

# TRIO<sup>®</sup>



## THE WEEK AHEAD

YOUR TOP THREE WAYS TO ENGAGE IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

WASA  
WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

### WEEK 1—WEEKLY TOP THREE

January 12, 2026

- Engage on Governor's Proposed Capital Budget
- Amplify the Message on Un- or Underfunded Mandates
- Share Your TTK and LEA Stories
- Bottom Line
- Quick Resources

## Why This Week Matters

It is Day 1 (of 60) and Week 1 (of nine) the 2026 Legislative Session and education policy is already on the move. This TRIO highlights where your voice, leadership, and advocacy is needed and can make the greatest difference - starting now.

### 1 | Engage on Governor's Proposed Capital Budget

#### What's Happening:

Last year's cuts to planning grants and construction funding strained district resources. The Governor's proposed capital budget would restore funding for many local projects, but legislators must decide whether to adopt it. Your voice can help inform that decision.

#### Why it Matters:

Students need healthy school environments to learn. If you are one of the districts listed for a [planning grant](#) or [construction project](#), you especially have to gain from the legislature adopting this proposal.

#### Your Action This Week:

CONTACT any members of [House Capital Budget](#) or [Senate Ways and Means](#) from your district.

**BY this Friday, January 15**

**TO** support the Gov's Proposed Capital Budget, include examples how it will help your students, staff, and community.

**SIGN IN** for the record up to one hour before the hearing on [SB 6003](#) and/or [HB 2295](#)

- [Capital Budget Hearing](#) in Senate Ways and Means (Monday, January 12 @ 4 pm)
- [House Capital Budget Hearing](#) (Thursday, January 14 @ 1:30 pm)

### 2 | Amplify the Message on Un- or Underfunded Mandates

#### What's Happening:

Several bills already before policy committees could increase costs for your district and more are coming in the weeks ahead.

#### Why it Matters:

Since 2017, over 100 new and un- or underfunded mandates have been passed. School districts can't take on one more thing without ample funding for the existing requirements, especially for basic education.

**Your Action This Week:**

[READ THIS LETTER](#) from WASA, WASBO, and other education partners to legislators to pause on policy until adequate funding is allocated.

[EMAIL YOUR LEGISLATORS](#) using one of these [templates](#) to reinforce the message

**3 | Share Your TTK and LEA Stories****What's Happening:**

The Governor's Proposed Operating Budget cuts Transition to Kindergarten and Local Effort Assistance and does not invest any additional dollars in critical basic education funding. WASA will testify in opposition to this proposal during the [House Appropriations](#) and [Senate Ways and Means](#) Committees this week.

**Why it Matters:**

The proposal eliminates the planned \$100 LEA increase for 2027, cutting \$25.1 million in levy equalization, and reduces Transition to Kindergarten slots by 25 percent statewide. At a time of rising costs, this budget cuts critical programs instead of increasing MSOCs to cover basic education needs.

**Your Action This Week:**

[SHARE](#) your successful stories around TTK and your need for LEA and MSOC funding.

**BY Friday, January 15 (and ongoing)**

**SIGN IN** for the record on behalf of your district up to one hour before the hearing starts:

- [House Appropriations](#) (Monday, January 12 @ 4 pm), [HB 2289](#)
- [Senate Ways and Means](#) (Tuesday, January 13 @ 4 pm), [SB 5998](#)

**Bottom Line**

This legislative session will shape the future of public education in Washington. School leaders like you must be engaged now to ensure lawmakers understand the real impacts of their decisions.

**Quick Resources**

[\[WASA Bill Tracker\]](#)

[\[WASA legislative platform\]](#)

[\[Legislator contact list\]](#)

**WASA Legislative Report Podcast**

The podcast will be available every Friday during the Legislative Session on the [WASA website](#), or [subscribe to the Report](#) via multiple podcast apps.

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