



TWIO

This Week In Olympia

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February 7, 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.

TWIO is emailed each Friday during the Legislative Session and archived on WASA's website at <https://wasa-oly.org/TWIO>.



With the continued flurry of activity, many key education bills—Big Three priority bills, other issues of interest, and concerning bills—continue to be heard and/or moved. The next couple of weeks will be crucial to setting the stage for the remainder of this 2025 Session and we, again, strongly encourage you to engage with your legislators. The level of activity among administrators, in terms of testimony on bills, signing in your position on key bills, and connecting with individual legislators has been impressive. This is reassuring and is having an impact. Now, however, is not the time to let up—it is time to ramp up and give our priority bills a necessary push, while we also try to lay down obstacles in front of some of those negative bills.

Legislative Milestones Ahead

At the end of Week Four, we are still at the front edge of this session (today is Day 26 of the 105 Day Session); however, as noted above, legislators are hearing and moving bills quickly as the Legislature's first of many self-imposed deadlines rapidly approaches.

With a huge crush of bills, memorials, and resolutions to deal with (as of today, about 1,600 pieces of legislation have been introduced), one of the mechanisms which force legislators to prioritize and narrow their focus is the annual "[Cutoff Calendar](#)." Among the first actions of each Legislature is to adopt a Session Cutoff Calendar that establishes a series of milestones—or gates—that legislation must reach in order to continue through the process. Just about two weeks away, the first self-imposed cutoff deadline arrives on Friday, February 21. In order to remain alive, all bills must be adopted by their original house policy committee (that is, House bills out of House policy committees, and Senate bills out of Senate policy committees) by February 21. The next cut-off arrives a week later; all bills that have a fiscal impact must be passed out of their original house fiscal committee (that is, House bills out of the House Appropriations, Finance, Capital Budget, or Transportation Committees, and Senate bills out of the Senate Ways & Means or Transportation Committees) by Friday, February 28. At this point, legislative committees will take a break and most of the action will occur in the House and Senate Chambers, as each body holds lengthy Floor sessions (along with closed door caucus meetings) to move bills out of their original house before legislative committees resume meeting (March 13)—this time taking public testimony and acting on opposite house bills.

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WASA Legislative Report Podcast



The Podcast will be available on a regular basis on the [WASA website](#), or [subscribe to the Report](#) via multiple podcast apps.

With the approaching arrival of the first cut-off date, it is important to remember that budget bills and bills considered “Necessary to Implement the Budget” (NTIB) are exempt from these early cut-off dates. Additionally, there are several ways to revive “dead” bills. The easiest way is to amend language from a dead bill onto a bill that continues to live. There are also multiple procedural maneuvers available to revive dead bills, including simply waiving the rules that preclude a bill from moving; virtually every rule in Olympia can be set aside if the necessary votes are available to do so. Bottom line: no bill is truly dead until the final gavel falls on the last day of session.

Big Three Update

Legislation to address our Big Three priorities continues to move. Last week, the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee took executive action on [SB 5263](#) (Special Education—**amended**), [SB 5192](#) (MSOC), and [SB 5187](#) (Pupil Transportation). (For full details of the current bills, see the [Week 3 edition of TWIO](#).)

Continuing to move rapidly, all three bills have already been scheduled for a public hearing in the **Senate Ways & Means Committee on Tuesday, February 11, at 4:00 p.m.** Once again, we anticipate we will encounter opposition on each of these bills, and encourage you to sign in “Pro” to counter the opponents. As you have come to know, the process is very easy and just takes a few minutes:

NOTE: Each bill has a separate link.

Please sign in “PRO” on SB 5263 (Special Education), Tuesday before 3:00 p.m.:

- Click this link: [SB 5263 position](#)
- Note your position in the first box: “Pro”
- Fill in you contact information
- Click on the CAPTCHA box (“not a robot”)
- Click the green “Submit Registration Button”

Please sign in “PRO” on SB 5192 (MSOC), Tuesday before 3:00 p.m.:

- Click this link: [SB 5192 position](#)
- Note your position in the first box: “Pro”
- Fill in you contact information
- Click on the CAPTCHA box (“not a robot”)
- Click the green “Submit Registration Button”

Please sign in “PRO” on SB 5187 (Pupil Transportation), Tuesday before 3:00 p.m.:

- Click this link: [SB 5187 position](#)
- Note your position in the first box: “Pro”
- Fill in you contact information
- Click on the CAPTCHA box (“not a robot”)
- Click the green “Submit Registration Button”

On the House side, our preferred MSOC bill, [HB 1338](#), was heard in the House Appropriations Committee on Monday. The turnout by school administrators, school directors, other educators, and parents was phenomenal. When the Senate’s MSOC bill, SB 5192, was heard, over 3,600 people signed in, with over 2,500 of that total indicating a “Pro” position. For HB 1338, over 3,700 people signed in, with just under 2,500 indicating a “Pro” position. In the “old” days, having a large

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group of people signing in did not have much of an impact—mostly because a large number was perhaps a couple hundred people, if you were lucky.

With the ability to electronically sign in, the numbers are often much larger and, therefore, have a greater impact. Again, it is important to send a message that educators support the Big Three; however, it is probably just as important to remind legislators that, in the face of fierce opposition, we are winning the numbers game. As noted above, however, now is not the time to slow up; you must consistently turn out to support the Big Three if we expect to have success in the end. If you grow weary of taking a few minutes out of your day to state your piece, please be assured our opponents will not back off anytime soon.

As we have discussed before, HB 1338 was drafted based on our request and the sponsor, Representative April Berg (D-Mill Creek), included each of our requests in the bill—with one minor exception. We asked for an annual inflation of MSOC allocations, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This was kind-of shooting for the moon, so it was not surprising CPI is not included. The bill, however, does include the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) as an inflationary factor.

CPI does a better job of reflecting broad-based, “real” inflation; however, IPD inflation will still provide for considerable increases in the future. If the required four-year rebase remains in the bill, this is another protection, because if IPD does not provide for adequate allocation increases, the required rebase will allow for regular enhancements to keep pace with costs.

Remember that we asked for a specific inflationary factor because even though the current law requires MSOC allocations to annually increase by “inflation,” inflation is not specifically defined. In recent years “inflation” became whatever number the Legislature decided, which was usually less than IPD and less than CPI and did not reflect any other known inflation factor. For example, in the 2023–25 Operating Budget, MSOC allocations were set to increase by 2.1 percent from the 2023–24 SY to the 2024–25 SY—even though 2.1 percent did not track with CPI, IPD, or any other inflationary factor. And, last year, when the 2024 Supplemental Budget was adopted, the inflationary increase from the 2023–24 SY to the 2024–25 SY DROPPED to 1.9 percent—again, with no correlating inflation factor. Like it happens with many programs, the Legislature determined what they were willing to pay, or how much they could afford, and backed into the percentage. If HB 1338 is adopted (or even if the less beneficial SB 5192 is adopted), we will have a “real” inflationary number we can count on.

HB 1338 has not been scheduled for executive action in the House Appropriations Committee, yet. There is the potential that this bill will not move until the final days before the fiscal committee cutoff (or even after, given that it potentially could be tagged as Necessary to Implement the Budget). We will continue to keep you posted.

Last week, the House Appropriations Committee heard three special education bills: [HB 1267](#), [HB 1310](#), and [HB 1357](#). (For full details, see the [Week 3 edition of TWIO](#), or for a quick summary, see the [side-by-side](#) prepared by legislative staff.) None of these bills have been scheduled for executive action, yet.

While these bills do not fully align with our Big Three asks, it is positive the bills are being heard. It continues the momentum towards finally receiving ample funding for special education and, if nothing else, keeps the conversation alive. Ultimately, with four special education bills (three House; one Senate) in the mix, it is likely individual pieces get melded into one bill.

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We continue to push for significant increases in the excess cost multipliers. The multipliers in the original SB 5263 would have gone a long way to solving our underfunding problem. The original bill would have merged the current two tiers, based on special education students' time spent in a general education setting, and increased the multiplier from 1.12 or 1.06 to 1.5289. It also provided a significant increase in the pre-K, age 3–5, multiplier from 1.2 to 1.6381. These increases alone would have provided for increases somewhere the neighborhood of \$800 million per year. Additional funding would have been required to eliminate the enrollment cap.

Unfortunately, as the bill moved from the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee, the multipliers apparently were considered too lucrative, and the 1.5289 multiplier was reduced to 1.32 (the pre-K multiplier remained at the proposed increase of 1.6381). As a comparison, SB 5307/HB 1310 maintain the two tiers, but increased the multipliers from 1.12 to 1.5289 (more than 80 percent general ed) and 1.06 to 1.447 (less than 80 percent general ed). HB 1357 increases the multipliers from 1.12 to 1.18 (more than 80 percent general ed) and 1.06 to 1.09 (less than 80 percent general ed).

In the hearing for SB 5263, Senator Jamie Pedersen (D-Seattle), the bill's sponsor, noted the state's current fiscal circumstances may preclude the Legislature from increasing the multipliers as high as proposed; however, he said, "whatever we can afford would be a step in the right direction."

In the hearing for HB 1357, Representative Monica Stonier (D-Vancouver), the bill's sponsor, made similar comments. Responding to some stated frustration from people testifying that her proposed multipliers were much too low, she stated clearly that her bill was "an option"—and given the current state fiscal circumstances, this would be a "starting point for discussions." She also noted that the multipliers are a funding dial and can be adjusted.

Similar to the MSOC discussion, legislators are trying to determine how much they can afford. What is unfortunate is that if the Legislature had stepped up to its constitutional duty several years ago—when we first started raising the concern of special education being underfunded—there likely would not be an ongoing conversation about simply providing the bare minimum for special education. It is clear that there is growing pressure to solve this problem; however, legislators waited until we have a state budget crisis to find the resolve to properly address special education—which is proving to be a difficult hurdle to overcome.

So, putting a positive spin on this; we are pleased legislators are engaging in the conversation about how best to support special education. And they have put several options on the table for consideration. We just have to continue to nudge them closer to an answer that provides significant assistance to school districts; that is, an answer that provides an increase in the multipliers to match school districts' actual costs. We will continue to push them to "turn the dials" to the point school districts receive real assistance.

Levy Lid/LEA

Well-before this session began, there was a growing discussion about increasing the current local levy lid—and we know there will be a heavy discussion about raising the levy lid this session. After all, if legislators balk at providing ample funding for the Big Three because of a significant revenue shortfall, they can still support education by pushing their responsibility onto local voters and local districts—and the move will cost the state exactly zero dollars. We continue to argue

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that if the Legislature amply funded the Big Three (as they are constitutionally required), there would be less of a need to increase levies. Ample funding of Special Education, MSOC, and Pupil Transportation would provide a significant increase in STATE funding to districts—and, as a bonus, levy funds that are being used to backfill the Legislature’s underfunding of basic education would be freed up to be used as the school board and the community desire. Knowing that some of our members support a levy lid increase, WASA will not oppose the move; however, we are very concerned about exacerbating the current inequity between districts and have emphatically told legislators IF they feel the need to raise the levy lid, a commensurate (at least) increase in Local Effort Assistance (LEA or “levy equalization”) must also happen.

With that background about where WASA stands, let’s review the current discussion. At this point there are four bills on the table—and it would not be surprising to see more in the coming weeks. Here are the current bills addressing levies and/or Local Effort Assistance:

HB 1746—This is a fairly simple and narrowly focused bill. The current State Local Effort Assistance Threshold is \$1,550 per pupil (adjusting for inflation this number is approximately \$2,023 in 2025). If a school district does not generate an enrichment levy of at least \$1,550 per student (now \$2,023) when levying at a rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation, the district is eligible for LEA funding.

This bill would increase the current State Local Effort Assistance Threshold from \$1,550 to \$2,000 per student. Adjusting for inflation, the new Threshold would be around \$2,600.

HB 1746 focuses exclusively on LEA and has not been heard; it likely has little chance to move. Similar legislation was introduced last year and was never acted upon.

HB 1767—This bill attacks levies and LEA in a different way: it would adjust the definition of “enrollment” in the calculation of levies and LEA. Under current law, student enrollment is defined as the average annual FTE student enrollment.

Under the provisions of HB 1767, student enrollment would be the sum of the average annual headcount student enrollments in specific grade levels and programs:

- Grades kindergarten through 12, including those enrolled in ALE;
- Transition to Kindergarten programs;
- Dropout reengagement programs;
- Running Start program students enrolled full time in institutions of higher education;
- Early Childhood Education and Assistance Programs; and
- Students ages three and four and those five year olds not yet enrolled in kindergarten who are eligible for and receiving special education services

While this bill does not increase the levy lid or increase the LEA threshold, the change in the calculation of student enrollment would provide a “backdoor” way of increasing the lid and LEA funding.

HB 1767 has not been heard and is unlikely to move.

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HB 1356—This is broad, comprehensive (and complex) bill that addresses the local levy lid and LEA, along with a number of other pieces.

LEVY LID. Under current law, levies are capped at \$2.50 per \$1,000 of Assessed Value OR \$2,500 per pupil—whichever is LESS (adjusting for inflation this number is approximately \$3,247 in 2025). (Districts with more than 40,000 students have a limit of \$3,000 per pupil; adjusted for inflation, approximately \$3,897.) In addition to the adjustments via inflation, HB 1356 would also provide a \$500 “inflation enhancement” in Calendar Year 2026 (\$3,829) and 3.33 percentage points added to inflation each year from Calendar Year 2027 to 2030.

Beginning with the Calendar Year 2031, the maximum per-pupil limit would be \$5,035, as increased by inflation beginning with property taxes levied for collection in 2032, multiplied by the number of average annual full-time equivalent students enrolled in the school district in the prior school year.

LEA. For LEA, the bill would also provide an “inflation enhancement” (in addition to CPI inflation) to the “State Local Effort Assistance Threshold,” which is \$1,550 per student (\$2,023). The inflation enhancement would be \$200 in Calendar Year 2026 and \$300 in Calendar Year 2027.

HB 1356 would also provide Local Effort Assistance to Charter Schools.

The bill would provide LEA an additional \$300 million over the biennium (\$90 million in 2026; \$224 million in 2027).

STATE PROPERTY TAX. Currently, the State Property Tax, as well as local taxing districts have a growth limit of 101 percent (that is, the tax cannot grow more than one percent per year). HB 1356 would change the growth limit for local taxing districts from the current 101 percent to the lesser of 101 percent or 100 percent, plus inflation. The growth limit for the State Property Tax, however, would change from 101 percent to 100 percent, plus population change and inflation, not to exceed 103 percent.

SPECIAL EDUCATION. For special education, the bill would eliminate the current 16.0 percent enrollment cap.

SUBSTITUTE COSTS. State funding for substitutes has not changed in over ten years, while the cost and need for substitutes continues to grow. HB 1356 would base substitute costs for classroom teachers on five funded substitute days per classroom teacher unit at a daily substitute rate of \$200 adjusted for inflation from the 2027–28 School Year. Substitute costs for classified staff would be based on two funded substitute days per classified staff unit at a daily substitute rate of \$150 adjusted for inflation from the 2027–28 school year.

FUNDING WORK GROUP. The bill would require OSPI to convene a K–12 Funding Equity Work Group to analyze K–12 funding formulas and explore options for revisions to the funding formula that are responsive to student needs, including economic, demographic, and geographic differences in student and community populations. OSPI would be required to use the Work Group’s analysis to consider options for revising state and local funding formulas.

In November, 2025, and annually through 2027, OSPI must report on the Work Group’s progress and any proposed options. The bill stipulates that the estimated cost of an option or group of options proposed by OSPI cannot exceed the estimated additional State Property Tax revenue (discussed above) when combined with the estimated additional state funding allocated in the bill.

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HB 1356 is scheduled to be heard in the House Finance Committee on Tuesday, February 11, 8:00 a.m.

[SB 5593](#)—The first thing this bill would do, is eliminate the current Assessed Valuation and per pupil calculations for the levy lid and eliminate the current per pupil LEA Threshold. Instead, the bill would return to the pre-*McCleary* system, basing the levy limit on a percentage of a districts’ revenue. Revenue, however, would not include federal revenue as is did before.

Using the new (or recycled old) model, the maximum enrichment levy would be 30 percent. The pre-*McCleary* cap was 28 percent.

Local Effort Assistance would be set at 18 percent. Districts would be eligible for LEA if they had an 18 percent levy rate that exceeded the statewide average 18 percent levy rate. The pre-*McCleary* LEA rate was 14 percent.

Prior to the change in levies and LEA in 2017 (the *McCleary* “solution”), the Legislature’s policy was to set LEA at half of the levy lid. This bill positively sets LEA at about 60 percent of the levy lid.

SB 5593 was heard yesterday in the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee. We testified in a neutral position—“Other”—and noted that our membership is split on this issue; however, we clarified that we are united in our support of amply funding basic education, specifically, special education, MSOC, and pupil transportation. We stated that if basic education was amply funded, it would lessen districts’ need for additional levy. As discussed above, we said clearly that our collective position is that IF the Legislature determines increasing the levy lid is the right action, then at least a commensurate increase in LEA is required to help mitigate inequities.

This bill would provide about \$500 million per year for LEA (\$750 million in the 2025–27 biennium), which is a significant increase. If this bill (or HB 1356 above) moves forward, we are concerned that the LEA funding does not come at the expense of funding for the Big Three. Senators have assured us that this LEA funding is “additive,” that is, in addition to funding for the Big Three. Legislators in the House have not yet provided us with the same assurances.

**For a comparison of HB 1356 and SB 5593, and its financial impacts, see the [levy comparison](#) provided by OSPI. The first tab compares the policies of HB 1356 and SB 5593. The second tab, “Cost Summary Table” provides statewide impacts, as well as individual district impacts. (NOTE: Depending on your computer system, the document will likely open in “view only mode.” In order to view the district information, you may be required to download the file.)

2025 Session Guide Released

WASA’s Legislative [Session Guide](#), updated for the 2025 Session, has been completed and is available for your use. The Guide includes all the tools you need to be engaged this session: WASA’s 2025 Legislative Platform; rosters of all House and Senate members, with office, phone, and e-mail contact information; advocacy tips; key dates in the Session; and a list of other handy resources. We encourage you to download or bookmark the Guide and use this resource to stay active in the legislative process!

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AEA

By Mitch Denning

On Monday, AEA testified PRO in House Appropriations on [HB 1404](#), **increasing student access to free meals served in public schools**. Testifying along with Mitch were Karen Brown, nutrition services director, Franklin Pierce SD, and WSNA president, and Leeda Beha, child nutrition director, Bethel SD, and WSNA legislative co-chair. This bill, if passed and funded, beginning in SY 2026–27, would allow all K–12 students to each breakfast and lunch at no charge. This would enable all students to learn more effectively in the classroom and would help remove the stigma of the current system that exists in many middle and high schools in our state.

The bill also provides an additional \$.05 or higher to the current state-funded reimbursement for all meals served, as determined in the 2025–27 operating budget. WSNA is working with Rep. Berg and Sen. Riccelli on a possible increase of \$.25 per meal reimbursement to help offset State-mandated SEBB health benefit costs to nutrition department budgets. In a recent WSNA survey, 122 school districts nutrition directors representing all district sizes reported an annual SEBB benefit cost of \$42.9 Million, with no State funding assistance available.

Also on Monday, AEA testified PRO on [HB 1338](#), **school operating costs**, in House Appropriations. This bill, if passed and funded, would provide a 23 percent increase in State funding for MSOC. This measure would help all 295 school districts, which are currently partially paying for this Basic Education program out of levy funds.

This bill also lowers the class sizes of all skills centers from 19.00 to 16.67, which would be a real benefit for teachers and students in these schools.

On Tuesday, AEA testified PRO on [HB 1032](#), **simple majority for school bonds**, and [HJR 4201](#), **amending the Constitution to allow a majority of voters voting to authorize school district bonds**, in House Education. These bills, if passed by two-thirds of both houses, and by a majority of the people in the November 2025 general election, would allow school bonds to pass with a simple majority of votes. Mitch shared with the committee that if this provision were to have been in place in calendar year 2024, nineteen more school districts would have passed their bond issue. He also sent a listing of the 19 school districts and the percentage of passage to the committee. Both bills are scheduled to move out of House Education on February 13.

Also on Tuesday, Mitch, Karen and Leeda testified on [SB 5352](#), the companion bill for [HB 1404](#).

On Thursday, AEA testified PRO on [HB 1538](#), **capital funding assistance to small school districts with demonstrated funding challenges**. This bill, when passed and funded, would provide funding for districts with 1,000 FTE students or less who aren't able to participate in the SCAP program, have buildings which are at least 30 years old, and have been identified by OSPI to be in poor or unsatisfactory condition. Clearly, the students in these buildings are not able to learn as effectively as if they were in a renovated facility.

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Pensions/Health Benefits

By Fred Yancey—The Nexus Group

Health, Pension, and Other Benefit Issues

“Politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians.”

—Charles de Gaulle

Committee hearings, Executive Sessions and floor actions are now taking place at an increasing pace as various policy and fiscal deadlines approach.

Meanwhile, a brief summary of some selected bills and/or issues is below:

1. [SB 5113/HB 1292](#) creates an annual increase in the retirement benefits of retirees in the Public Employees’ Retirement System and the Teachers’ Retirement System Plan 1, of up to three percent. A hearing before the Senate Ways & Means Committee was held January 23. Cost is projected at \$92 Million for 2025–27 rising to \$138 Million in 2027–29 and continuing to increase.
2. [SB 5357](#) has been introduced and heard on January 23. That bill resets rates for past benefit enhancements and amortizes the cost over a 15-year period (instead of the current 10-year period).
3. [SB 5085](#) seeks to establish a Legacy Retirement System. The bill merges the assets, liabilities, and membership of Law Enforcement Officers’ and Firefighters’ Retirement System Plan 1, Public Employees’ Retirement System Plan 1 (PERS Plan 1), and the Teachers’ Retirement System Plan 1 (TRS Plan 1) retirement systems into the new Legacy Retirement System.
 - Creates an annual cost of living adjustment to the retirement benefits of retirees in the PERS Plan 1 and TRS Plan 1, of up to three percent.
 - Eliminates the remaining unfunded actuarial accrued liability and benefit improvement rates., Merging PERS/TRS Plans 1 and LEOFF Plan 1 into a single system.

A hearing before the Senate Ways & Means Committee was held January 23.

What has been clear is that legislators are aware of the surplus and may make attempts to transfer some of the surplus to fund other programs.

4. [SB 5114](#) concerns covering the premium costs of insurance during the month of one’s death. It provides a full month of public pension benefits paid in the month that a retiree dies. Senate Ways and Means held a hearing on the bill January 23.
5. [SB 5086/HB 1330](#) seek to consolidate PEBB and SEBB in some fashion. [SB 5086](#) had a public hearing on January 30 before Senate Ways & Means Committee. This bill would consolidate the Public Employees Benefits Board Program and the School Employees Benefits Board programs into the newly created Washington Employees and Retirees Benefits Board.
6. [HB 1642](#) would provide additional plan choice to members of the teachers’ retirement system plans 2 and 3, the school employees’ retirement system plans 2 and 3, and the public employees’ retirement systems 2 and 3. It is awaiting a hearing before House Appropriations Committee. This bill is a WEA request bill. It would allow members in Plans 3 to switch into Plan 2 if they so desire.
7. [HB 5478](#): Concerning benefits authorized to be offered by the public employees’ benefits board. This bill would allow HCA to the following employee-paid, voluntary benefit plans: 39 (a) Emergency transportation;

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(b) Identity protection (c) Legal aid; (d) Long-term care insurance; (e) Noncommercial personal automobile insurance; (f) Personal homeowner's or renter's insurance; (g) Pet insurance; (h) Specified disease or illness-triggered fixed payment insurance, hospital confinement fixed payment insurance, (i) Travel insurance. It is scheduled for a public hearing before Senate Heath & Long-Term Care Committee February 6.

8. **HB 1790:** Increasing defined benefit accrual for specified years of service in the state retirement systems. For years of service earned after the effective date of this section, a member of the retirement system shall receive an additional one-half of one percent of such member's average final compensation for each year of service beyond 30 years.

This bill was a request from WSSRA to attract and retain experienced staff while also demonstrating the work of WSSRA to potential members.

A selected intro to some bills that could have fiscal impact /costs to districts:

HB 1140: Establishing empowerED scholarships using educational savings accounts.

This bill will establish a Scholarship Program (Program) to provide parents meeting certain requirements with money for qualifying expenses related to the education of their public school-aged children for use in private and/or charter schools. Moneys that are provided to parents through the Program are deposited into individual education savings accounts (savings accounts) and must be accessible through a debit card or other electronic means.

Parents may use the moneys provided from the Program for qualifying expenses, examples of which include: • tuition, fees, or both at a private school; • tutoring and other services with a direct nexus to academics; • curricula and other materials necessary to provide home-based instruction; fees for nationally standardized norm-referenced achievement tests and examinations related to college or university admission; • postsecondary education and workforce program costs; computer hardware and technological devices primarily used for an educational purpose; and • expenses related to transporting a student to and from educational activities and services, and related therapies and services.

This bill had a public hearing February 6 before House Education.

HB 1213: Expanding protections for workers in the state paid family and medical leave program.

This bill: Reduces the minimum claim for benefits under the Washington Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) Program from 8 consecutive hours to four consecutive hours. • Extends employment protection rights in the PFML Program to any employee who began employment with their current employer at least 90 calendar days before taking leave, regardless of the size of the employer. • Allows employers to prevent stacking of certain employment protection rights by extending employment protection in the PFML Program to periods of unpaid leave protected by the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act, so long as the employer provides certain notices to the employee, and providing that employment protection expires after certain periods. • Expands health care coverage protection during any period in which an employee receives PFML Program benefits and is also entitled to employment protection.

It is scheduled for Executive Session by House Labor on January 31. Costs to state/employers from fiscal note are indeterminate. (So, the committee may be

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voting this bill out during the planned executive session without any sense of the costs to those most affected.)

SB 5041: Concerning unemployment insurance benefits for striking or lockout workers.

This bill: Allows individuals unemployed due to a labor strike to receive unemployment insurance (UI) benefits following a specified disqualification period and the waiting week, provided that the labor strike is not found to be prohibited by federal or state law in a final judgment. • Removes the provision disqualifying an individual for UI benefits based on an employer-initiated lockout resulting from a strike against another employer in a multi-employer bargaining unit.

Executive Session has been scheduled February 2 before Senate Labor & Commerce Committee. Again, no fiscal note is available at this time.

SB 5291/HB 1415: Implementing the recommendations of the long-term services and supports trust commission.

These bills: Prohibit out-of-state participants from withdrawing from the Long-term Services and Supports Trust Program (Program). • Make the exemption from the Program automatic for active-duty military service members with off-duty civilian work. • Allow an exempt employee who previously attested to having long-term care insurance to rescind the exemption prior to July 1, 2028. • Allow for a limited pilot program in 2026 to assess the Program's processes and system capacities. • Create standards and requirements for supplemental long-term care insurance policies designed for coverage after program benefits are exhausted. SB 5291 has been scheduled for Executive Session on January 31 before Senate Labor. Fiscal impact is indeterminate.

SB 5292: Concerning paid family and medical leave rates.

This bill: Requires the Employment Security Department Commissioner to set the paid family and medical leave program premium rate based on the Office of Actuarial Services annual report. • Mandates the Office of Actuarial Services annual report to provide for a rate to close the rate collection year with a three-month reserve, in addition to the current requirement to maintain a four-year solvency. • Eliminates the statutory formula used to calculate the rate and the 1.2 percent rate cap.

The bill has a public hearing on January 21 before Senate Labor & Commerce Committee. The fiscal note details the agency projected costs to implement the bill but there was no projection of costs on employers.

SB 5378: Expanding access to grants within the paid family and medical leave insurance program for small school districts.

This bill makes certain small school districts eligible for paid family and medical leave grants. The following employers may apply to ESD for a grant: employers with 51 to 150 employees; employers with 50 or fewer employees who are assessed all premiums; or • employers classified as school districts of the second class, those having less than 2000 pupils.

The bill had a public hearing February 3 before House Labor & Commerce Committee.

Legislative Resources

Committee Meeting Schedule

Legislative Committees Meetings are scheduled to be held at the following times but are subject to change.

Up-to-date meeting schedules and agendas are available on the [State Legislature website](#).

Mondays

1:30–3:30 p.m.
House Education
HHRA & Virtual

4–6 p.m.
House Appropriations
HHRA & Virtual

Senate Ways & Means
SHR4 & Virtual

Tuesdays

8–10 a.m.
Senate Early Learning & K–12
SHR1 & Virtual

4–6 p.m.
House Education
HHRA & Virtual

Senate Ways & Means
SHR4 & Virtual

Wednesdays

1:30–3:30 p.m.
Senate Early Learning & K–12
SHR1 & Virtual

4–6 p.m.
House Appropriations
HHRA & Virtual

Thursdays

8–10 a.m.
House Education
HHRA & Virtual

10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Senate Early Learning & K–12
SHR1 & Virtual

4–6 p.m.
House Appropriations
HHRA & Virtual

Senate Ways & Means
SHR4 & Virtual

Useful Links

Washington State Government

<http://www.access.wa.gov>

State Legislature

<http://www.leg.wa.gov>

Senate

<https://www.leg.wa.gov/about-the-legislature/senate/>

House of Representatives

<https://www.leg.wa.gov/about-the-legislature/house-of-representatives/>

Legislative Committees

<https://leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/CommitteeListing.aspx>

Legislative Schedules

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/calendar.aspx>

Office of the Governor

<http://www.governor.wa.gov>

OSPI

<http://www.k12.wa.us>

TVW

<http://www.tvw.org>

Session Cut-off Calendar

January 13, 2025

First Day of Session.

February 21, 2025

Last day to read in committee reports in house of origin, except House fiscal, Senate Ways & Means, and Transportation Committees.

February 28, 2025

Last day to read in committee reports from House fiscal, Senate Ways & Means, and Transportation Committees in house of origin.

March 12, 2025

Last day to consider bills in house of origin (5 p.m.).

April 2, 2025

Last day to read in committee reports from opposite house, except House fiscal, Senate Ways & Means, and Transportation Committees.

April 8, 2025

Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal, Senate Ways & Means, and Transportation Committees.

April 16, 2025*

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 27, 2025

Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

* After 5:00 p.m. on the 54th day, only initiatives, alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, matters that affect state revenue, messages pertaining to amendments, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session may be considered.

Bill Watch

TWIO tracks critical education bills each week as they are introduced. Detailed bill information can be accessed by clicking on the bill number. The following is a list of the bills of highest interest to school administrators. A more comprehensive bill watch list is located on the [WASA website](#).

Bill #	Title	Status	Sponsor
HB 1011	School safety capital grants	H Cap Budget	Jacobsen
HB 1020	Academic reengagement	H Education	Shavers
HB 1021	Military families/education	H Education	Shavers
HB 1028	Child exposure to violence	H Rules R	Goodman
HB 1031	School facility temperatures	H Education	Reeves
HB 1032	School district elections	H Education	Stonier
HB 1042	County treasurer costs	H Finance	Wylie
HB 1051	IEP team meetings/recording	H Education	Walsh
HB 1055	Transparency ombuds study	H State Govt & T	Abbarno
HB 1079 (SB 5193)	Remote testing	H Education	Ortiz-Self
HB 1085 (SB 5272)	School safety/penalties	H Community Safe	Schmidt
HB 1116	Election day	H Approps	Mena
HB 1120 (SB 5517)	School staff salary alloc.	H Approps	Shavers
HB 1121	Work restrictions/age 16, 17	H Labor & Workpl	McClintock
HB 1122 (SB 5346)	Student mobile device use	H Education	McClintock
HB 1134	Schools/resource conserv.	H Education	Bergquist
SHB 1136	Student navigational support	H PEWDPS	Leavitt
HB 1140	K-12 scholarship program	H Education	Couture
HB 1151 (SB 5210)	Ninth grade success grants	H Approps	Steele
HB 1167	Maritime careers task force	H Education	Shavers
HB 1189	School volunteers/conviction	H Education	Simmons
HB 1197 (SB 5166)	Operating budget, supp.	H Approps	Ormsby
HB 1198 (SB 5167)	Operating budget	H Approps	Ormsby
HB 1202 (SB 5194)	State gen. obligation bonds	H Cap Budget	Tharinger
HB 1203 (SB 5183)	Tobacco & nicotine products	H ConsPro&Bus	Reeves
HB 1213 (SB 5539)	Paid family & medical leave	H Labor & Workpl	Berry
HB 1216 (SB 5195)	Capital budget	H Cap Budget	Tharinger
HB 1225	Budgeting process	H Approps	Couture
HB 1226 (SB 5160)	Transportation budget, supp.	H Transportation	Fey
HB 1227 (SB 5161)	Transportation budget	H Transportation	Fey
HB 1231	Public school starting times	H Education	McEntire
HB 1241	Students with disabilities	H Education	Pollet
HB 1246	Juvenile justice	H EL & Human Svc	Couture
HB 1257 (SB 5253)	Special education services	H Education	Pollet
HB 1259	Behavioral health/schools	H Postsec Ed & W	Shavers
HB 1266 (SB 5446)	Commission on boys and men	H State Govt & T	Dye
HB 1267	Special education funding	H Approps	Couture
HB 1273	Dual credit program access	H Education	Paul

HB 1280 (SB 5358)	Career & tech. ed./6th grade	H Approps	Shavers
HB 1285	Financial education	H Education	Rude
HB 1289	Public school survey info.	H Education	McClintock
HB 1292 (SB 5113)	Plan 1 retiree COLAs	H Approps	Leavitt
HB 1295	Reading and writing literacy	H Education	Pollet
HB 1296	Public education system	H Education	Stonier
HB 1298 (SB 5158)	Student athlete insurance	H Exec Action	Berg
HB 1303 (SB 5380)	Environmental justice	H Env & Energy	Mena
HB 1308 (SB 5345)	Access to personnel records	H Labor & Workpla	Reed
HB 1310 (SB 5307)	Special education funding	H Approps	Pollet
HB 1312 (SB 5114)	Retirement benefits/death	H Approps	Fitzgibbon
HB 1314 (SB 5297)	Early learning facilities	H Cap Budget	Callan
HB 1330 (SB 5086)	PEBB & SEBB consolidation	H Approps	Lekanoff
HB 1334	Property tax revenue growth	H Finance	Pollet
HB 1338	School operating costs	H Approps	Berg
HB 1339 (SB 5373)	Even-numbered year elections	H State Govt & T	Gregerson
HB 1352 (SB 5270)	Educator support/nurses	H Education	Bernbaum
HB 1356	K-12 funding	H Finance	Bergquist
HB 1357	Special education funding	H Approps	Stonier
HB 1387 (SB 5293)	Prevailing wage/public works	H Labor & Workpl	Schmidt
HB 1393	Commencement/cultural exp.	H Education	McEntire
HB 1404 (SB 5352)	Free school meals	H Approps	Berg
HB 1414	CTE careers work group	H Education	Connors
HB 1434 (SB 5106)	Eid al-Fitr & Eid al-Adha	H State Govt & T	Salahuddin
HB 1446	George Washington's birthday	H State Govt & T	Abell
HB 1448	Local elections	H State Govt & T	Gregerson
HB 1450	Transition to kindergarten	H Education	Santos
HB 1467 (SB 5357)	Actuarial pension funding	H Approps	Fitzgibbon
HB 1471 (SB 5392)	BSA transfers	H Approps	Ormsby
HB 1473	Wildfire BSA appropriations	H Approps	Gregerson
HB 1474	PERS/TRS 1 benefit increase	H Approps	Gregerson
HB 1475	National board bonuses	H Approps	Gregerson
HB 1479	Office of native ed. grants	H Education	Lekanoff
HB 1483 (SB 5423)	Digital electronics/repair	H Tech, Econ Dev	Gregerson
HB 1489	Childhood ed./impl. dates	H Approps	Ormsby
HB 1503	Digital equity	H Tech, Econ Dev	Gregerson
HB 1517	Digital equity/revenue	H Finance	Gregerson
HB 1528	Special education IEPs	H Education	Pollet
HB 1538	Capital assistance/schools	H Cap Budget	McEntire
HB 1543 (SB 5514)	Clean buildings standard	H Env & Energy	Doglio
HB 1547 (SB 5126)	Student mental health net.	H Education	Santos
HB 1549 (SB 5476)	Responsible bidder criteria	H Labor & Workpl	Fosse
HB 1556 (SB 5542)	HS completers/CTC tuition	H Postsec Ed & W	Entenman
HB 1557 (SB 5308)	Guaranteed admissions prg.	H Postsec Ed & W	Reed

HB 1565	Dual enrollment scholarship	H Postsec Ed & W	Paul
HB 1578	Long-term care prg. repeal	H EL & Human Svc	Dufault
HB 1579 (SB 5187)	Student transportation	H Approps	Nance
HB 1580	CTE/alt. learning exp. prgs.	H Approps	Nance
HB 1584	In-person voting	H State Govt & T	Marshall
HB 1590	Self-resiliency skills	H Education	Timmons
HB 1593	Social equity land trust	H Ag&Nr	Reeves
HB 1594	School costs/CCA	H Approps	Caldier
HB 1609 (SB 5537)	Natural resources board/OSPI	H Ag&Nr	Waters
HB 1612	High school/AP, IB, CIE exam	H Approps	Doglio
HB 1618	College in HS/private school	H Education	Low
HB 1626 (SB 5378)	PFML grants/school districts	H Labor & Workpl	Timmons
HB 1634	Behavioral health/schools	H Education	Thai
HB 1637	School safety	H Education	McClintock
HB 1642	Pension plan choice	H Approps	Bronoske
HB 1651	Teacher residency & apprent.	H Education	Ortiz-Self
HB 1657	Washington 13 free guarantee	H Postsec Ed & W	Bergquist
HB 1662	Education agencies/OSPI	H Education	Santos
HB 1663 (SB 5369)	Youth mental health/schools	H Education	Rule
HB 1676	Charter school contracts	H Education	Rude
HB 1683	School director districts	H Education	Ortiz-Self
HB 1699	Interscholastic sports	H Education	Volz
HB 1709	Adrenal insufficiency care	H Education	Callan
HB 1722	Secondary career education	H Labor & Workpl	Connors
HB 1723 (SB 5572)	School construction projects	H Cap Budget	Fosse
HB 1727	School library info and tech	H Education	Rule
HB 1729	State school levies	H Finance	Orcutt
HB 1734	Outdoor learning grants	H Cap Budget	Rule
HB 1746	School local effort assist.	H Approps	Springer
HB 1750	Voting rights act claims	H State Govt & Tr	Hill
HJR 4201	School district bonds	H Education	Stonier
SB 5003	School security grants	S EL/K-12	Torres
SB 5004	School emergency response	S EL/K-12	Torres
SB 5007	Chronically absent students	S EL/K-12	Braun
SB 5008	Public school tools	S EL/K-12	Braun
SB 5009	Student transp. allocation	S EL/K-12	Braun
SB 5012	Interscholastic athletics	S EL/K-12	Fortunato
SB 5025	Educational interpreters	S EL/K-12	Lovick
SB 5026	Motor vehicle sales tax	S Ways & Means	King
SB 5030	Vital records access	S EL/K-12	Wilson
SB 5035	Voter education	S State Gov/Trib	Chapman
SB 5041	Unemp ins/strikes & lockouts	S Labor & Comm	Riccelli
SB 5046	Kimchi day	S State Gov/Trib	Wilson
SB 5073	Motor vehicles sales tax use	S Ways & Means	Fortunato

SB 5080	Financial education	S EL/K-12	Valdez
SB 5085	Closed retirement plans	S Ways & Means	Robinson
SB 5086 (HB 1330)	PEBB & SEBB consolidation	S Ways & Means	Robinson
SB 5095	School construction debt	S EL/K-12	Dhingra
SB 5097	Girls' athletic activities	S EL/K-12	Warnick
SB 5102	Public risk pool records	S Rules 2	Hasegawa
SB 5106 (HB 1434)	Eid al-Fitr & Eid al-Adha	S State Gov/Trib	Trudeau
SB 5113 (HB 1292)	Plan 1 retiree COLAs	S Ways & Means	Boehnke
SB 5114 (HB 1312)	Retirement benefits/death	S Ways & Means	Boehnke
SB 5120	Learning assistance program	S EL/K-12	Nobles
SB 5123	Discrimination in schools	S EL/K-12	Nobles
SB 5126 (HB 1547)	Student mental health net.	S EL/K-12	Nobles
SB 5134	Chinese Americans/schools	S EL/K-12	McCune
SB 5135	Curriculum establishment	S EL/K-12	McCune
SB 5136	Student given names	S EL/K-12	McCune
SB 5137	Sex ed./parent approval	S EL/K-12	McCune
SB 5142	Eminent domain purchase back	S Law & Justice	Hasegawa
SB 5150	Juvenile access to attorney	S Human Services	Gildon
SB 5151	Annual state spending growth	S Ways & Means	Gildon
SB 5158 (HB 1298)	Student athlete insurance	S 2nd RdConsCal	Valdez
SB 5159	Trick-or-treat day	S State Gov/Trib	Shewmake
SB 5160 (HB 1226)	Transportation budget, supp.	S Transportation	Liias
SB 5161 (HB 1227)	Transportation budget	S Transportation	Liias
SB 5164	Student navigational support	S Higher Ed & Wo	Nobles
SB 5166 (HB 1197)	Operating budget, supp.	S Ways & Means	Robinson
SB 5167 (HB 1198)	Operating budget	S Ways & Means	Robinson
SB 5177	Professional dev. resources	S EL/K-12	Nobles
SB 5179	Education complaint process	S EL/K-12	Wilson
SB 5180	Schools/gender inclusive	S EL/K-12	Wilson
SSB 5181	Parents rights in education	S 2nd Reading	Wilson
SB 5183 (HB 1203)	Tobacco & nicotine products	S Health & Long-	Nobles
SB 5186	School district elections	S EL/K-12	Krishnadasan
SB 5187 (HB 1579)	Student transportation	S EL/K-12	Wellman
SB 5189	Competency-based education	S EL/K-12	Wellman
SSB 5190	School building energy perf.	S Environment, En	Wellman
SB 5192	School district materials	S EL/K-12	Nobles
SB 5193 (HB 1079)	Remote testing	S EL/K-12	Cortes
SB 5194 (HB 1202)	State gen. obligation bonds	S Ways & Means	Trudeau
SB 5195 (HB 1216)	Capital budget	S Ways & Means	Trudeau
SB 5210 (HB 1151)	Ninth grade success grants	S EL/K-12	Liias
SB 5216	Green energy/community	S Environment, E	Shewmake
SB 5230	Juvenile attorney exceptions	S Human Services	Wagoner
SB 5235	Public school statutes	S EL/K-12	Wellman
SB 5240	Anaphylaxis med. in schools	S EL/K-12	Wellman

SB 5247	Naselle Youth Camp property	S State Gov/Trib	Wilson
SB 5253 (HB 1257)	Special education services	S EL/K-12	Cortes
SB 5263	Special education funding	S EL/K-12	Pedersen
SB 5270 (HB 1352)	Educator support/nurses	S EL/K-12	Wellman
SB 5271	School nurse requirement	S EL/K-12	Wellman
SB 5272 (HB 1085)	School safety/penalties	S EL/K-12	Lovick
SB 5292	Family & medical leave rates	S Labor & Comm	Conway
SB 5293 (HB 1387)	Prevailing wage/public works	S Labor & Comm	King
SB 5307 (HB 1310)	Special education funding	S EL/K-12	Wellman
SB 5308 (HB 1557)	Guaranteed admissions prg.	S Higher Ed & Wo	Hansen
SB 5327	Learning standards	S EL/K-12	Wellman
SB 5345 (HB 1308)	Access to personnel records	S Labor & Comm	Saldana
SB 5346 (HB 1122)	Student mobile device use	S EL/K-12	Liias
SB 5352 (HB 1404)	Free school meals	S EL/K-12	Riccelli
SB 5357 (HB 1467)	Actuarial pension funding	S Ways & Means	Conway
SB 5358 (HB 1280)	Career & tech. ed./6th grade	S EL/K-12	Braun
SB 5369 (HB 1663)	Youth mental health/schools	S EL/K-12	Orwall
SB 5373 (HB 1339)	Even-numbered year elections	S State Gov/Trib	Ramos
SB 5378 (HB 1626)	PFML grants/school districts	S Labor & Comm	Stanford
SB 5386	Schools/sexual assault	S EL/K-12	Orwall
SB 5392 (HB 1471)	BSA transfers	S Ways & Means	Robinson
SB 5412	Interfund loans/schools	S EL/K-12	Robinson
SB 5415	CBA financial feasibility	S Ways & Means	Gildon
SB 5418	Charter school contracts	S EL/K-12	Wellman
SB 5423 (HB 1483)	Digital electronics/repair	S Environment, E	Stanford
SB 5446 (HB 1266)	Commission on boys and men	S State Gov/Trib	Lovick
SB 5476 (HB 1549)	Responsible bidder criteria	S State Gov/Trib	Hasegawa
SB 5481	Behavioral health/schools	S Health & Long-T	Wilson
SB 5483	History & heritage education	S EL/K-12	McCune
SB 5503	Public employee bargaining	S Labor & Comm	Valdez
SB 5517 (HB 1120)	School staff salary alloc.	S EL/K-12	Cortes
SB 5537 (HB 1609)	Natural resources board/OSPI	S Ag & Natural R	Chapman
SB 5539 (HB 1213)	Paid family & medical leave	S Labor & Comm	Alvarado
SB 5546	Solar energy systems/schools	S EL/K-12	Orwall
SB 5551	School library info and tech	S EL/K-12	Wellman
SB 5564	Goals of a basic education	S EL/K-12	McCune
SB 5567	Natural resources careers	S EL/K-12	Nobles
SB 5570	Tribes/K-12 instruction	S EL/K-12	Kauffman
SB 5572 (HB 1723)	School construction projects	S Labor & Comm	Conway
SB 5574	History instruction	S EL/K-12	Nobles
SB 5593	School levies & local effort	S EL/K-12	Wellman
SB 5596	Interstate teacher compact	S EL/K-12	Wellman
SJR 8200	School district bond voting	S EL/K-12	Cortes