	<p>Effective Date: Upon curriculum adoption starting in 2027.</p> <p>District requirement: Yes. Early/reading/writing literacy curriculum requirements begin in 2027 for newly adopted or updated K-4 materials. Does not require adoption on any specific timeline.</p> <p>State requirement: Yes. PESB endorsement standards must be revised, and teacher-preparation programs must incorporate them within two years of revision. OSPI must also update literacy training resources.</p>	<p>OSPI Learning Standards & Instructional Materials: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/learning-standards-instructional-materials</p> <p>PESB: https://www.pesb.wa.gov/</p>
2534	Rep Clyde Shavers	Military family enrollment and records	Makes changes to district requirements for enrolling children of military families , transferring their education records, and providing services and accommodations.	<p>Effective Date: June 10, 2026</p> <p>District requirement: Yes. Districts should update enrollment, record transfer, course-placement, and service/accommodation procedures for military-connected students before the next enrollment cycle and train front-office/student-services staff.</p>	<p>Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission: https://mic3.net/</p> <p>OSPI Access & Opportunity: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/access-opportunity-education</p>

2594	Rep. Kristine Reeves	McKinney-Vento alignment in state law	Codifies provisions in state law that align with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and states that actions satisfying the federal act also satisfy equivalent state requirements for OSPI, districts, charter schools, and compact schools.	<p>Effective Date: June 10, 2026</p> <p>District requirement: Yes. Changes state-law enforceability, clearer data-sharing/monitoring expectations, and funding-linked policy review/compliance requirements rather than an entirely new set of substantive student-service duties. Specifically requires district liaisons to coordinate with the state coordinator and collect/provide “reliable, valid, and comprehensive data” needed for statewide information gathering.</p> <p>OSPI and schools can continue using federal McKinney-Vento processes to satisfy equivalent state requirements; districts should update local homeless-education procedures and staff training as needed.</p>	<p>OSPI Homeless Education: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/access-opportunity-education/homeless-education</p> <p>National Center for Homeless Education: https://nche.ed.gov/legislation/mckinney-vento/</p>
1795	Rep. Lisa Callan	Student restraint and isolation limits	Prohibits mechanical restraint, chemical restraint, and physical restraint or escort that is life threatening; bars isolation as a planned behavioral intervention in IEPs or 504 plans; prohibits creating new isolation rooms; and applies restraint/isolation rules to all providers of public educational services, with limited exceptions.	<p>Effective Date: June 10, 2026</p> <p>District requirements: Yes. All public education providers must comply with the updated restraint/isolation limits. Providers should immediately revise policy, staff training, documentation, crisis-response practices, and facility plans; no new isolation rooms may be created.</p>	<p>OSPI Special Education: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/special-education</p> <p>OSPI School Safety Center: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/health-safety/school-safety-center</p>

OPTIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

5969	Sen. Adrian Cortes	IEP/HSBP integration	Directs the statewide online system for Individualized Education Programs and High School and Beyond Plans to be integrated to the greatest extent possible so students, families, and educators do not have to duplicate transition-planning work across both plans.	<p>Effective Date: June 10, 2026</p> <p>District requirement: No. Districts should review local transition-planning procedures before the next annual IEP/HSBP update cycle.</p> <p>State requirement: Yes. OSPI and its statewide platform/vendor partners will need to align data fields and workflows so IEP transition-plan content and HSBP content can be shared.</p>	<p>Final Bill Report</p> <p>OSPI High School and Beyond Plan: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/graduation/high-school-and-beyond-plan</p> <p>OSPI Special Education: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/special-education</p>
1634	Rep. My-Linh Thai	Behavioral health supports framework	Directs OSPI and ESDs to collaborate with state, regional, and local agencies and community partners involved in children’s behavioral health to build a technical assistance and training framework for schools.	<p>Effective Date: June 10, 2026</p> <p>District requirement: No.</p> <p>State requirement: Yes. OSPI and ESDs must coordinate with behavioral-health partners to create technical assistance and training; districts should expect a phased rollout of tools, cross-system coordination guidance, and professional learning.</p>	<p>OSPI Health & Safety: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/health-safety</p> <p>OSPI Student Support resources: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success</p>

2317	Rep Carolyn Eslick	ECEAP/Head Start licensing exemption	Exempts school-day Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program and Head Start programs from DCYF licensing requirements when the program is located at a public school or community or technical college.	<p>Effective Date: June 10, 2026</p> <p>District requirement: No.</p> <p>Eligible public-school and community/technical-college sites can rely on the exemption, but operators should confirm site eligibility and document compliance with any remaining health, safety, or program requirements that still apply.</p>	<p>DCYF ECEAP & Head Start: https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/eceap-headstart</p> <p>Head Start federal program: https://headstart.gov</p>
2360	Rep Brandy Donaghy	Albuterol access in schools	Allows public and private schools to maintain and use a supply of albuterol at each school beginning in the 2027–28 school year, creates a uniform procedure, requires parent notification after administration, includes employee opt-out provisions, and limits liability.	<p>Effective Date: June 10, 2026</p> <p>District requirement: Possibly.</p> <p>If albuterol is maintained on site.</p> <p>Beginning in the 2027–28 school year, schools may maintain albuterol supplies if statutory conditions are met. Starting in 2026–27, schools should determine if they will maintain albuterol and, as related, standing orders/procurement, storage procedures, staff training, parent notification processes, and employee opt-out forms.</p>	<p>DOH School Health Nursing Services: https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/schools</p> <p>DOH Asthma resources: https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/illness-and-disease-z/asthma</p>
5346	Sen Marko Lias	Digital citizenship / mobile devices	Revises digital citizenship so it includes student use of mobile devices, directs OSPI to add research and best-practice strategies to a web-based resource location, and requires two reports on district mobile-device policies and implementation barriers by December 15, 2028.	<p>Effective Date: June 10, 2026</p> <p>District requirement: No.</p> <p>State requirement: Yes.</p> <p>OSPI must submit reports by Dec. 15, 2028, so expect interim data collection on adopted policies, procedures, and implementation barriers. Districts can begin policy review immediately.</p>	<p>WASA Cell Phone Policy Toolkit</p> <p>OSPI Educational Technology: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/educational-technology-edtech</p> <p>OSPI digital citizenship/media literacy resources: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/school-technology/media-literacy-digital-citizenship</p>
5841	Sen Matt Boehnke	Financial aid data on HSBP platform	Requires the universal High School and Beyond Plan platform to import WSAC financial-aid application data so students can view progress and add the Washington Opportunity Scholarship to the list of programs students must learn about in their plans.	<p>Effective Date: June 10, 2026</p> <p>District requirement: No.</p> <p>State-level requirement: Yes.</p> <p>OSPI will update the HSBP platform to import WSAC application data and add Washington Opportunity Scholarship information. District counselors or relevant school staff should update HSBP advising once platform changes and new student information is released.</p>	<p>OSPI High School and Beyond Plan: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/graduation/high-school-and-beyond-plan</p> <p>WSAC apply for aid (FAFSA/WASFA): https://wsac.wa.gov/apply</p>

6268	Sen Paul Harris	Special education complaint archive	Requires OSPI to maintain a freely accessible online record of all final decisions issued in response to special education community complaints during the preceding 20 years.	<p>Effective Date: June 10, 2026</p> <p>District requirement: No.</p> <p>State requirement: Yes. OSPI must build and maintain an online archive covering final community-complaint decisions from the prior 20 years. Districts, advocates, and families can begin using the archive once OSPI publishes it.</p>	<p>Final Bill Report</p> <p>OSPI Special Education: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/special-education</p> <p>OSPI dispute resolution/community complaints: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/special-education/dispute-resolution</p>
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WORKFORCE-RELATED

6134	Sen Curtis King	Notice to striking workers applying for unemployment insurance benefits	ESD must provide notice to a striking worker applying for UI benefits of a potential overpayment assessment upon receipt of retroactive wages. The notice may be provided through an acknowledgement box in the online application, a letter, or another method reasonable determined to provide notice to the applicant.	<p>Effective Date: June 10, 2026</p> <p>District requirement: No.</p> <p>State-level requirement: Yes. ESD must provide notice to a striking worker applying for UI benefits of a potential overpayment assessment upon receipt of retroactive wages.</p>	Final bill report
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6278	Sen Lisa Wellman	PESB prep program review updates	PESB’s ongoing review of approved teacher and principal preparation programs to include program standards, educator role standards, evidence from programs, and input from community constituents and P-12 partners and creates a process for programs found out of alignment.	<p>Effective Date: Beginning January 1, 2027, the submission of student teacher field-placement plans to PESB will take place not less than once every three years on a schedule established by PESB.</p> <p>District requirement: No.</p> <p>State requirement: Yes. Applies in PESB’s ongoing review cycle after enactment. Preparation programs should expect revised review expectations, improvement steps for out-of-alignment findings, and updated field-placement-plan submission timelines as PESB guidance is revised.</p>	<p>Final Bill Report</p> <p>PESB: https://www.pesb.wa.gov/</p> <p>Approved preparation programs: https://www.pesb.wa.gov/preparation-programs/</p>
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FINANCE & FUNDING RELATED

1796	Rep Lisa Callan	No-vote school construction debt authority	Authorizes eligible school districts to contract indebtedness and issue bonds without a vote of the people, within the existing 0.375 percent debt limit, for school construction, furniture, apparatus, or equipment.	<p>Effective Date: June 10, 2026</p> <p>Available for districts that passed a capital levy and were not in binding conditions in the prior three years. Eligible districts can evaluate whether to use the new no-vote debt authority for capital project financing.</p>	<p>OSPI Finance & Operations: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/policy-funding</p> <p>School district capital finance overview: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/</p>
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5922	Sen Lisa Wellman	Authorizing transportation vehicle fund transfers	Allows a district, with OSPI approval, to transfer vehicle depreciation payments and earned interest from its transportation vehicle fund to another fund when the district is reducing its vehicle fleet.	Effective Date: June 10, 2026	Final Bill Report
				Available when a district is reducing its fleet and obtains OSPI approval. Business offices should document the fleet-reduction rationale, the amount requested, and the intended use of transferred funds before submitting a request.	OSPI Transportation: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/student-transportation OSPI Finance & Operations: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/policy-funding
5963	Sen T'wina Nobles	Passport to Careers / WCG alignment	Qualifies students eligible for Passport to Careers as automatically income-eligible for the Washington College Grant, aligns Passport financial-need calculations with the federal formula, and requires Passport funds to be deposited into the State Financial Aid Account.	Effective Date: June 10, 2026	Final Bill Report
				Applies to upcoming financial-aid award cycles after enactment. WSAC and institutions will need to align eligibility, packaging, and deposit processes; school counselors and college-access staff should update advising materials before the next FAFSA/WASFA cycle.	WSAC Passport to Careers: https://wsac.wa.gov/passport-to-careers Washington College Grant: https://wsac.wa.gov/wcg
5994	Sen Adrian Cortes	Timber tax distributions	This bill extends timber tax distributions to school districts without qualifying levies in a given calendar year if they had qualifying levies in effect in either of the previous two calendar years. The highest levy rate in effect during the two previous calendar years must be used to calculate timber tax distributions.	Effective Date: Immediately.	Final Bill Report
				This bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.	
6065	Sen Perry Dozier	Transportation fund loans/transfers under oversight	Allows a district on binding conditions or under enhanced financial oversight to take a temporary, interest-free interfund loan from its transportation vehicle fund and to petition OSPI to transfer money from that fund to another school fund, including permanent transfers with no repayment requirement.	Effective Date: June 10, 2026	OSPI Finance & Operations: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/policy-funding OSPI Transportation: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/student-transportation
				Available for districts on binding conditions or enhanced oversight. Use is case-specific and requires coordination with OSPI; districts should prepare financial documentation before requesting a temporary loan or permanent transfer.	

6260	Sen Lisa Wellman	Bus depreciation / Running Start / TTK funding	Requires OSPI to use minimum anticipated lifetimes of 120 or 180 months for bus depreciation schedules depending on bus category, adjust reimbursements when districts receive federal grants or rebates for student transportation vehicles, reduce the funded maximum enrollment for Running Start to 1.2 FTE, and limit Transition to Kindergarten funding to the omnibus appropriation.	<p>Effective Date: Varies. See OSPI guidance.</p> <p>Applies in upcoming OSPI transportation reimbursement and budget cycles after enactment. Districts should adjust bus replacement planning, account for federal grants/rebates in reimbursement requests, and prepare for the new Running Start and Transition to Kindergarten funding limits.</p>	<p>Final Bill Report</p> <p>OSPI Transportation: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/student-transportation</p> <p>OSPI Running Start: https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/support-programs/dual-credit-programs/course-based-dual-credit</p>
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