



House Releases 2023–25 Operating Budget

About TWIO

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Senate 2023–25 Budget Action

The [March 24 Special Edition of TWIO](#) provided a broad review of the Senate 2023–25 Operating and Capital Budget proposals. Today we provide a similar broad review of the House 2023–25 Operating Budget proposal below. (We will discuss the Capital Budget tomorrow.) Before we jump into a discussion of the House budget, let's first get up-to-date with the Senate proposals. First, the Senate 2023–25 Capital Budget ([SB 5200](#)) has already made it through the Committee process and was adopted by the full Senate (unanimously) last Friday, after we had released the March 24 TWIO. There were a handful of amendments adopted in the Senate Ways & Means Committee earlier in the week; however, none were education-related.

The Senate 2023–25 Operating Budget ([SB 5187](#)) was adopted by the Senate Ways & Means Committee in the face of a multitude of amendments, including several of interest to educators. In total, 132 amendments were proposed. 76 of the amendments were adopted, with 9 failing. Another 47 were withdrawn before being acted upon. Education-related amendments are described below, and indicate if the amendment was accepted, rejected, or withdrawn:

- [Amendment 1](#): This is a package of 19 noncontroversial technical amendments (addressing typos, errors, duplicated language, etc.) with no fiscal impact. Two of the amendments were education-related: one that aligned proviso funding to appropriations for the Outdoor Education Experiences Program; and a second amendment that corrects the name of a union agreement addressing the Washington Public Employees Association, but inadvertently addressed public school employees. **AMENDMENT ADOPTED**
- [Amendment 14](#): This amendment would have appropriated \$1.0 million to fund a nonprofit to create a mobile classroom that teaches math using hands-on experiences. **AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN**
- [Amendment 80](#): This amendment would have provided funding to implement a technology-based kindergarten readiness program for children in rural areas. **AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN**
- [Amendment 98](#): Commission of Public Lands Hilary Franz has initiated a plan to set aside public lands into protected status and eliminating harvesting. The purpose is to sell the lands to be used for storing carbon, with a dual-pronged goal (as yet unproven) to reduce timber harvesting, but at the same time generate funding for schools, colleges, and other

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beneficiaries. While the goal is to provide carbon sequestration funds that are at least equal to funding provided by harvesting timber, it is unclear if this is feasible or realistic—and the plan is controversial. This amendment removes funding (\$400,000) from the Department of Natural Resources to develop a carbon sequestration strategy. **AMENDMENT ADOPTED**

- [Amendment 99](#): This amendment removes funding (\$80.0 million of the Climate Commitment Account) for the Department of Natural Resources to conserve carbon dense, structurally complex forests. **AMENDMENT ADOPTED**
- [Amendment 102](#): This amendment would have replaced language in the bill (as noted in Amendment 99 above) with language that specifies funding is for carbon sequestration; however, lands would be required to remain in trust status and funding could be used to acquire additional harvestable forest lands to support timber supplies to local mills. **AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN**
- [Amendment 105](#): This amendment was a duplicate of Amendment 106. **AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN**
- [Amendment 106](#): This amendment provides funding (\$2.0 million) for a community-based youth development nonprofit (Boys & Girls Club) to continue a pilot program to provide behavioral health support for youth and trauma-informed, culturally responsive training. **AMENDMENT ADOPTED**
- [Amendment 107](#): This amendment would have created a grant program for enrichment for charter schools, with state funding based on levies adopted by school districts where the charter schools reside. The amendment would have added \$11.5 million to the grant. **AMENDMENT FAILED** (with a 12-12 vote)
- [Amendment 108](#): This amendment would have provided funding (\$375,000) to develop a paraeducator assessment. **AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN**
- [Amendment 109](#): This amendment would have provided funding (\$10.0 million) for OSPI to provide technical assistance to school districts on disproportionality in special education and professional development in promoting inclusionary teaching practices (that is, the Inclusionary Practices Project or IPP). **AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN**
- [Amendment 110](#): This amendment would have provided funding (\$250,000) for ESD 101 to launch an E-sports program. **AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN**
- [Amendment 111](#): This amendment would have increased funding (\$500,000) for one-to-one career-integrated mentoring grants. **AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN**
- [Amendment 112](#): This amendment would have provided funding (\$3.0 million) for a grant to the Pacific Science Center to increase hands-on learning opportunities for Title I K–5 students statewide by increasing access to science on wheels and virtual field trips. Amendment was withdrawn in favor of Amendment 115. **AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN**
- [Amendment 113](#): This amendment would have provided funding (\$5.7 million) for grants to school districts for the Ninth Grade Success Program to identify and support incoming high school students who have been identified as at risk of not graduating through the dropout early warning and intervention data system. **AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN**
- [Amendment 114](#): This amendment, similar to [SB 5668/HB 1605](#), would have provided funding (\$3.4 million) for grants to small school districts with less than 2,750 students for Skills Centers students up to 0.8 FTE. **AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN**

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- [Amendment 115](#): This amendment provides funding (\$750,000) for a grant to the Pacific Science Center to increase hands-on learning opportunities for Title I K–5 students statewide by increasing access to science on wheels and virtual field trips. **AMENDMENT ADOPTED**
- [Amendment 116](#): This amendment revises language regarding a career-integrated one-to-one mentoring program. Amended language removes the limitation to serve only high school students and adds criteria that applicants must meet to request/accept a grant. This has no fiscal impact. **AMENDMENT ADOPTED**
- [Amendment 128](#): The Senate utilizes \$650.0 million of the Washington Rescue Plan Transition Account to fund its Operating Budget. This amendment increases that transfer by \$150.0 million (total transfer is \$800.0 million). **AMENDMENT ADOPTED**
- [Amendment 129](#): The underlying budget requires the Office of Financial Management to convene a Task Force to identify, plan, and make recommendations regarding the conversion of the Naselle Youth Camp property and facilities to an alternate use. The composition of the Task Force and required outcomes is outlined in proviso language. This amendment adds a state senator and a state representative whose district represents the Naselle community to the Task Force. **AMENDMENT ADOPTED**
- [Amendment 132](#): This amendment would provide funding (\$3.7 million) for dropout reengagement students to enroll up to 1.2 FTE in order to participate in summer programs. **AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN**

House 2023–25 Operating Budget

The House’s Operating Budget proposal, Proposed Substitute HB 1140, would increase spending by \$6.9 billion, from the current \$64.1 billion to \$70.0 billion (a 9.4 percent increase). The Senate proposes a \$5.1 billion increase (to \$69.2 billion). The budget is built with a \$4.0 billion Beginning Balance (a higher assumption than in the Senate), and \$1.8 billion using the majority of available revenue in the Washington Rescue Plan Transition Account (the Senate uses \$800 million). It also assumes a significant amount of assumed reversions in FY 2023 (\$253 million), and even more in the next two fiscal years (\$565 million, including \$65.0 million in “savings” due to larger-than-average K–3 class sizes) and a significant amount of remaining and/or reappropriated federal pandemic funds. The proposed budget balances in 2023–25, and, as required, is balanced in 2025–27 (albeit with only a \$297 million Ending Fund Balance, which is a bit higher than the Senate’s Ending Fund Balance; however, the Senate also has reserves of \$3.7 billion, while the House leaves \$2.6 billion in reserve).

For K–12 education, the new proposal would increase the current 27.77 billion appropriation to approximately \$30.79 billion, which is slightly higher than the Senate proposal; however, this includes a significant amount of one-time federal funds. The Senate also uses a large amount of one-time federal funds to pad its budget; however, the House uses some of its one-time federal funds for ongoing programs. For example, the House invests \$179.4 million in special education, but almost half of that increase (\$85.8 million) comes in the form of one-time funds. This is a basic education program, and federal funding will have to be replaced when it is gone. How will the House budget be sustained if one-time funds are used for ongoing programs?

Major K-12 Education Items**Special Education—\$179.4 million**

The House’s Operating Budget proposal provides funding to increase excess cost multipliers, raise the funded enrollment limit, support inclusionary practices, and lower the safety net threshold as required by [HB 1436](#). Funding is also provided

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for summer evaluations, and extended transition supports. (NOTE: almost half of this funding enhancement comes from one-time federal pandemic-related funding.)

Inflationary Factor—\$261.6 million

\$261.6 million is provided to support educator salary increases. Subject to [HB 1732](#), IPD is 3.7 percent in the 2023–24 school year, and pegged at 3.9 percent in 2024–25. Note that earlier estimates of the second-year IPD would be 3.6 percent; however, whichever number is used, it is just an estimate and can move up or down. Under HB 1732, beginning with the 2024–25 school year, the inflationary factor will be calculated as IPD for the prior calendar year. In other words, 3.9 percent is a projection; however, we will know the “real” IPD when the session convenes in 2024. (NOTE: The Senate’s version of HB 1732, [SB 5650](#), has passed the full Legislature and is awaiting action by the governor. Presumably, the final budget will reference the Senate bill.)

NOTE: The House’s Budget does NOT include any mandate to school districts to direct additional salary increases to paraeducators or classified staff, as requested by WEA—nor is additional funding provided to do so. Additionally, “accountability” language regarding salary increases, also requested by WEA, is NOT included.

Free School Meals—\$84.9 million

Funding is provided to support expanded access to free meals through the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), under [SHB 1878](#), adopted in 2022; and [HB 1238](#), which will reimburse schools serving any grade from kindergarten to grade four required to offer free meals, under provisions of the bill, for meals not reimbursed at the free federal meal rate. \$28.5 million of the total appropriation is one-time, reappropriated federal ESSER III funding.

Transition to Kindergarten—\$58.1 million

Funding is provided to implement [HB 1550](#), which creates the Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) program. Funding is sufficient to support 5,077 TTK students beginning in the 2024–25 school year.

Dual Credit Enrollment—\$19.1 million

Funding is provided to increase the Running Start enrollment limit from 1.2 FTE to 1.6 FTE.

Non-Public Schools Reappropriation—\$17.6 million

One-time federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) funding is reappropriated for allocations from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to provide emergency assistance to non-public schools.

Student Restraint and Isolation—\$15.0 million

Funding is provided to implement [HB 1479](#), which modifies provisions related to student isolation and restraint, adds training and professional development requirements, and establishes technical assistance and other forms of compliance monitoring and support. (NOTE: This bill failed to be adopted by the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee and is technically dead.)

ARPA IDEA—\$13.5 million

One-time funds are reappropriated from federal funding allocations for students with disabilities as authorized in Section 2014 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 (P.L. 117-2).

Children Experiencing Homelessness—\$8.4 million

One-time federal ESSER funding is reappropriated for the purpose of identifying children and youth experiencing homelessness and for providing them with wrap-around services due to the challenges of COVID-19 or with assistance to enable them to attend school and participate in school activities.

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Operating Budget***Continued***Small District Support—\$8.1 million**

Funding is provided to support small districts, charter schools, and state-tribal compact schools in urban and suburban areas that meet certain criteria.

Professional Education Workforce—\$8.0 million

Funding is provided to the Professional Educator Standards Board to implement [HB 1565](#), which establishes a teacher residency program and establishes educator workforce data collection and analysis requirements.

COVID-19 Learning Loss—\$8.0 million

One-time federal ESSER funding is reappropriated to OSPI to support: after-school programs (\$7.8 million); and summer programs (\$173,000).

Extended Transition Supports—\$7.0 million

One-time federal ESSER funding is provided to continue providing transition supports for students with disabilities that turn 21 in the 2023–24 or 2024–25 school years and do not graduate with a regular diploma.

Mastery-Based Learning—\$6.9 million

A series of funding, totaling \$6.9 million, is provided to support Mastery-Based Learning:

- One-time funding is provided to continue the Mastery-Based Learning demonstration projects (\$2.9 million) originally funded in the 2021–23 biennial budget. Funding includes grants to schools, contracts with professional learning providers, travel costs, and staffing.
- Funding is provided to expand the Mastery-Based Learning demonstration projects (\$3.1 million) originally funded in the 2021–23 biennial budget, which provide professional learning to schools. Funding includes grants to schools, contracts with professional learning providers, event and travel costs, and staffing.
- Funding is provided for Mastery-Based Learning evaluation research, including a contract with an external evaluator (\$719,000).
- Funding is provided for a Mastery-Based Learning resource suite, including development, curation, and maintenance of resources, along with support functions provided by State Board of Education staff (\$199,000).

Dual Language (ESSER Set Aside)—\$6.6 million

Additional ongoing funding is provided for dual language and tribal language grants. \$3.2 million of the total appropriation is one-time, reappropriated federal ESSER III funding.

Language Access in Schools—\$6.0 million

Funding is provided for training, technical assistance, and district grants to support the implementation of language access programs in school districts, as required by E2SHB 1153 (2022). \$3.0 million of the total appropriation is one-time, reappropriated federal ESSER III funding.

Behavioral and Mental Health Services—\$5.6 million

ESDs receive funding for student behavioral health and mental health services.

Behavioral Health Regional Services—\$5.0 million

Additional one-time federal ESSER funding is provided to ESDs to continue the behavioral health regional services grants funded with previous ESSER funds to support school districts with the least access to behavioral health services.

Residential Outdoor School—\$5.0 million

Additional funding is provided to support outdoor education and student leadership programs. \$2.5 million of the total appropriation is one-time, reappropriated federal ESSER III funding.

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The 2021–23 Operating Budget and the 2022 Supplemental Operating Budget provided funds to allow ESDs to provide technology consultation, procurement, and training as required by [E2SHB 1365](#) (2021). This Budget provides additional funding for learning device grants.

CBO (ESSER Set Aside)—\$4.8 million

One-time federal ESSER III funding is reappropriated to OPSI to support Community-Based Organizations (CBO) in addressing impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

BEST Program—\$4.0 million

Funding is provided to expand the Beginning Educator Support Team (BEST) program to increase the number of beginning teachers who receive mentoring.

Regional Apprenticeship—\$3.6 million

Funding is provided to implement [HB 1013](#), which creates five regional apprenticeship programs across the state.

Summer Evaluations—\$4.0 million

Funding is provided to reimburse school districts that perform special education evaluations and develop Individualized Education Programs during summer months, as required in [HB 1109](#).

OSPI Administration (ESSER Set Aside)—\$3.5 million

One-time federal funding is reappropriated to OSPI from Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III state amounts to update the apportionment and financial reporting systems to administer grant programs funded with COVID relief funds.

Career Connected Learning—\$2.7 million

Funding is transferred from the Employment Security Department to OSPI for Career Connected Learning Coordinators at the ESDs.

Homeless Student Stability—\$2.6 million

Additional funding is provided one-time for the Homeless Student Stability Program.

Open Doors Summer Pilots—\$2.5 million

Funding is provided to create summer Open Doors pilots with 12 dropout reengagement programs. \$1.3 million of the total appropriation is one-time, reappropriated federal ESSER III funding.

Treehouse Graduation Success—\$2.2 million

The House Budget provides increased funding to expand the Treehouse Graduation Success Program to up to 50 percent of middle school students experiencing foster care statewide by June 2025. \$1.1 million of the total appropriation is one-time, reappropriated federal ESSER III funding.

Behavioral Health Program Pilot—\$2.0 million

One-time funding is provided to continue behavioral health program services to provide behavioral health support and trauma-informed staff training.

Institutional Education Oversight—\$1.9 million

Funding is provided for seven FTEs to support state-level institutional education collaboration, oversight, and data collection to implement [E2SHB 1295](#) (2021). These positions will work collaboratively with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

IDEA Preschool Services—\$1.8 million

One-time federal funding from ARPA is reappropriated for students qualifying for special education preschool services under Section 619 of Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

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Funding is provided for OSPI to contract with a nonprofit organization that supports Washington teachers in implementing lessons of the Holocaust for the expansion of comprehensive Holocaust and genocide education. \$750,000 of the total appropriation is one-time, reappropriated federal ESSER III funding.

Office of Native Education—\$1.4 million

Funding is provided to the Office of Native Education to convene a work group to develop the supports necessary to serve American Indian and Alaska Native students identified as needing additional literacy supports. The work group will conduct tribal consultations, develop best practices, engage in professional learning, and develop curricula and resources to be provided to school districts and state-tribal education compact schools.

CTE/CCL (ESSER Set Aside)—\$1.4 million

One-time federal funding is provided to OSPI from ESSER III state amounts to support Career and Technical Education and Career Connected Learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Social Workers in Schools—\$1.3 million

Funding is provided to ESDs for coordination of social worker associates that agree to work in schools and supervisors working with local mental health agencies and schools.

Tribes/K–12 Instruction Funding—\$1.1 million

Funding is provided to implement [HB 1332](#), which requires all school districts to incorporate a tribal sovereignty curriculum into their social studies curricula by September 1, 2024, and authorizes OSPI to administer grants to school districts and federally recognized tribes in Washington.

Salmon in the Schools—\$1.0 million

One-time funding is provided for OSPI to contract with an organization that works directly with educators to secure salmon eggs, offer learning opportunities as the fry develops, and assist when students release the fry. \$500,000 of the total appropriation is one-time, reappropriated federal ESSER III funding.

Expand Core Plus—\$1.0 million

Increased funding is provided to expand the Core Plus program, which provides intensive Career & Technical Education experiences with the purpose of preparing students for employment in Aerospace, Construction or Maritime trades upon graduation. Core Plus is a program that meets the criteria of the CTE Graduation Pathways.

Peer Mentoring—\$816,000

Funding is provided for a grant program for up to six school districts to develop peer-to-peer support programs.

Bilingual Educator Initiative—\$762,000

Funding is provided for additional teacher academy cohorts, programmatic support, and professional development related to the Bilingual Educator Initiative.

High School and Beyond Plan—\$731,000

One-time funding is provided for OSPI to conduct a cost analysis and feasibility study on the development of an online High School and Beyond Plan platform, due by September 1, 2024.

Seal of Biliteracy—\$697,000

Funding is provided for OSPI to establish criteria for school districts to award the Seal of Biliteracy to graduating students, as well as to provide students with access to methods for students to demonstrate proficiency in less commonly taught or assessed languages.

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Operating Budget***Continued***Civic Engagement Grant Program—\$650,000**

One-time funding is provided for the Puget Sound ESD 121 to administer a Washington State Capitol Civic Engagement grant program for the Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton, and Tukwila school districts.

African Community—\$625,000

One-time federal ESSER funding is for an organization located in SeaTac to provide wraparound social services and expand and maintain education and family engagement programs that serve students and families in the Federal Way and Highline School Districts. The organization must focus on housing and social services, education, and economic development for African immigrant and refugee communities.

Charter School Oversight—\$558,000

Funding is provided for additional charter oversight duties required under [HB 1744](#).

Northwest Education Access—\$500,000

One-time funding is provided for OSPI to contract with a nonprofit organization serving Opportunity Youth in Pierce, King, and Snohomish counties. The organization must assist traditionally underrepresented students on nontraditional educational pathways by providing mentorship and technical assistance in navigating higher education and financial aid. \$250,000 of the total appropriation is one-time, reappropriated federal ESSER III funding.

Career-Integrated Mentoring—\$500,000

Additional funding is provided one-time for career-integrated mentoring services. \$250,000 of the total appropriation is one-time, reappropriated federal ESSER III funding.

Yakima Valley Safe—\$350,000

One-time funding is provided for OSPI to contract with a nonprofit organization to develop and provide a Latino youth resource and support program for students. \$100,000 of the total appropriation is one-time, reappropriated federal ESSER III funding.

Continuing Education—\$329,000

Funding is provided to implement [HB 1377](#), which removes the limitation that certain required continuing education for administrators and teachers be provided only by identified clock hour providers and instead directs the Professional Educator Standards Board to approve the continuing education providers as specified.

Military Spouse Employment—\$305,000

Funding is provided to implement [HB 1009](#), which establishes requirements for certain state agencies and licensing authorities related to the professional licensing and employment of military spouses.

Snohomish Arts and Culture Programs—\$300,000

One-time funding is provided for arts and culture programs in Snohomish County for children from diverse backgrounds. \$150,000 of the total appropriation is one-time reappropriated federal ESSER III funding.

AIM Program—\$276,000

Additional funding is provided one-time for the Academic Innovation and Mentoring (AIM) Program.

Graduation Pathway Options—\$271,000

Funding is provided to implement [HB 1308](#), which establishes an additional graduation pathway option that enables students to meet pathway requirements by completing a performance-based learning experience.

Maritime Academy—\$150,000

One-time funding is provided for OSPI to conduct or contract to conduct a feasibility study for a Maritime Academy located on the Olympic Peninsula.

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Project Education Impact—\$150,000

Funding is provided for OSPI to contract with a nongovernmental agency to coordinate and serve as a fiscal agent and to cover direct costs of the Project Education Impact Workgroup to achieve educational parity for students experiencing foster care and/or homelessness.

Plant-based School Meals—\$150,000

One-time funding is provided for OSPI to administer grants to school districts for a Plant-based School Meals Pilot Program.

Purple Star Award—\$145,000

Funding is provided to implement [HB 1346](#), which establishes the Purple Star Award to recognize school districts and schools that demonstrate educational and social-emotional supports to students of military service members.

Summer Meals (ESSER Set Aside)—\$143,000

One-time federal funding is provided to OSPI from ESSER III state amounts for grants for supplies, equipment, staffing, and services to increase access to meals in the 2023–24 school year, or the summer prior to the start of the school year.

Institutional Education Programs—\$143,000

Funding is provided to implement [HB 1701](#), which, among other provisions, directs OSPI to develop a timeline and plan for assuming the delineated basic education responsibilities.

Deliberative Democracy Program—\$124,000

One-time funding is provided for the High School Deliberative Democracy Climate Change education program.

Educational Staff Associates—\$113,000

One-time funding is provided for the Professional Educator Standards Board to review national certification opportunities for Educational Staff Associates through the relevant national associations for their profession and through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Bilingual Education Endorsement—\$71,000

One-time funding is provided for the Professional Educator Standards Board to collaborate with OSPI to report on a plan to align bilingual education and English language learner endorsement standards and to determine language assessment requirements for multilingual teachers and paraeducators. The report is due to the Legislature by September 1, 2023.

Child Nutrition Staffing Analysis—\$60,000

One-time funding is provided for OSPI to conduct an analysis of child nutrition staffing.

Vancouver Skills Center Support—\$50,000

One-time funding is provided for a Skills Center located in Vancouver, Washington to support the center's criminal justice and fire science programs.

Childcare Development Materials—\$50,000

One-time funding is provided for up to two high schools to develop materials to be used by school districts to provide courses and hands on work experience in early childhood development and child care services.

Professional Educator Reprimands—\$28,000

One-time funding is provided to implement [HB 1113](#), which requires the Professional Educator Standards Board to adopt rules providing for reviewing and vacating reprimands related to behavior that did not involve a student issued to certificated professional educators.

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Funding is reduced and made one-time in the 2023–25 biennium for the Skills Center integrated pathway.

Institutional Student Records—(\$200,000)

Funding is removed for a records coordinator at Naselle Youth Academy due to its closure.

Financial Literacy Transfer—(\$2.4 million)

Funding is transferred from OSPI to the Financial Education Public-Private Partnership.

Transitional Kindergarten—(\$61.8 million)

Federal funding from allocations from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) are provided for Transitional Kindergarten (TK) programs in the 2023–24 school year. The federal funds supplant state funding, providing a “savings” of \$61.8 million.

Reappropriations of Federal Pandemic Funds

In addition to one-time federal pandemic funds to support programs above, there are significant remaining federal pandemic funds that have been reappropriated providing additional one-time funding without any specific directed use. The following three pots of money total \$794.8 million:

- **ESSER III Subgrants—\$671.4 million**
Federal ESSER III subgrant funding is reappropriated to local education agencies for the allowable uses in the ARPA.
- **ESSER III Learning Loss Subgrants—\$123.4 million**
Federal funding is reappropriated from ESSER III funds, as authorized by Section 2001 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 (P.L. 117-2), for subgrants to local education agencies for learning loss.
- **ESSER II Reappropriation—\$102.0 million**
Federal ESSER II sub grant funding is reappropriated to local education agencies for the allowable uses in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.

Other Details

Minimum Statewide Salary Allocations. The Senate’s proposed Budget includes the following minimum statewide salary allocations:

- **2023–24**
 - Certificated Instructional Staff: \$75,419
 - Certificated Administrative Staff: \$111,950
 - Classified Staff: \$54,103
- **2024–25**
 - Certificated Instructional Staff: \$78,360
 - Certificated Administrative Staff: \$116,316
 - Classified Staff: \$56,213

Regionalization & Experience Factor. Funding for regionalization and the experience factor are “baked in” the salary increases. As required, the House budget does provide for a regionalization “rebase,” beginning in the 2023–24 school year. While the current law does not specifically require a rebase of the experience factor (this was a sloppy oversight when legislators adopted the “*McCleary* fix” in 2018), it appears they will adjust experience factors alongside of regionalization.

The list of school districts and their regionalization (if any) and eligibility for the experience factor can be found in [LEAP Document 3](#), dated March 24, 2023, at 06:09 hours. For districts that have reduced regionalization factors, the House proposal provides \$23.4 million to “phase-down” those reductions over two years. For example, if your district currently receives a 1.09 regionalization factor and it is

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set to be reduced to 1.06, for the 2023–24 school year, your district would receive a 1.075 regionalization factor, then 1.06 in 2024–25. Certainly, this is not the best scenario; however, a full “hold harmless” was a nonstarter for most legislators.

Regarding the experience factor, unfortunately there is not a similar protection for districts that are set to lose the experience factor of 4.0 percent.

We continue to press legislators to protect the 32 districts that will lose eligibility for the experience factor. It continues to be an uphill battle; however, we are attempting to persuade legislators to at least put a hold on rebasing the experience factor and negatively impacting so many districts. To keep these districts whole, it would cost \$8.5 million. We have been trying since the experience factor was first implemented to adjust the law—and in the last three years, we pressed heavily in support of bills on the table that would have solved this problem. In 2021 and 2022 ([HB 1419](#)), the issue was ignored. This session, a bill was heard ([SB 5671](#)), but never advanced. Commitments have been made to address this issue next session; however, that will be too late for these 32 districts. If you are in one of those districts set to lose the experience factor, this would be the appropriate time to get on the horn or drop a note to your legislators (and members of both fiscal committees).

Local Effort Assistance. Due to spikes in housing values, many districts are set to lose some—or all—of their Local Effort Assistance (LEA or “levy equalization”) funding. The House 2023 Supplemental Operating Budget proposal provides \$23.0 million to help mitigate those losses. See [LEAP Document 4](#), dated March 24, 2023, at 06:09 hours.