

# 2023 Legislative Session Guide



A publication of the Washington Association of School Administrators

The 2023 Session began on January 9 and is scheduled to end on April 23.

The 2023 Legislative Session is the first year of the 68th Biennial Legislature, referred to as the “long” budget session, limited to 105 days. During this session, the Legislature’s major priority will be to adopt a new two-year Operating Budget for the 2023–25 biennium. You can be sure, however, there will also be a multitude of policy legislation, many of them having major impacts on K–12 education.

WASA continues to encourage an increased involvement of our members in advocacy—specifically, our non-superintendent members. Superintendents generally are in the lead for most, if not all, of your district’s advocacy efforts—and they should continue to be the lead in terms of direction, voice, and priorities. We strongly encourage non-superintendents, however, to join with their superintendents to enhance your district’s voice—and WASA’s impact—by getting more involved in telling your district’s “story.”

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. Remember, most of our 147 lawmakers have no background in education (and remember that 29 of these legislators are new to Olympia this year). 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 2023 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. We also encourage you, especially if you are new to the process, to review our two-part “Finding Your Voice” Lunch & Learn webinar. Part I is a comprehensive review of WASA’s 2023 Legislative Platform and Part II focuses on how to effectively engage with your legislators. (The presentation slides and recordings of both webinars are available on the WASA website: [Part I](#) and [Part II](#).)

Remember, advocacy does not have to be hard, intimidating, or time-consuming. You simply must commit to it, however. The Legislature is back in-person for the first time in two years; however, legislative committees will operate in a hybrid (in-person and remote) mode making it easy to testify or note your position for the record. Many legislators are also continuing to meet remotely. Even if you are for from Olympia, there are multiple opportunities for engagement.

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.

## 2023 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

School administrators recognize and appreciate the Legislature's efforts to address K–12 education concerns in the 2021–23 biennium. While K–12 budgets were largely protected with enrollment and pupil transportation stabilization payments and major investments were finally made to begin needed updates of staffing ratios in the Prototypical School Funding Model, many of our school districts' most critical needs were passed over. During the 2023 Legislative Session, as a new two-year budget is adopted, it is urgent that K–12 education's ongoing concerns are addressed.

School administrators are committed to ensuring each and every student is provided with equitable learning environments where they can learn and achieve their educational goals and aspirations. In pursuit of this commitment, WASA urges the Legislature to positively act upon the following priorities:

### **Advance Equity**

Closing opportunity gaps to promote high levels of achievement for all students is critical. WASA urges the Legislature to provide school districts the resources, tools, and flexibility to: ensure fair treatment, equitable access, and opportunity for each student to achieve successful outcomes; and recruit, support, and retain effective district and building staff who reflect the diversity of our student populations, including ethnicity and gender.

### **Support Basic Education Compensation Rebase**

Current law (adopted in 2017's EHB 2242) requires the Legislature, beginning in 2023, to regularly review and rebase minimum salaries, including regionalization and experience factors, to ensure salary allocations continue to align with staffing costs for the state's program of basic education. As the compensation system is being rebased, WASA urges: the calculation and application of regionalization factors to be adjusted using school districts' labor markets, rather than cost of housing alone; the calculation and application of experience factors to be adjusted making the system more transparent and equitable; the previous calendar year's annual average Seattle-area CPI to be used as an inflationary factor, as adopted by I-732; and the development and implementation of multiple educator pathways and incentives to ensure sufficient and diverse staff are available to districts.

### **Fully Fund Special Education**

In the last four years, the Legislature has: increased the special education excess cost multiplier (2019); provided additional funding for safety net awards (2020); and provided funding for additional transition services, for professional development, and for family liaisons (2021). While these incremental steps to reduce the special education funding gap are positive and appreciated, the 2023 Legislature must take more deliberate action to provide full funding of special education costs and align funding with best practices.

### **Fix Pupil Transportation**

Under STARS, the current Pupil Transportation funding model, many districts experience significant funding gaps; in the last five years, many districts received an allocation below their costs. OFM recently found in most situations, the STARS model is not going to provide adequate resources to school districts and recommends, at the very least, that more funding be provided to the system. We appreciate the 2022 Legislature's provision of additional funding to address excess costs to transport special passengers; however, it is time to comprehensively fix the pupil transportation formula to ensure it is more transparent, predictable, and adequately funded.

### **Update Staffing Allocations**

We applaud the 2022 Legislature for beginning a phase-in of enhanced staff allocations, specifically investing in staff to meet students' needs for social, emotional, safety, and behavioral health. This action implements a portion of the Phase I recommendations of the Staffing Enrichment Workgroup (2019). We urge the 2023 Legislature to continue the implementation of the Phase I recommendations by: improving Prototypical School Funding Model (PSFM) levels for school principals to promote school cultures of learning and growth, support students by regularly meeting social-emotional and mental health needs, and address increased responsibilities in supervisory duties of their staff members; providing additional professional development to close achievement gaps; and adding continuous improvement coaches as an enhancement to the PSFM.

### **Invest in Learning Recovery**

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the long-term use of remote learning, which has been 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, ongoing resources are needed to expand accelerated learning opportunities for tutoring, additional instructional time, and to offer more student supports to address long-term impacts from the pandemic.

### **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.

## ADVOCACY DO'S AND DON'TS

We appreciate your engagement. Remembering a few “rules” of the game will help you maneuver in the legislative arena; following are some of the things you are encouraged to DO—and some things we recommend you DON'T do.

**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.

## SENATE LEADERSHIP

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 Vice President Pro Tempore ..... Senator John Lovick ..... 786-7686

Secretary of the Senate ..... Sarah Bannister ..... 786-7550  
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 Majority Deputy Leader ..... Sen. Manka Dhingra ..... 786-7672  
 Majority Deputy Leader ..... Sen. Emily Randall ..... 786-7650  
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 Majority Floor Leader ..... Sen. Jamie Pedersen ..... 786-7628  
 Majority Asst. Floor Leader ..... Sen. Joe Nguyen ..... 786-7667  
 Majority Whip ..... Sen. T'wina Nobles ..... 786-7654  
 Majority Assistant Whip ..... Sen. Claire Wilson ..... 786-7658

### Republican Caucus

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 Minority Floor Leader ..... Sen. Shelley Short ..... 786-7612  
 Minority Deputy Floor Leader ..... Sen. Nikki Torres ..... 786-7684  
 Minority Whip ..... Sen. Keith Wagoner ..... 786-7676  
 Minority Deputy Whip ..... Sen. Perry Dozier ..... 786-7630

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 JAC = Cherberg Building  
 LEG = Legislative Building

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Deputy Majority Leader .....	Rep. My-Linh Thai .....	786-7926
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Minority Caucus Vice Chair .....	Rep. Eric Robertson .....	786-7866
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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

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Tel 206-220-6400 | Fax 206-220-6404

### Senator Patty Murray (D)

154 Russell Senate Building, Washington, D.C. 20510  
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## 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

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LOCAL 204 W. Montgomery St., Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
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### 2nd District ..... Representative Rick Larsen (D)

2163 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515  
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### 3rd District ..... Representative Marie Perez (D)

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### 4th District ..... Representative Dan Newhouse (R)

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LOCAL 3100 George Washington Way #135, Richland, WA 99354  
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### 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

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LOCAL 26 E. Main St. Suite 2, Walla Walla, WA 99362  
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### 6th District ..... Representative Derek Kilmer (D)

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LOCAL 345 6th St., Suite 500, Bremerton, WA 98337  
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### 7th District ..... Representative Pramila Jayapal (D)

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### 8th District ..... Representative Kim Schrier (D)

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### 9th District ..... Representative Adam Smith (D)

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### 10th District ..... Representative Marilyn Stickland (D)

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LOCAL 420 College St. SE, Lacey, WA 98503  
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LOCAL 6000 Main St. SW, Suite 3B, Lakewood, WA 98499  
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## 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>

## 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](https://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo)

- Specific bill title and number
- Bill status
- Committee considering bill
- Name/phone of committee staff
- Mailing (upon request)

## 2023 LEGISLATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

### Region 101

Kim Headrick, Medical Lake  
Travis Hanson, Deer Park

### Region 105

Curt Guailianone, Mt. Adams  
Robert Bowman, Naches Valley

### Region 108

James Everett, Meridian

### Region 109

Karin Manns, Granite Falls  
Patty Dowd, Mukilteo

### Region 110

Alah Spicciati, Auburn

### Region 111

Tom Seigel, Bethel

### Region 112

Mary Templeton, Washougal

### Region 113

JoLynn Berge, ESD 113

### Region 114

Dana Rosenbach, North Mason  
Monica Hunsaker, South Kitsap

### Region 123

Traci Pierce, Kennewick

### Region 171

Tim Payne, Ephrata

### BPAC

Melissa Beard, Steilacoom

### ESDs

Michelle Price, NCESD 171

### IPAC

Jenny Rodriguez, Yakima

### Principals

Matt Yarkosky, Bethel

### Small Schools

Jake Dingman, Oakesdale

### Special Ed

John Sander, Franklin Pierce

### Superintendents

James Everett, Meridian

### Federal Liaison

Kevin McKay, Selah  
Michelle Price, ESD 171  
Nathan McCann, Ridgefield  
Krestin Bahr, Peninsula

### At-Large

Jim Kowalkowski,  
Rural Education Center/  
NWESD 101

### Consultants (non-voting)

Mitch Denning–WAMOA  
Fred Yancy–The Nexus Group  
Pensions/Health Benefits  
Melissa Gombosky–AESD

## KEY PHONE NUMBERS

ALL AREA CODES (360)

Office of the Governor .....	902-4111
Office of the Lieutenant Governor .....	786-7700
Secretary of State .....	902-4151
Legislative Service Center .....	786-7000
Operator .....	753-5000
Legislative Information Center (Bill Room) .....	786-7573
Tour Information.....	902-8880
Secretary of the Senate .....	786-7550
Chief Clerk's Office (House) .....	786-7750
Senate Committee Services .....	786-7400
House Office of Program Research.....	786-7100

## WEBSITES

Washington Association of School Administrators .....	<a href="http://www.wasa-oly.org">www.wasa-oly.org</a>
Washington State School Directors' Association .....	<a href="http://www.wssda.org">www.wssda.org</a>
Association of Washington School Principals.....	<a href="http://www.awsp.org">www.awsp.org</a>
Washington Education Association .....	<a href="http://www.washingtonea.org">www.washingtonea.org</a>
Washington State PTA.....	<a href="http://www.wastatepta.org">www.wastatepta.org</a>
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction .....	<a href="http://www.k12.wa.us">www.k12.wa.us</a>
Office of the Governor .....	<a href="http://www.governor.wa.gov">www.governor.wa.gov</a>
Washington State Legislature.....	<a href="http://www.leg.wa.gov">www.leg.wa.gov</a>

The Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) represents approximately 1,477 active school administrators statewide.

## WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

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## 2023 SESSION CUTOFF CALENDAR

January 9	First Day of Session
February 17	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 & Means and Transportation committees.
February 24	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 & Means and Transportation committees in house of origin.
March 8	Last day to consider (passed) bills in house of origin (5 p.m.).
March 29	Last day to read in committee reports (pass bills out of committee and read them into the record on the floor) from opposite house, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
April 4	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 & Means and Transportation committees.
April 12*	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 23	Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

\* After 5:00 p.m. on the 94th 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 2023 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).)

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8–10 a.m.				House Education HHRA & Virtual	
1:30–3:30 p.m.	House Education HHRA & Virtual  Senate Early Learning & K–12 SHR1 & Virtual		Senate Early Learning & K–12 SHR1 & Virtual	Senate Early Learning & K–12 SHR1 & Virtual	
4-6:00 p.m.	House Appropriations HHRA & Virtual  Senate Ways & Means SHR4 & Virtual	House Appropriations HHRA & Virtual  Senate Ways & Means SHR4 & Virtual	House Appropriations HHRA & Virtual	House Appropriations HHRA & Virtual  Senate Ways & Means SHR4 & Virtual	