The 2022 Legislative Session Guide

The 2022 Session began on January 10 and is scheduled to end on March 10.

“This Legislative Session may be the most important one yet.” You have heard it before. It seems as though every succeeding year we declare that engaging in the upcoming legislative process is “more important than ever.” Continuing to ring the same bell seems like a bit of hyperbole; however, think about the last two years as the world—and our schools, students, and staff—has been mired in an ongoing pandemic.

The pandemic has had a massive impact on K–12 education. As the 2022 Legislative Session begins, many school districts continue to deal with enrollment declines, growing staffing shortages, and literal exhaustion of staff as they continue to tackle contact tracing, COVID testing, and quarantining, acting as health care specialists rather than keeping their focus on academics. Impacts of the pandemic have hit students the hardest. Months of remote learning has had drastic negative impacts on students’ academic growth and mental health.

Is it more important than ever to engage with our legislators? Given the ongoing challenges, this does not seem to be an exaggeration.

WASA continues to encourage an increased involvement of our members in advocacy—specifically, our non-superintendent members. In the last few years, you’ve stepped up and we have seen increased efforts in engaging with the Legislature. Now is not the time to take your foot off the gas; rather, now is the time to ramp up your efforts.

Legislative advocacy is sometimes compared to a New Year’s resolution. In the beginning, you are engaged and motivated. You are determined to meet with your local legislators, and regularly contact them in writing, by e-mail or by phone; track important legislation; provide public testimony; and otherwise engage in the process. But too often, other pressing issues compete for your attention. Your resolve begins to fade and your determination turns to resignation. Most New Year’s resolutions are abandoned well–before the flowers begin to bloom in the spring.

Before you let your determination wane in regard to legislative advocacy, remember all of the crucial decisions legislators regularly make that impact K–12 education. And remember, most of our 147 lawmakers have no background in education. When we let legislators that do not understand our schools, how they are funded, or how they operate, make decisions in a vacuum, school administrators have to pick up the broken pieces.

Your advocacy can impact legislators’ thinking. YOU are the education experts and you should exert your influence. Contact your legislators now (and often) and continue to build good relationships with them. Establish trust and credibility so they will come to you for information and advice. If legislators make the wrong decision because they do not agree with you, that’s on them. But if legislators make the wrong decision because we sat on our hands, that’s on us. We have to be honest and acknowledge we will not always be successful, but if we don’t engage, we are guaranteed to lose. Hockey legend Wayne Gretzky said it best: “You miss 100 percent of the shots you don’t take.”

We know school administrators are incredibly busy and we know some of you do not feel comfortable being an advocate in Olympia. WASA will make your engagement as simple and non-threatening as we can. We will continue to provide you with resources to support your advocacy efforts, including this Session Guide. This is your go-to Guide to quickly find contact information for your legislators, a copy of WASA’s 2022 Legislative Platform, advocacy “tips and tricks,” and session calendars. WASA will also continue to publish our weekly legislative newsletter, This Week in Olympia (TWIO), and our weekly legislative podcast to keep you up-to-date on education policy and budget issues being dealt with this session.

Remember, advocacy does not have to be hard, intimidating, or time-consuming. You simply must commit to it, however. The remote nature of the 2022 Session provides even more—and easier—opportunities for engagement. This is especially true for administrators representing school districts which are far from Olympia. Rather than taking a full day for travel (sometimes in bad winter weather) to meet with your legislators or provide testimony on a bill, you can participate from your office desk or kitchen table.

We hope that you will join with WASA—and our education association colleagues—as we raise our collective voices in unison to fight for our public schools. YOU are WASA—and we can’t do it without you.
Approaching the 2021 Legislative Session, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was feared that K–12 budgets would suffer. Fortunately, the economy began to stabilize—along with the provision of significant federal stimulus funds—and catastrophic reductions were set aside. In fact, the Legislature was able to sustain most education funding, along with some additional key investments to get school districts through the pandemic. School administrators recognize and appreciate our legislators’ efforts. While K–12 budgets were largely protected, however, most of our school districts’ critical needs hit the back burner. During the 2022 Legislative Session, it is urgent that K–12 education’s ongoing concerns are addressed. After reviewing our needs and requests from a position of equity, school administrators are committed to pursuing the following priorities:

**Update Staff Allocations**
In the 2011 transition to the Prototypical School Funding Model, original staffing allocations were funded at artificially low ratios based on historic staffing levels that had been in place since the late 1980’s to ensure the conversion was cost neutral. Since then, the need for student supports in local school districts has grown exponentially, yet the funding ratios for most staff positions have remained the same since the Model was first implemented. WASA urges the Legislature to begin fulfilling its commitment by phasing in updated ratios to achieve more realistic state-funded staffing levels in all schools, beginning first with investments to meet students’ needs for: mental health, social health, emotional health, and behavioral health.

**Provide Consistent, Equitable, and Ample Education Resources**
Several components of K–12’s funding structure are underfunded or have embedded inequities between districts that urgently need to be addressed. WASA urges the Legislature to promptly take action on the following components:

- **Fix Pupil Transportation.** Under the current Pupil Transportation funding model (STARS), many districts experience significant funding gaps; in the last four years many districts received an allocation below their costs. OFM recently found in most situations, the STARS model will not provide adequate resources to school districts and recommends, at the very least, that more funding be provided to the system. It is time to fix this formula.

- **Fully Fund Special Education.** Prior to the 2019 Session, OSPI identified a special education underfunded need of at least $300 million. In 2019, the excess cost multiplier was increased; in 2020, additional funding was provided for safety net awards; in 2021, funding was provided for additional transition services, for professional development, and for family liaisons. While these incremental steps to reduce the special education funding gap are appreciated, the 2022 Legislature must take more deliberate action to eliminate the current underfunding.

- **Adjust Regionalization/Experience Factors.** Regionalization and Experience Factors are intended to ensure school districts can provide fair and equitable salaries to staff, allowing districts to hire the best teachers available. Regionalization Factors, however, have intensified rather than lessened inequities between districts. Similarly, Experience Factors were intended to lessen inequities; however, as currently implemented, additional funding only assists one-fifth of the state’s school districts because the calculation is overly limiting. The calculation and application of both factors need to be evaluated and adjusted.

- **Provide State-of-the-Art Technology and Connectivity.** The COVID-19 outbreak exposed the current technology gap, including availability and affordability of devices and broadband connectivity. The Legislature must ensure there is equitable access to technology resources.

**Advance Equity**
Closing opportunity gaps for students is critical. WASA urges the Legislature to provide school districts the resources, tools, and flexibility to: ensure equitable learning opportunities, and fair treatment for each student; and recruit, support, and retain effective classroom, building, and district staff who reflect the diversity of our student populations, including ethnicity, and gender.

**Invest in Learning Recovery**
The COVID-19 pandemic, forcing school closures and long-term use of remote learning, was detrimental to many students. The 2021 Legislature recognized this, providing significant investments to support learning recovery and acceleration. Unfortunately, most of those programs are supported with one-time funds. Additional resources are needed to enhance, or at least sustain, learning recovery efforts to assist students academically and with mental health or social-emotional learning needs when the initial funds are exhausted.

**Support Capital Facilities**
WASA urges the Legislature to: give Washington’s citizens the opportunity to decide whether school district bond issues should be approved with a simple majority vote; and enhance the state’s investment in K–12 construction by updating the current, outdated funding formulas for the Construction Cost Allowance and Student Space Allocation to ensure funding more closely reflects actual construction costs and educational space needs.
DO commit to advocacy. Effective advocacy does not have to be hard, intimidating or time-consuming; however, it does take a commitment.

DO get to know your legislators. Take the time to build relationships with your legislators. Meet with them during the interim and maintain contact with them throughout the session. Establish trust and credibility with legislators—so they will go to you for information and advice.

DO know your legislators’ staff. Legislative assistants are one of the keys to communicating with legislators. Treat these people with respect, as they are the gatekeepers to their bosses. Establishing a good relationship with them may or may not help you gain access, but being rude to them will likely limit your access.

DO be prepared. Whether you are meeting with a legislator or providing public testimony it is important you are prepared. Make sure you understand your arguments, you’ve collected impactful stories, and you know what important points to make.

DO have a specific “ask.” One of the cardinal sins of advocacy is taking time and energy to meet with legislators, but never specifically asking for what you want or need. Whether it is support or opposition to a bill or a request for funding or a budget proviso, be sure to ask your legislator to act. And request a response.

DO give examples. Compile data, graphs and charts to build your case, but frame your “ask” with a local story. Personalize issues with names of students, teachers, school buildings and tell stories about the real impacts. Stories stick!

DO say ‘thank you.’ There is no such thing as being too polite. You may disagree with your legislator, but you can also find a reason to say “thank you”: for their time; for their consideration; for their support; or just for their service. In addition to being polite, after engaging with legislators, a follow-up “thank you” note can be used as an excuse to restate your position (and your “ask”), as well as to provide additional information and to answer any questions that were raised.

DO stay informed. Use the WASA website, the Hotline newsletter, and WASA News to stay on top of important education issues. To stay on top of education issues in the Legislature, follow WASA’s legislative newsletter, This Week in Olympia (TWIO), and WASA’s legislative podcast.

DO advocate as a Team. While the superintendent should probably take the lead, other administrators should be on the “Advocacy Team.” You should also consider involving principals, teachers, parents—and even students. You are also encouraged to involve your school directors; as elected officials, they have a direct connection to the community and their perspective can be unique and valuable.

DON’T believe that advocacy is a one-time thing. Advocacy is a year-round effort. The best time to establish and build relationships is well-before the Legislative Session begins. That said, it is never too late to start.

DON’T overwhelm legislators with information. “Information overload” is counterproductive to your messaging. Legislators meet with hundreds of people in a given week, and they receive thousands of letters, phone calls, and e-mails. Clarity and brevity will be more impactful.

DON’T use jargon or acronyms. K–12 education is notorious for the huge number of acronyms we use. If you use education jargon or acronyms, many legislators will not understand what you are talking about—and often they won’t bother to ask. This just dilutes your message.

DON’T assume legislators know more than they do. Legislators have to deal with hundreds of issues—and thousands of bills—during a session. Even the most seasoned legislator will have trouble being on top of every issue.

DON’T give up. Some of the most simple, noncontroversial issues take several years to get through the Legislature. Being persistent, with continued engagement is essential for long-term success in the Legislature.

DON’T exaggerate. An exaggeration is akin to a lie. Get caught lying to a legislator and you will lose respect, credibility—and probably access.

DON’T be too informal. There are certain written and many unwritten protocols in Olympia. One is addressing legislators with their title, “Senator Jones” or “Representative Smith.” Using a legislator’s first name is generally considered a breach. Even when given permission to be more casual, you won’t go wrong by being more formal.

DON’T argue. It is OK to respectfully disagree, but arguing is unproductive and certainly will not get you any points.

DON’T guess. Don’t answer a question if you don’t know the answer. Say “I’ll get back to you”—and then follow through.

DON’T send form letters (or duplicate e-mails). It is important for the education community to speak with one voice, but that does not mean using form letters. Using common language and similar messaging is fine—and appropriate—but it is lazy (and horribly ineffective) to essentially duplicate one message.
HOUSE LEADERSHIP

Democratic Caucus

Speaker .......................... Rep. Laurie Jinks .......................... 253-393-2990
Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore Rep. Dan Bronoske ......................... 786-7958
Majority Leader ................ Rep. Pat Sullivan ......................... 786-7858
Deputy Majority Leader ...... Rep. Larry Springer ....................... 425-947-8921
Majority Floor Leader ...... Rep. Monica Stonier ......................... 786-7872
Deputy Majority Floor Leader Rep. Melanie Morgan .................. 786-7906
Majority Caucus Chair ... Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self ....................... 786-7972
Majority Caucus Vice Chair Rep. My-Linh Thai ......................... 206-333-4107
Deputy Majority Whip ...... Rep. Alex Ramel ......................... 786-7970
Assistant Majority Whip .... Rep. Emily Wicks ......................... 425-903-8183
Assistance Majority Whip .. Rep. Davina Duerr ....................... 425-318-1303

Republican Caucus

Minority Deputy Leader ...... Rep. Joel Kretz .......................... 786-7988
Minority Floor Leader ...... Rep. Jacqueline Maycumber ............... 786-7908
Minority Assistant Floor Leader Rep. Chris Corry ..................... 509-907-6087
Minority Assistant Floor Leader Rep. Drew MacEwen ............... 786-7902
Minority Caucus Chair ...... Rep. Paul Harris ......................... 786-7976
Minority Vice Caucus Chair Rep. Gina Mosbrucker ................. 360-761-1194
Minority Vice Caucus Chair Rep. Brad Klippert ...................... 786-7882
Minority Whip ................ Rep. Dan Griffey ...................... 786-7896
Minority Assistant Whip ... Rep. Jenny Graham .................... 509-960-5393
Minority Assistant Whip ... Rep. Cyndy Jacobsen ................... 253-449-8545
Minority Assistant Whip ... Rep. Joel McEntire .................... 786-7870

Room Key

LEG = Legislative Building
JLOB = John L. O'Brien Building

Abbarno, Peter R-20th District
Callan, Lisa D-5th District
D-44th District
JLOB 335 425-651-2341
jlob.callan@leg.wa.gov

Chambers, Kelly R-25th District
LEG 426 360-746-3670
kelly.chambers@leg.wa.gov

Chapman, Mike D-24th District
LEG 1328 564-888-2321
mike.chapman@leg.wa.gov

Chase, Rob R-4th District
JLOB 466 509-866-4094
rob.chase@leg.wa.gov

Chopp, Frank R-43rd District
LEG 429A 206-905-6681
frank.chopp@leg.wa.gov

Cody, Eileen D-34th District
JLOB 303 564-888-2493
eileen.cody@leg.wa.gov

Corry, Chris R-14th District
JLOB 430 509-907-6087
chris.corry@leg.wa.gov

Davis, Lauren D-32nd District
JLOB 331 206-673-3501
lauren.davis@leg.wa.gov

Dent, Tom R-13th District
JLOB 437 509-941-2346
tom.dent@leg.wa.gov

Dolan, Laurie D-22nd District
JLOB 318 360-786-7940
laurie.dolan@leg.wa.gov

Donaghy, Brandy D-44th District
JLOB 326 360-786-7804
brandy.donaghy@leg.wa.gov

Duerr, Davina D-1st District
LEG 427 425-318-1303
davina.duerr@leg.wa.gov

Dufault, Jeremie R-15th District
LEG 122E 509-728-9174
jeremie.dufault@leg.wa.gov

Dye, Mary R-9th District
JLOB 432 564-888-2380
mary.dye@leg.wa.gov

Entenman, Debra D-47th District
JLOB 305 253-330-5504
debra.entenman@leg.wa.gov

Eslick, Carolyn R-39th District
JLOB 467 360-786-7816
carolyn.eslick@leg.wa.gov

Fey, Jake R-27th District
JLOB 415 253-650-0916
jake.fey@leg.wa.gov

Fitzgibbon, Joe D-34th District
JLOB 320 564-888-2362
joe.fitzgibbon@leg.wa.gov

Frame, Noel D-36th District
JLOB 420 206-962-5098
noel.frame@leg.wa.gov

Gilday, Greg R-10th District
JLOB 404 360-939-1211
greg.gilday@leg.wa.gov

Goehner, Keith R-12th District
LEG 122C 509-665-0386
keith.goehner@leg.wa.gov

Goodman, Roger D-45th District
JLOB 436B 360-786-7878
roger.goodman@leg.wa.gov

Graham, Jenny R-6th District
JLOB 435 509-960-5393
jenny.graham@leg.wa.gov

Gregerson, Mia R-33rd District
JLOB 328 253-981-6278
mia.gregerson@leg.wa.gov

Griffey, Dan R-35th District
JLOB 403 360-786-7966
dan.griffey@leg.wa.gov

Hackney, David R-11th District
JLOB 319 206-490-0914
david.hackney@leg.wa.gov

Hansen, Drew R-23rd District
JLOB 370 206-333-2975
drew.hansen@leg.wa.gov

Harris, Paul R-17th District
LEG 426A 360-786-7976
paul.harris@leg.wa.gov

Harris-Talley, Kirsten R-37th District
LEG 132E 206-971-1222
kristen.harris-talley@leg.wa.gov

Olympia, WA 98504-0600
PO Box 40600
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No general fax: contact individual representative.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hoff, Larry</td>
<td>R-18th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:larry.hoff@leg.wa.gov">larry.hoff@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacobsen, Cyndy</td>
<td>R-25th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cyndy.jacobsen@leg.wa.gov">cyndy.jacobsen@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jinkins, Laurie</td>
<td>D-27th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:laurie.jinkins@leg.wa.gov">laurie.jinkins@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Jesse</td>
<td>D-30th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jesse.johnson@leg.wa.gov">jesse.johnson@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirby, Steve</td>
<td>R-16th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:steve.kirby@leg.wa.gov">steve.kirby@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klippert, Brad</td>
<td>R-8th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brad.klippert@leg.wa.gov">brad.klippert@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kloba, Shelley</td>
<td>D-1st District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shelley.kloba@leg.wa.gov">shelley.kloba@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kraft, Vicki</td>
<td>R-17th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vicki.kraft@leg.wa.gov">vicki.kraft@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kretz, Joel</td>
<td>R-7th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joel.kretz@leg.wa.gov">joel.kretz@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leavitt, Mari</td>
<td>D-28th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mari.leavitt@leg.wa.gov">mari.leavitt@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lekanoff, Debra</td>
<td>D-40th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:debra.lekanoff@leg.wa.gov">debra.lekanoff@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MacEwen, Drew</td>
<td>R-35th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:drew.macewen@leg.wa.gov">drew.macewen@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macri, Nicole</td>
<td>D-43rd District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nicole.macri@leg.wa.gov">nicole.macri@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maycumber, Jacquelin</td>
<td>R-7th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jacquelin.maycumber@leg.wa.gov">jacquelin.maycumber@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCaslin, Bob</td>
<td>R-4th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bob.mccaslin@leg.wa.gov">bob.mccaslin@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McEntire, Joel</td>
<td>R-19th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joel.mcentire@leg.wa.gov">joel.mcentire@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morgan, Melanie</td>
<td>D-29th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:melanie.morgan@leg.wa.gov">melanie.morgan@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosbrucker, Gina</td>
<td>R-14th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gina.mosbrucker@leg.wa.gov">gina.mosbrucker@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orcutt, Ed</td>
<td>R-20th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ed.orcutt@leg.wa.gov">ed.orcutt@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ormsby, Timm</td>
<td>D-3rd District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:timm.ormsby@leg.wa.gov">timm.ormsby@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orwell, Tina</td>
<td>D-33rd District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tina.orwell@leg.wa.gov">tina.orwell@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul, Dave</td>
<td>D-10th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dave.paul@leg.wa.gov">dave.paul@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peterson, Strom</td>
<td>D-21st District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:strom.peterson@leg.wa.gov">strom.peterson@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollet, Gerry</td>
<td>D-46th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gerry.pollet@leg.wa.gov">gerry.pollet@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramel, Alex</td>
<td>D-40th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alex.ramel@leg.wa.gov">alex.ramel@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramos, Bill</td>
<td>D-5th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bill.ramos@leg.wa.gov">bill.ramos@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riccelli, Marcus</td>
<td>D-3rd District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marcus.riccelli@leg.wa.gov">marcus.riccelli@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robertson, Eric</td>
<td>R-31st District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eric.robertson@leg.wa.gov">eric.robertson@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rude, Skyley</td>
<td>R-16th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:skyley.rude@leg.wa.gov">skyley.rude@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule, Alicia</td>
<td>R-42nd District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alicia.rule@leg.wa.gov">alicia.rule@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santos, Sharon Tomiko</td>
<td>D-37th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sharon.tomiko.santos@leg.wa.gov">sharon.tomiko.santos@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schmich, Joe</td>
<td>R-9th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:joe.schmich@leg.wa.gov">joe.schmich@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sells, Mike</td>
<td>D-38th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mike.sells@leg.wa.gov">mike.sells@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senn, Tana</td>
<td>D-41st District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tana.senn@leg.wa.gov">tana.senn@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simmons, Tarra</td>
<td>D-23rd District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tarra.simmons@leg.wa.gov">tarra.simmons@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slatter, Vandana</td>
<td>D-48th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vandana.slatter@leg.wa.gov">vandana.slatter@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springer, Larry</td>
<td>D-45th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:larry.springer@leg.wa.gov">larry.springer@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steele, Mike</td>
<td>R-12th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mike.steele@leg.wa.gov">mike.steele@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stokesbury, Drew</td>
<td>R-31st District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:drew.stokesbury@leg.wa.gov">drew.stokesbury@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stonier, Monica Jurado</td>
<td>D-49th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:monica.stonier@leg.wa.gov">monica.stonier@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sullivan, Pat</td>
<td>D-47th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pat.sullivan@leg.wa.gov">pat.sullivan@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutherland, Robert</td>
<td>R-39th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robert.sutherland@leg.wa.gov">robert.sutherland@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor, Jamila</td>
<td>D-30th District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jamila.taylor@leg.wa.gov">jamila.taylor@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thai, My-Linh</td>
<td>D-41st District</td>
<td><a href="mailto:my-linh.thai@leg.wa.gov">my-linh.thai@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**WASA Legislative Report Podcast**

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Federal Directory

UNITED STATES SENATE

Senator Maria Cantwell (D)
511 Hart Senate Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
www.cantwell.senate.gov | Tel 202-224-3441 | Fax 202-228-0514
LOCAL 915 Second Ave., Suite 3206, Seattle, WA 98174
Tel 206-220-6400 | Fax 206-220-6404

Senator Patty Murray (D)
154 Russell Senate Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
www.murray.senate.gov | Tel 202-224-2621 | Fax 202-224-0238
LOCAL 915 2nd Avenue, Seattle, WA 98174
Tel 206-553-5545 or 866-481-9186 | Fax 206-553-0891

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1st District........................ Representative Suzan DelBene (D)
2330 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
delbene.house.gov | Tel 202-225-6311 | Fax 202-226-1606
LOCAL 450 Central Way, Suite 3100, Kirkland, WA 98033
Tel 425-252-3188 | Fax 425-252-6606
LOCAL 119 N. Commercial St., Suite 75, Bellingham, WA 98225
Tel 360-733-4500 | Fax 360-733-5144

2nd District........................ Representative Rick Larsen (D)
2163 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
larsen.house.gov | Tel 202-225-2605 | Fax 202-225-4420
LOCAL Wall Street Bldg, 2930 Wetmore, Suite 9F, Everett, WA 98201
Tel 425-252-3188 | Fax 425-252-6606
LOCAL 119 N. Commercial St., Suite 75, Bellingham, WA 98225
Tel 360-733-4500 | Fax 360-733-5144

3rd District...................... Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler (R)
2352 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
herrerabeutler.house.gov | Tel 202-225-3536 | Fax 202-225-3478
LOCAL Chehalis City Hall Building
350 N. Market Blvd., Chehalis, WA 98532
LOCAL 750 Anderson Street, Suite B, Vancouver, WA 98661
Tel 360-695-6292 | Fax 360-695-6197

4th District...................... Representative Dan Newhouse (R)
504 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
newhouse.house.gov | Tel 202-225-5816 | Fax 202-225-3251
LOCAL 402 E. Yakima Ave., Suite 1000, Yakima, WA 98902
Tel 509-452-3243 | Fax 509-452-3438
LOCAL 3100 George Washington Way #135, Richland, WA 99354
Tel 509-713-7374 | Fax 509-713-7377

5th District.................... Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R)
1035 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
mcmorris.house.gov | Tel 202-225-2006 | Fax 202-225-3392
LOCAL 10 N. Post, Suite 625, Spokane, WA 99201
Tel 509-353-2374
LOCAL 555 S. Main St., Colville, WA 99114
Tel 509-684-3481
LOCAL 26 E. Main St. Suite 2, Walla Walla, WA 99362
Tel 509-529-9358

6th District....................... Representative Derek Kilmer (D)
2059 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
kilmer.house.gov | Tel 202-225-5916 | Fax 202-226-1176
LOCAL 950 Pacific Ave., Suite 1230, Tacoma, WA 98402
Tel 253-272-3515
LOCAL 345 6th St., Suite 500, Bremerton, WA 98337
Tel 360-373-9725 | Fax None

7th District....................... Representative Pramila Jayapal (D)
2346 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
jayapal.house.gov | Tel 202-225-3106 | Fax 202-225-4282
LOCAL 1904 3rd Ave., Suite 510, Seattle, WA 98101
Tel 206-674-0040

8th District....................... Representative Kim Schrier (D)
1123 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
schrier.house.gov | Tel 202-225-7761 | Fax 202-225-3482
LOCAL 1445 NW Mall St., Suite 4, Issaquah, WA 98029
Tel 425-657-1001
LOCAL 301 Yakima Street, Suite 329, Wenatchee, WA 98801
Tel 509.850.5340

9th District....................... Representative Adam Smith (D)
2264 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
adamsmith.house.gov | Tel 202-225-8901 | Fax 202-225-5893
LOCAL 101 Evergreen Bldg, 15 S. Grady Way, Renton, WA 98057
Tel 425-793-5180 | Fax 425-793-5181

10th District..................... Representative Marilyn Stickland (D)
1004 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
marilynstickland.house.gov | Tel 202-225-9740 | Fax 202-225-0129
LOCAL 420 College St. SE, Lacey, WA 98503
Tel 360-459-8514
LOCAL 6000 Main St. SW, Suite 3B, Lakewood, WA 98499
Tel 253-208-6173
THIS WEEK IN OLYMPIA (TWIO) 
KEEPS WASA MEMBERS INFORMED

TWIO is published weekly by the Washington Association of School Administrators to keep you informed during the legislative session.

https://wasa-oly.org/wasa/TWIO

2022 LEGISLATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

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<th>Region</th>
<th>Chair, City</th>
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<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Jim Kowalkowski (Chair), Davenport</td>
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<td>105</td>
<td>Kevin McKay, Sunnyside</td>
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<td>108</td>
<td>James Everett, Meridian</td>
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<td>109</td>
<td>Patty Dowd, Mukilteo</td>
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<td>110</td>
<td>Alah Spicciati, Auburn</td>
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<td>111</td>
<td>Tom Seigel, Bethel</td>
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<td>112</td>
<td>Mary Templeton, Washougal</td>
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<td>113</td>
<td>Cal Brodie, ESD 113</td>
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<td>114</td>
<td>Dana Rosenbach, North Mason Monica Hunsaker, ESD 114</td>
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<tr>
<td>123</td>
<td>Traci Pierce, Kennewick</td>
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<tr>
<td>171</td>
<td>Greg Goodnight, Pateros</td>
</tr>
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BPAC
Sarah Thomton, Pasco

ESDs
Michelle Price, NCESD 171

IPAC
Jennifer Bethman, Bethel

Principals
Matt Yarkosky, Bethel

Small Schools
Jake Dingman, Oakesdale

Special Ed
John Sander, Oakesdale

Superintendents
Jeff Snell, Vancouver

Federal Liaison
Kevin McKay, Sunnyside Michelle Price, ESD 171 Nathan McCann, Ridgefield Krestin Bahr, Eatonville

Consultants (non-voting)

LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE (800.562.6000)
8 a.m.–8 p.m., Monday–Friday; 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Saturday

This quick and effective service allows you to communicate your views and to obtain information about bills. You will be asked for your name, address, telephone number, the bill number about which you are calling, your legislative district, and a brief message.

ONLINE BILL INFORMATION..........................apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo
• Specific bill title and number
• Bill status
• Committee considering bill
• Name/phone of committee staff
• Mailing (upon request)

KEY PHONE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALL AREA CODES (360)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Governor.......................................902-4111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of the Lieutenant Governor..........................786-7700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of State..............................................902-4151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Service Center.................................786-7000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operator.............................................................753-5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Information Center (Bill Room)..................786-7573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tour Information..................................................902-8880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of the Senate.........................................786-7550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Clerk’s Office (House)....................................786-7750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate Committee Services.....................................786-7400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Office of Program Research............................786-7100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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WEBSITES

Washington Association of School Administrators........www.wasa-oly.org
Association of Washington School Principals.............www.awsp.org
Washington Education Association.........................www.washingtoneoa.org
Washington State PTA.............................................www.wastatepta.org
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction............www.k12.wa.us
Office of the Governor...........................................www.governor.wa.gov
Washington State Legislature.................................www.leg.wa.gov

The Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) represents approximately 1,300 active school administrators statewide.
### 2022 SESSION CUTOFF CALENDAR

These are the dates in the resolution as introduced; the schedule is not final until it has been adopted by both the House and Senate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 10</td>
<td>First Day of Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 3</td>
<td>Last day to read in committee reports (pass bills out of committee and read them into the record on the floor) in house of origin, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways &amp; Means and Transportation committees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 7</td>
<td>Last day to read in committee reports (pass bills out of committee and read them into the record on the floor) from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways &amp; Means and Transportation committees in house of origin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>Last day to consider (passed) bills in house of origin (5 p.m.).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>Last day to read in committee reports (pass bills out of committee and read them into the record on the floor) from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways &amp; Means and Transportation committees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>Last day to read in opposite house committee reports (pass bills out of committee and read them into the record on the floor) from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways &amp; Means and Transportation committees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4*</td>
<td>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).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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.

### Committee Meeting Calendar

(Times are subject to change. Up-to-date 2021 legislative session committee meeting schedules and agendas are available on the State Legislature website at [www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/calendar.aspx](http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/calendar.aspx).)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>8–10 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td>House Education Virtual</td>
<td></td>
<td>Senate Early Learning &amp; K–12 Virtual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–11 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>House Education Virtual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Senate Early Learning &amp; K–12 Virtual</td>
<td>Senate Early Learning &amp; K–12 Virtual</td>
<td>Senate Early Learning &amp; K–12 Virtual</td>
<td>Senate Early Learning &amp; K–12 Virtual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30–3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Senate Early Learning &amp; K–12 Virtual</td>
<td>House Appropriations Virtual</td>
<td>House Appropriations Virtual</td>
<td>House Education Virtual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30–5:15 p.m.</td>
<td>House Appropriations Virtual</td>
<td>House Appropriations Virtual</td>
<td>House Appropriations Virtual</td>
<td>House Appropriations Virtual</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Senate Ways &amp; Means Virtual</td>
<td>Senate Ways &amp; Means Virtual</td>
<td>Senate Ways &amp; Means Virtual</td>
<td>Senate Ways &amp; Means Virtual</td>
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