



# TWIO

*This Week In Olympia*

**Special Edition: *Sine Die***

**April 28, 2025**



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## About TWIO

***This Week in Olympia (TWIO)* is published by WASA in support of our members and members of our partners in WASBO, WSPA, and AEA.**

**This *Sine Die* Special Edition is the last TWIO of the 2025 Regular Session. TWIO's are archived on WASA's website at <https://wasa-oly.org/WASA/TWIO>.**



## Sine Die Review

Last night, about 6:30 p.m., the 69th Biennial Legislature adjourned its 2025 Session, *Sine Die*. *Sine Die* is Latin for “without day,” or “without any future date being designated,” meaning the legislative session has concluded, without setting a day to reconvene. Technically, *Sine Die* does not really work for our Legislature, given that the state constitution dictates the Legislature annually convene a session, beginning the second Monday in January. But why quibble over tradition?

Over the past 105 days the Legislature: introduced over 2,200 bills, resolutions, and memorials; and adopted 424 bills (including three Joint Memorials and one Joint Resolution). Adopted bills include the 2025–27 Operating Budget ([SB 5167](#)), the 2025–27 Capital Construction Budget ([SB 5195](#), along with a necessary Bond bill, [5194](#)), and the 2025–27 Transportation Budget ([SB 5161](#), along with a necessary revenue package, [SB 5801](#) and [SB 5802](#)). In the last couple of weeks, there was heavy speculation that a Special Session would be necessary to complete the Legislature's business; however, like many sessions, the impending deadline, and the bad political look of needed additional time (especially when Democrats have overwhelming majorities in both houses and occupy the governor's mansion), forced prompt action in the waning days of the session. All three of the new two-year budgets were released on Saturday and quickly adopted yesterday.

With the gavel falling last night, everyone is diving into Budget details (see below our initial review of the Operating and Capital Budgets) and taking stock of wins and losses. There will be time for that; however, we will use this last 2025 TWIO to update you on a few key issues.

First, an update on two major, late-arriving bills we have been working: [HB 2049](#) and [HB 2050](#). Remember, HB 2049 was an updated version of HB 1356 discussed early on in the session. [HB 1356](#) would have: increased the Property Tax 101 percent revenue growth limit; increased local school district levy lids; increased the Local Effort Assistance (LEA) “threshold”; eliminated the 16.0 percent special education enrollment lid; provided for increases in rates and days addressing substitute costs; and required OSPI to convene a K–12 Funding Equity Work Group to analyze “K–12 funding formulas and explore options for

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revisions to the funding formula that are responsive to student needs, including economic, demographic, and geographic differences in student and community populations.”

HB 1356 was amended and adopted by the House Finance Committee. One of the amendments provided for additional increases in the LEA threshold. Rather than move to the full House for action, however, the bill was rereferred to the House Appropriations Committee—and it died there without action.

Almost a month later, HB 2049 was introduced, which mirrored HB 1356. There were three major differences in the new HB 2049: the increase in the Property Tax revenue growth limit was modified; the additional LEA funding provided in the House Finance Committee amendment was not present; and the additional funding to address substitutes was removed.

HB 2049 morphed multiple times as it moved through the legislative process. Amendments adopted in the House Finance Committee: made several changes to the Property Tax revenue growth limit provisions; deleted the provisions to eliminate the special education 16.0 percent enrollment cap (which would have duplicated the cap elimination adopted in [SB 5263](#)); and reduced the level of additional funding for Local Effort Assistance. As the bill moved from the full House, the Property Tax changes were removed (similar Property Tax changes in other bills were also deleted, as the governor came out in opposition). Additionally, the LEA provisions were dramatically changed. The current law inflationary factor to increase the threshold, the Consumer Price Index or CPI, was amended to the Implicit Price Deflator or IPD and then proposed increases in the LEA threshold were stripped from the bill. Additionally, requirements for the K–12 Funding Equity Workgroup were modified, requiring the Workgroup to analyze and report on economic disparities in communities’ access to resources and modifications to state and local tax authority for schools.

Following action in the House, the bill only took four days to be heard and adopted by the Senate Ways & Means Committee, then moved to the Senate Floor to be debated and adopted. The bill was adopted, Final Passage, by the full Senate on Saturday and is on its way to the governor for action.

So, the details. Under the bill, the local levy lid, in addition to the current inflation factor (CPI), all districts would receive a \$500 “inflation enhancement” in Calendar Year 2026; and districts with less than 40,000 students would receive an annual “inflation enhancement” of 3.33 percent in Calendar Years 2027–30. In Calendar Year 2031, the maximum per-pupil rate (for all districts) would be \$5,035 (plus annual CPI inflation thereafter), beginning with property taxes levied for collection in 2032.

For Local Effort Assistance, the current law annual inflation factor changes from CPI to IPD and no increases are provided to the LEA threshold. We were told not to worry that the new two-year Budget would include increases to LEA. As described below, there IS additional funding for LEA in the final Budget. There are major concerns, however. While the local levy lid increases by almost 60 percent (almost 30 percent for districts with more than 40,000 students) over the next six years, LEA increases about 25 percent over the next two years—we do not know what, if any, increases will be provided after that because the new Budget will expire June 30, 2027. Additionally, the increases provided for the levy lid will continue to increase via inflation, using CPI. The LEA threshold will also automatically increase, but will inflate using a smaller inflationary factor, IPD. Bottom line: the current inequities between property rich and property poor districts will continue to widen.

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Please don't be fooled by our State Superintendent who, while supporting the increase in the levy lid, [publicly stated](#) (at 43:25) that Local Effort Assistance is "a really nice thing to do." Enhancing equity via sufficient funding for LEA is actually a "must do," not a "nice thing to do." And his argument that "every district can benefit" from increasing the levy lid (with or without LEA), is a fallacy. Certainly, this provides every district the "opportunity" to increase their levy, but political realities are clear that some districts cannot and will not benefit from these increases. And inequities will increase if they do not have additional access to LEA. Of course, this does not even address those districts that cannot pass a higher levy and are not eligible for LEA (regardless of the funding). These "middle" districts are simply ignored.

We have also discussed at length HB 2050, the so-called K-12 "Savings and Efficiencies" bill. This bill was fast-tracked through the process. It was introduced late to address the Budget and took just over two weeks to move through the process in the House, then took four days to be adopted by the Senate. On Saturday, the Senate adopted the bill on Final Passage, and it is on its way to the governor's office for action.

HB 2050 addresses two issues: Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) enrollment and the school district apportionment schedule. Under provisions of the bill, school districts that have "excessive" ALE enrollment are penalized with reductions in Local Effort Assistance. Districts that have at least 33 percent of ALE enrollment above total enrollment, would lose a portion of their Local Effort Assistance funds.

Under this plan, the student enrollment used to calculate LEA is reduced; the reduction is equal to the school district's full-time equivalent students enrolled in ALE courses, minus 33 percent of the average annual full-time equivalent student enrollment. As an example, if a school district has a total enrollment of 100 average annual full-time equivalent student enrollment, and 50 of those students are enrolled in an ALE program, then the total enrollment would be reduced to 83 students for purposes of LEA calculations.

As noted, this bill was introduced late in the session; however, it caught fire quickly. In fact, the fire was already being stoked, as the same provisions were in a Senate bill, [SB 5772](#). SB 5772, without much conversation among legislators (WASA, WSSDA and impacted school districts made their voices heard, however), the bill flew out of the Senate. It was referred to the House Appropriations Committee; however, it was never acted upon because shortly before SB 5772 arrived in the House, representatives introduced HB 2050. Both of the original legislative Budget proposals included a "savings" due to this bill, so it seemed likely HB 2050 would be approved.

The bill's ALE provisions only impact a small handful of districts, although it will have a major effect on those districts. The second part of HB 2050, however, would negatively impact all 295 school districts. The bill would adjust the school district apportionment payment schedule. This scheme reduces apportionment payments in February, March, and April and increases payment in August. Under this plan, the state would "save" almost \$400 million, although in reality the state saves nothing. The Legislature is still obligated to provide this funding, but the apportionment shift moves some of the required spending into the next biennium. On paper, the state "saves" significant money, while the burden falls on school districts, adding to their current financial difficulties.

On Friday, the Senate Ways & Means Committee took executive action on the bill. An amendment from the Committee Chair, Senator June Robinson (D-Everett),

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would remove the apportionment shift from the bill. Because the amendment was introduced by the Chair of the Committee, it was assumed the amendment would be adopted—which it was. We had to temper our excitement, however, because, while the Senate did not have a bill addressing this issue, it was included as proviso language in their Budget proposal.

On Saturday, when the final Budget was released, this was one of the first things many of us looked for—low and behold there was NO apportionment shift!

Another loss was the (mostly expected) adoption of Unemployment Insurance for striking workers, [SB 5041](#). Labor-supporting Democrats fought amongst themselves as the Senate adopted the bill providing a maximum benefit for 12 weeks, while the House adopted the bill supporting only four weeks. Eventually a Conference Committee was established to hash out details and ultimately adopted a Conference Report supporting a [compromise](#) of six weeks.

There are multiple arguments for school districts to oppose the provision of Unemployment Insurance for striking workers; however, two of our arguments were that the bill would provide an incentive to strike and would provide an incentive to prolong a strike. (Those arguments were pooh poohed by supporters, but our view was proven when [The Daily Olympian](#) wrote an article about the bill and quoted an employee who was advocating for the bill. She stated, “In the future, if we should happen to go on strike again, knowing that this UI bill that we have is going to give me more of a **security to fight longer** if needed.”)

I will not rehash all of the taxes that were discussed/adopted (for some of the details, see [TWIO, Week 14](#)); however, I do want to mention two bills that ultimately failed. The first is [SB 5798](#). Originally, this bill would have increased the Property Tax revenue growth limit; however, as noted above, these provisions were deleted at the behest of the governor. Two other provisions moved forward at the Committee level, however. You might recall, as part of the “*McCleary Solution*” in 2017 the State Property Tax was separated into two pieces, Part I and Part II. SB 5798 would have consolidated those two parts. Additionally, the bill would have required County Assessors, when they send out annual property tax statements, to identify the State Property Tax as the “State School Levy.” Ultimately, the bill died on the Senate Floor Calendar.

The second tax bill of note is [SB 5797](#). This is the so-called Wealth Tax, which is another revenue bill that the governor requested to be set down (and threatened to veto it, if the Legislature adopted it). The governor, however, did mention he would be “willing to have a conversation” about supporting a smaller Wealth Tax, perhaps raising “\$100 million” to use as bait for a lawsuit (my description, not his). SB 5797 was in fact modified to raise about \$100 million. It passed the full Senate but died in the House Finance Committee without action. The other reason to mention this is the bill’s intent statement. This writer has been critical of legislators for including “intent” statements in many of their taxes that note the reason for the new revenue is to “support K–12,” yet most of those bills directed new proceeds to the State General Fund. As amended, SB 5797 redirected the proceeds to the Education Legacy Trust Account (ELTA). As we have discussed before, the ELTA is for “education” in the broad sense: early learning, K–12, and higher education. Most of the ELTA goes to early learning, but at least there was recognition that if you claim the funds are for education, they should be dedicated to education.

During the last few weeks, we have spent a lot of time discussing the bill’s above; however, there were hundreds of other education-related bills on the table that we did not have time to discuss in these newsletters (they would be 50-page monsters



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that you likely would not read, even if we could produce them). We do actively watch and/or engage in other legislation, much of which you should be aware—because they have implications (positive or negative) for students, staff, and your school districts.

**To get you completely caught up, each year we report on ALL of the bills on our tracking list in our End of Session Report; which WASA staff has begun to work on. The 2025 Report will include complete details on the 2025–27 Operating and Capital Budgets (not just the highpoint summaries we provide in our Special Edition *TWIOs*), along with a comprehensive review of the many education-related bills the Legislature addressed this session. It will be emailed to all *TWIO* subscribers (and available on the WASA website) as soon as it is completed.**

## 2025–27 Operating Budget

Below are details of the final 2025–27 Operating Budget, as adopted by the Legislature. This is not a comprehensive review but covers most of the major education-related details. Note, however, education funding provided outside of “Part V—Education” is not included in this summary. Also, programs that have no changes (up or down) are not included here.

The **Conference Committee Report** (final negotiated document) on the 2025–27 Operating Budget was released and signed on Saturday, as expected, and was adopted by the full House and Senate yesterday.

First, there is some debate about how big the revenue package will be. Budget documents indicate the bills in the new revenue package will provide \$4.3 billion in 2025–27 (and \$4.4 billion in 2027–29). Additional legislation, transfers, etc. increase that total to \$5.1 billion in 2025–27 (and \$3.4 billion in 2027–29). This brings the overall total new revenue to \$8.5 billion over four years. As noted, though, there is a dispute about whether that reported \$8.5 billion figure is accurate. One source tagged the revenue increase at \$9.4 billion, and we have heard estimates as high as \$10.4 billion. Regardless of which figure is the “correct” figure, there will be significant additional revenues adopted this session. The question now comes down to the governor. Supposedly, the governor’s target was \$8.0 billion; did legislators hit the sweet spot? To be determined. (There is some speculation that he may veto major portions of the Budget.)

Overall, the 2025–27 Operating Budget will appropriate \$77.87 billion. This is an increase of \$5.93 billion over the previous 2023–25 Operating Budget (including new appropriations in the 2025 Supplemental Operating Budget totaling \$752 million). Of this increase, required Maintenance Level spending totals \$4.89 billion, while discretionary Policy Level spending totals \$1.04 billion.

For K–12 education, appropriations increase by \$2.46 billion. Unfortunately, as expected, REQUIRED Maintenance Level spending totals \$2.09 billion, far outstripping discretionary Policy Level appropriations of \$376.9 million. In the 2023–25 Biennium, K–12 education spending comprised 43.4 percent of the overall Operating Budget. Even with the significant increase in Maintenance Level spending (which is required), the percentage of K–12 spending in the new two-year Operating Budget *drops* to 43.2 percent.

As a side note, Governor Ferguson—throughout his campaign, in his “[Budget Priorities](#)” released after he was elected, in meetings with reporters before session, and in his [Inaugural Address](#)—touted his support for K–12 education.

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He consistently stated, “I intend to increase the percentage of the budget going to support our K–12 students.” He also regularly called for the share of the K–12 investment to grow, specifically mentioning education should occupy at least 50 percent of the overall Operating Budget. Unfortunately, between his Inaugural Address through the adjournment of this session, I do not recall anytime he mentioned K–12 education. Absent in the K–12 discussion for 102 days of this session, he again touted his support upon adjournment. Last night, Governor Ferguson issued a statement, wherein he reviewed accomplishments of the Legislature (taking credit for much of those actions). For K–12 education he noted, “When I campaigned for governor, I promised to increase the percent of our General Fund devoted to our K–12 system. ***This operating budget meets that goal.***” [Emphasis added] I don’t know where he bought his calculator, but it obviously does not work. Unless I misunderstand math, 43.2 percent is LESS than 43.4 percent.

Full details are available on the Legislature’s budget website, [HERE](#). On this page you can find the final bill (Conference Report), funding summaries, and the comprehensive agency detail.

**Special Education—\$309.6 million**

Using updated data, this total is a bit larger than we were expecting. The OSPI estimate to fund [SB 5263](#) was about \$273 million. The increases come from changes in the excess cost multipliers (\$192.9 million); the elimination of the 16.0 percent enrollment cap (\$81.7 million); and a reduction in the threshold for the Safety Net (\$35.0 million). Another \$12.4 million is appropriated to implement [SB 5253](#), requiring the provision of special education and related services for students with disabilities through the end of the school year in which a student turns age 22.

**MSOC—\$78.9 million**

The final approval of [SB 5192](#) resulted in an increase of \$35.27 per K–12 student and \$4.69 per student for the high school, grades 9–12, enhancement. Understand that the Operating Budget also provides a required Maintenance Level increase of \$45.99 per K–12 student (total \$81.26) and \$6.12 per student, grades 9–12 (total \$10.81). Do not be misled when legislators claim they provided \$81 per K–12 student and another \$10 per grade 9–12 student. They should not take credit for spending they are obligated to provide; the actual increase legislators adopted is a paltry \$39.96 per student (K–12 and 9–12 total).

**Levy/Local Effort Assistance—\$113.6 million**

[HB 2049](#) was adopted, which provides for a significant increase in the local school district levy lid, phased in over the next six years. In 2031, the maximum levy will be \$5,035 per pupil. Of course, this costs the state zero dollars, so there is no appropriation in the Budget. The “equity” measure, Local Effort Assistance (LEA), does have funding provided. The LEA “inflation enhancements” in HB 2049 were stripped from the bill prior to adoption and similar enhancements are provided in the final Budget. \$137.0 million is provided to increase the LEA threshold by \$150 per pupil in Calendar Year 2026 and another \$250 per pupil in Calendar Year 2027. The threshold also increases annually by inflation; however, HB 2049 changed the inflation factor from CPI to IPD, causing a reduction in LEA funding of \$6.4 million. Additionally, another reduction of \$17.0 million is due to adoption of [HB 2050](#), which limits the enrollment allowed to be used for LEA calculations for school districts with “excessive” Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) enrollment.

**Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)—\$17.9 million**

Funding is provided for additional reimbursements to school districts participating

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in the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for meals not reimbursed at the federal free meal rate.

**Inclusionary Practices—\$16.8 million**

\$12.8 million is provided to support 20 pilot sites establishing School-wide Centers of Excellence under [SB 5263](#). An additional \$4.0 million is provided for: six demonstration sites to support inclusive teaching practice and student behavior management practices; and 16 pilot sites committed to adopting best practices, in accordance with SB 5263.

**Quarterly Safety Net Payments—\$11.8 million**

Funding is shifted to Fiscal Year 2026 for quarterly safety net payments made to non-public providers and small school districts as required under [SB 5263](#).

**Charter Enrichment—\$7.7 million**

Charter schools are provided with \$1,500 per pupil for enrichment in Fiscal Year 2026.

**Inclusive Teaching Sites—\$4.0 million**

Funding is provided for six demonstration sites to support inclusive teaching practices and student behavior management practices and 16 pilot sites committed to adopting best practices pursuant to [SB 5263](#).

**School District Financial Health—\$2.8 million**

Funding is provided for additional staff and resources at OSPI to provide regional and local technical assistance to support improved school district financial health statewide.

**Continue MBL Demonstration Projects—\$2.0 million**

Additional funding is provided to support the existing Mastery-based Learning (MBL) program, which includes grant funding and professional learning for demonstration site school districts.

**Dual Language Grants—\$1.5 million**

Funding is provided in Fiscal Year 2026 for grants for school districts to begin or expand dual language programs.

**Ninth Grade Success—\$1.5 million**

Funding is provided in Fiscal Year 2026 for grants to school districts for the Ninth Grade Success program, which helps ninth grade students stay on track to graduate high school.

**IT Academy—\$1.5 million**

Funding is provided to continue the Microsoft Information Technology (IT) Academy program in Fiscal Year 2026.

**Public Education System—\$1.4 million**

Funding is provided for [HB 1296](#), which, among other provisions, requires policies and procedures of school districts, charter schools, and state-tribal education compact schools to prioritize the protection of every student's safety, access to a free public education, and privacy.

**Homeless Student Support—\$1.2 million**

Funding is provided in Fiscal Year 2026 for the Homeless Student Stability Education on Program (HSSEP).

***N.D. v Reykdal*—\$660,000**

Funding is provided for costs resulting from *N.D. v. Reykdal* litigation.

**Equity and Civil Rights Monitoring—\$642,000**

Funding is provided to increase staff at the OSPI Office of Equity and Civil Rights to investigate discrimination complaints.

**Competency-based Education—\$574,000**

Funding is provided to implement [SB 5189](#), which makes changes toward

implementation of competency-based education.

#### **Holocaust and Genocide Education—\$500,000**

Funding is provided to contract with a nonprofit organization that supports Washington teachers in implementing lessons of the Holocaust for the purpose of comprehensive Holocaust and genocide awareness education.

#### **Science on Wheels—\$500,000**

Funding is provided for a grant to the Pacific Science Center to increase hands-on learning opportunities for low income K–5 students statewide by increasing access to Science on Wheels and Digital Discovery Workshops.

#### **ESD SEBB Adjustment—\$487,000**

The monthly employer funding rate for the School Employees' Benefits Board Program is adjusted to \$1,306 for Fiscal Year 2026 and \$1,336 for Fiscal Year 2027. These rates assume the implementation of [HB 1123](#), and a reduction in the premium stabilization reserve for self-insured medical claims from 7.0 percent to 5.0 percent.

#### **Summer EBT State Match—\$299,000**

A 50 percent state match is provided to access federal Summer EBT Program administrative funding. The program provides money to families to support children that lose access to free and reduced-price meals during the summer months.

#### **Alternative Pupil Transportation Vehicles—\$236,000**

While not earth-shattering policy that will save education, [SB 5009](#) (a “good little bill” as we say in Olympia) allows school districts to use their Pupil Transportation allocation for a vehicle type deemed by a district to be “a safe and cost-effective manner of transporting its students,” rather than being required to buy a big, yellow school bus. Funding is provided to implement the bill.

#### **Charter School Technical Assistance—\$204,000**

Additional funding Charter School Oversight Account State (not the General Fund) is provided for the development of an online complaint system for students and parents, and technical assistance to charter schools and their boards upon request.

#### **Latino Students Community Supports—\$200,000**

Funding is provided in Fiscal Year 2026 for OSPI to contract with a non-profit organization to develop and provide a Latino youth resource and support program for students.

#### **Muslim & Arab Community Organization—\$200,000**

Funding is provided for the Puget Sound ESD 121 to contract with a Washington-based Muslim educational organization, with expertise in curriculum about Muslim and Arab history, to develop curriculum that supports Washington teachers in implementing and incorporating lessons on Islamophobia.

#### **Aviation Academy—\$179,000**

Funding is provided to the Peninsula School District Aviation Academy, designed to prepare students for diverse careers in the aviation industry.

#### **CTE Careers Work Group—\$176,000**

Funding is provided to implement [HB 1414](#), which, among other provisions, expands and directs the statewide Career and Technical Education Task Force to recommend changes to laws and practices affecting the training, certification, and employment of 16- and 17-year-olds enrolled in or who completed Career and Technical Education programs.

#### **Educational Interpreters—\$138,000**



Funding is provided to implement [SB 5025](#), which requires that OSPI award and track certifications for deaf and deaf-blind educational interpreters.

**School Emergency Response—\$60,000**

Funding is provided to implement [SB 5004](#), which requires OSPI to compile and report to the Legislature on school district’s implementation of emergency response systems.

**Cannabis Revenue Distributions—\$54,000**

Appropriations from the Dedicated Cannabis Account (not the General Fund) are adjusted pursuant to current law and the March 2025 revenue forecast.

**Remote Testing—\$49,000**

Funding is provided to implement [SB 5193](#), which directs OSPI to implement and support remote testing.

**Teacher Residency & Apprenticeship—\$28,000**

Funding is provided for [HB 1651](#), which, among other provisions, describes and establishes requirements for a teacher residency, which is a teacher preparation model, and describes a teacher apprenticeship model and establishes requirements for the content and approval of a teacher apprenticeship model.

**Interfund Loans—\$21,000**

Funding is provided to implement [SB 5412](#), which provides temporary interfund loans for school districts.

**Vital Record Access—\$20,000**

Funding is provided to implement [SB 5030](#), which directs OSPI to pass rules for the acceptance of birth certificates for enrollment.

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Perhaps some of the most impactful decisions in the 2025–27 Operating Budget are not what legislators chose to fund, but what education funding they chose to cut. Below are some of the major reductions in the education section of the Budget.

**Grant Programs—(\$138.1 million)**

As originally proposed by the House, the final Budget removes funding for ALL OSPI grant programs, beginning in Fiscal Year 2026. Following are just a handful of examples of grant/pass-through funding that will be eliminated (NOTE: some of these programs receive a direct appropriation in the new Budget. For example, Dual Language pass-through funding is eliminated from OSPI Budget; however, the new Budget provides specific funding for this program).

- Dual Language Grants
- Extracurricular Activities and ASB
- Holocaust and Genocide Education
- Homeless Students Support
- IT Academy
- Kip Tokuda Civil Liberties Education
- Latino Students Community Supports
- Ninth Grade Success
- Open Doors Summer Pilots
- Outdoor/FieldSTEM
- Science on Wheels

**Transition to Kindergarten—(\$74.6 million)**

As expected, legislation was adopted ([SB 5769](#)) to “cap” enrollment for the

Transition to Kindergarten program at the 2024–25 School Year enrollment level.

**Persistently Low-achieving Schools—(\$28.7 million)**

Savings are achieved by eliminating funding to implement programs relating to transforming persistently failing schools. The funding supports the creation and operation of a differentiated system of school improvement activities, as well as operation of the Required Action District program.

**Federal Forest Deductible Revenue—(\$12.4 million)**

Deductions to general apportionment of federal forest revenues received by school districts are resumed beginning in the 2025–26 School Year.

**Career Connected Learning—(\$11.2 million)**

Funding for Career Connect Learning programs are reduced. Savings include reduced coordinators at ESDs and reduced program funding at OSPI.

**Paraeducator Training Underspend—(\$9.0 million)**

Savings are achieved by reducing paraeducator training grants to align with actual spending.

**ESD Reduction—(\$8.4 million)**

As proposed by the Senate, Educational Service District staffing and administrative funding is reduced.

**TPEP Training—(\$4.0 million)**

Funding is reduced for the training of teachers, principals, and principal evaluators in the Performance-based Teacher Principal Evaluation Program.

**OSPI Administrative Reduction—(\$2.1 million)**

OSPI administrative funding is reduced by six percent.

**Statewide Programs—(\$1.5 million)**

Funding for statewide programs at OSPI is reduced by six percent.

**Social Workers in Schools—(\$1.3 million)**

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

**PESB Reduction—(\$313,000)**

Professional Educator Standards Board administrative funding is reduced by six percent.

**SBE Reduction—(\$237,000)**

State Board of Education administrative funding is reduced by six percent.

## 2025–27 Capital Budget

The Capital Construction Budget ([SB 5195](#)) passed the full Senate the first part of April, but sat on the House Floor Calendar as it awaited negotiations. A final, compromise Budget was released on Saturday and passed the House on Sunday. Later that day, the Senate concurred with the House amendments (which were agreed upon in negotiations) and sent the bill to the governor’s office for action.

The final Capital Construction Budget is a \$7.5 billion package (including \$4.5 billion in new debt limit bond spending, via [SB 5194](#)—which authorizes \$4.7 billion in bonds) funds construction and infrastructure projects across Washington. Public comments from budget-writers emphasize the Budget makes “major

investments in affordable housing, public school construction, and protection of the state’s fish, water, and natural resources.”

Major spending in the Budget include: significant investments in K–12 construction, consisting of almost \$1.0 billion (\$975.0 million); \$827 million for natural resources, and \$772 million for housing and homelessness. For full details, including text of the final Budget bill (along with the bond bill), a summary, a list of funded projects, and the appropriate LEAP documents, go to the Legislature’s [“fiscal information” website](#).

Below are the funded K–12 programs and projects:

#### **School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP)—\$429.6 million**

Funding is provided for state assistance to qualifying school districts for construction, renovation, and modernization of K–12 school facilities. Funding is also allowed to be used for study and survey grants to enable districts to qualify for school construction grant assistance.

#### **Small District and Tribal Compact Schools Modernization—\$202.4 million**

Funding is provided for modernization grants for small school districts and state-tribal education compact schools with total enrollments of 1,000 students or less with significant building system deficiencies and limited financial capacity as approved by OSPI’s Small District Modernization Grant Advisory Committee. See the [Projects List](#).

#### **School Seismic Safety Grant Program—\$151.5 million**

Funding is provided solely for seismic planning, remediation and relocation project grants to school districts and state-tribal education compact schools, as authorized under the School Seismic Safety Grant Program. The Budget provides grants for the following projects: Cape Flattery—Neah Bay K–12 Campus Relocation (\$92.3 million); Taholah—K–12 School Relocation (\$42.8 million); North Beach—Ocean Shores—Vertical Evacuation Tower (\$8.2 million); and North Beach—Pacific Beach Elementary Relocation (\$8.2 million). See the [Seismic Safety Grant Program](#).

#### **West Sound Technical Skills Center Modernization—\$42.0 million**

Funding is provided for modernization of the West Sound Technical Skills Center.

#### **School District Health & Safety—\$31.0 million**

Funding is provided for grants to address school facility health and safety projects, prioritizing districts that lack local funding. This continuing project provides three grant subprograms to address urgent repair requests, equal access, and emergency repairs.

#### **SCAPR Transitional Projects—\$24.1 million**

OSPI and stakeholders continue to review the current School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) as a part of the School Construction Assistance Program Revision (SCAPR) Planning, with the objective of modifying and improving the current program. There is recognition that some school district projects will be ready to proceed to construction during this planning and revision period. The Budget provides funding for three transitional projects: Inchelium K–12 Modernization (\$10.0 million); Pe Ell K–12 Modernization (\$8.1 million); and Bridgeport Elementary Modernization (\$6.0 million). See [SCAPR Transitional Projects](#).

#### **Classroom Indoor Air Quality Projects—\$17.5 million**

Funding is provided for grants to school districts for indoor air quality assessments.

**Distressed Schools—\$15.0 million**

Funding is provided to address student capacity needs, safety, and inadequate building systems in school and Skills Center facilities. Funding in the Budget supports these projects: Lawton Elementary School (\$6.2 million); Maritime 253: South Puget Sound Maritime Skills Center (\$5.0 million); TOPS K–8 School (\$3.5 million); and Acme Elementary Modernization (\$237,000). See [Distressed Schools](#).

**Healthy Kids-Healthy Schools—\$13.0 million**

Funding is provided for Healthy Kids-Healthy Schools Program for: grants to school districts for the purchase of equipment or to make repairs to existing equipment that is related to improving children’s physical health and nutrition and may not exceed \$200,000 for any one school district; and grants to school districts, charter schools, and state-tribal education compact schools, for the replacement of lead contaminated pipes and drinking water fixtures.

**OSPI Capital Programs Administration—\$6.3 million**

Funding is provided to administer the School Construction Assistance Program and other K–12 capital grant programs at OSPI.

**School Security and Preparedness and Infrastructure Grants—\$6.0 million**

Funding is provided for a competitive grant program to increase the physical security of K–12 public school facilities and campuses.

**Skills Centers Minor Works—\$5.8 million**

Funding is provided for minor capital projects to preserve and extend the useful life of existing Skills Center facilities and supporting infrastructure systems.

**Agricultural Science in Schools Grant to FFA Foundation—\$5.2 million**

Funding is provided for a grant to the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Foundation to furnish equipment for agricultural science instruction.

**Career Preparation and Launch Grants—\$4.0 million**

Funding is provided for competitive grants to school districts to purchase and install equipment intended to enhance Career Connected Learning opportunities.

**School Inventory & Condition Data Collection—\$1.4 million**

Funding is provided to OSPI to support data collection for the Information and Condition of Schools (ICOS) tracking system.