

2025 Legislative Session Guide



A publication of the Washington Association of School Administrators

The 2025 Session began on January 13 and is scheduled to end on April 27.

The 2025 Legislative Session is the first year of the 69th Biennial Legislature, referred to as the “long” session, limited to 105 days. During this session a major priority will be to adopt new two-year Operating, Capital, and Transportation Budgets. Never a simple task, drafting and adopting the 2025–27 Operating Budget will be even more difficult, as budget-writers will be grappling with a projected budget shortfall, potentially as high as \$12 billion.

In the midst of the budget shortfall, WASA will be aggressively advocating for our [2025 Legislative Platform](#)—included on Page Two of this Guide. Our Platform urges the Legislature to amply fund Special Education, Materials, Supplies and Operating Costs (MSOC) and Pupil Transportation. Securing the necessary appropriations (potentially \$1.5 billion) to “fully fund” these programs will certainly be an uphill battle.

The so-called “Big Three” were chosen as our singular focus for two specific, compelling reasons. One, any success on these issue we achieve in 2025 will positively impact ALL 295 school districts and automatically serves to unify WASA members. Two, each of these issues is a Basic Education program, constitutionally required to be amply funded; however, there is clear, documented evidence that none are fully funded.

WASA stands ready to advance these priorities. In fact, we believe other educators—and parents and other community members—also need to engage. WASA, in conjunction with AESD, has built a Coalition with seven other statewide education associations (WSSDA, WASBO, AWSP, WAMOA, WSNA, WACTA, and WSPTA) that support the Big Three.

In order for our 2025 advocacy effort to succeed, we need school administrators—in concert with other educators—to fully engage in the legislative process. Of course, 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 2025 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.

This year, we also have developed some new tools to assist you in your advocacy efforts, but also to help you and your colleagues to speak with one voice. WASA (with support from ESD 112) created an education funding website, located at: www.waschoolfunding.org. The website provides useful—and easy to understand—information on the current funding dilemma so many school districts currently face. This website is intended to be “informational” and not a specific advocacy tool, so we encourage you to share this with your school board, parents, and community members.

In addition to the funding website, we have also built a [Tool Kit](#)—with talking points, social media content, and other communication resources—to assist and align our members as you engage with your own legislators. Return to the Tool Kit regularly as it continues to be updated. Recently, we added one-page [briefing papers](#) on each priority and a complete [Data Dashboard](#), which provides district expenditures vs state funding on the Big Three. Our effort is to ensure WASA—and our partners—speak with one voice as much as possible. We encourage you to use the resources in the Tool Kit to join your colleagues and members of the other education associations in advocating for WASA’s 2025 Platform.

Advocacy does not have to be to be hard, intimidating, or time-consuming. You simply must commit to it. Remember, 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 is on them. But if legislators make the wrong decision because we sat on our hands, that is on us. We have to be honest and acknowledge we will not always be successful, but if we do not engage, we are guaranteed to lose. Hockey legend Wayne Gretzky said it best: “You miss 100 percent of the shots you don’t take.”

2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

School administrators acknowledge the Legislature’s efforts to fully fund basic education, including the provision of significant additional funding in the last ten years. Nevertheless, funding for at least three major components of basic education—Special Education, Pupil Transportation, and Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC)—continue to be dramatically underfunded.

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 2025 Legislature to fulfill their obligation to fully fund the following Basic Education programs:

Special Education

The 2025 Legislature must fully fund the cost of special education services.

School districts have a legal obligation to serve all students with disabilities in Washington, regardless of cost of services, yet they do not have the necessary resources to provide those services. Even with recent funding enhancements, the gap between school district expenditures for special education and related services substantially exceeds funding—and continues to grow. This gap requires districts to continue to use local funding sources, including local levies, to cover necessary costs. To ensure school districts are provided with funding that reflects the actual costs of service delivery, the Legislature must increase special education tiered multipliers and remove the arbitrary enrollment funding cap.

Pupil Transportation

The 2025 Legislature must promptly fulfill its obligation to comprehensively fix the pupil transportation formula to ensure it is more transparent, predictable, and adequately funded.

The intent of the current Student Transportation Allocation Reporting System (STARS) is to allow the Legislature to allocate funding to districts that aligns with actual costs of providing school transportation services. Regardless of the intent, the STARS formula has consistently underfunded districts’ actual pupil transportation expenditures. The STARS formula cannot forecast allocations with credible accuracy, calculates a final allocation in February which complicates budget decisions for school districts and the Legislature, and uses an efficiency rating that is detrimental to efficient districts because they are at risk of less funding in the model.

Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC)

The 2025 Legislature must immediately address the significant underfunding of allocations for Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC).

While staffing represents the largest expense for school districts, there are many costs to running a school district which are non-staff related. The Legislature provides an allocation to cover these costs by providing for Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC) at a specific rate per student; however, state funding for MSOC has not kept pace with actual school district costs. Liability insurance alone has increased over 100 percent in the last five years, while utility costs have increased more than 40 percent. Other costs, such as food and fuel, have also increased dramatically. Current per pupil rates for Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs simply do not come close to matching costs of running a school district. These costs are increasing through no fault of School Districts, superintendents or school boards and their decisions. When required costs of running a school district exceed state funding, local revenues, mostly levies, must be used to fill the gap, reducing local resources for school district and community expectations.

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.

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 Minority WhipSen. Keith Wagoner.....786-7676
 Minority Deputy Whip.....Sen. Perry Dozier786-7630

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 JAC = Cherberg Building
 LEG = Legislative Building

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Room Key

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 INB = Irv Newhouse Building

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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

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

2025 LEGISLATION AND FINANCE

Region 101

Kim Headrick, Medical Lake
Travis Hanson, Mead

Region 105

Curt Guailianone, Mt. Adams
Robert Bowman, Naches Valley

Region 108

James Everett, Meridian

Region 109

Mary Templeton, Lake Stevens
Patty Dowd, Mukilteo

Region 110

Alah Spicciati, Auburn

Region 111

Ron Banner, Clover Park

Region 112

Pete Rosenkranz, La Center

Region 113

Chris Nesmith, Elma

Region 114

Dana Rosenbach, North Mason
Jason Rhoads, OESD 114

Region 123

Traci Pierce, Kennewick

Region 171

Greg Whitmore, Entiat

BPAC

Jill Pratt, Rochester

ESDs

Steve McCullough, ESD 123

IPAC

Linda McKay, NCESD 171

Principals

Elyse Mengarelli, Mabton

Small Schools

Tabatha Mires, Mason

Special Ed

John Sander, Franklin Pierce

Superintendents

Federal Liaison

Rob Banner, Clover Park
Michelle Price, NCESD 171
Wade Smith, Walla Walla
Krestin Bahr, Peninsula

At-Large

Jim Kowalkowski,
Rural Education Center/
NEWESD 101

Consultants (non-voting)

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

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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....	www.wasa-oly.org
Washington State School Directors' Association.....	www.wssda.org
Association of Washington School Principals.....	www.awsp.org
Washington Education Association.....	www.washingtonea.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 more than 1,600 active school administrators statewide.

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2025 SESSION CUTOFF CALENDAR

January 13	First Day of Session
February 21	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 28	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 12	Last day to consider (passed) bills in house of origin (5 p.m.).
April 2	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 8	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 16*	Last day to consider (pass) 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	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 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES AND AGENDAS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE STATE LEGISLATURE WEBSITE AT WWW.LEG.WA.GOV/LEGISLATURE/PAGES/CALENDAR.ASPX.)

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