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THE WEEK AHEAD

YOUR TOP THREE WAYS TO ENGAGE IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

WASA
WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

WEEK 3—WEEKLY TOP THREE

January 26, 2026

- Weigh In on School Financial Solvency
- Now We're Talking... About Math and Reading
- Use Your Voice at Public Education Advocacy Day
- Bottom Line
- Quick Resources

Why This Week Matters

Week 3 of the 2026 legislative session is packed with hearings on consequential bills many of which are aimed at school district financial solvency, as legislators race toward the February 4 policy cutoff. In this moment, many proposals are about securing a seat at a future table. Our role is to bring perspective by highlighting where ideas have merit and where unintended consequences could undermine long term stability.

1 | Weigh In on School Financial Solvency

What's happening:

Multiple bills this week focus on school district financial solvency, signaling that legislators are beginning to confront long-standing funding challenges and consider what comes next. Public education has been asked to respond to an ever-changing social and academic landscape, yet funding has not kept pace with what schools are expected to deliver. This moment presents both a challenge and an opportunity to modernize the funding model, so it reflects current realities and to reaffirm a fundamental commitment to Washington's students and communities. When the Legislature sets expectations for schools, it must provide the resources to meet them.

Why it matters:

Week 3 brings forward a range of policy proposals aimed at bills improving school district financial solvency in response to escalating fiscal pressures. Some ideas reflect thoughtful attempts to strengthen stability and deserve serious consideration. Others raise concerns about local control, equity, and the long-term health of the system. Engagement this week is critical. Policymakers need to hear from education leaders about what works in practice, what risks unintended consequences, and what it will take to build a funding system that is both sustainable and responsive to real-world conditions.

Your action this week:

- Review these proposals and consider how they would affect your district's financial stability, local decision-making, and ability to meet student needs.
 - [HB 2551 - Maintaining The Financial Solvency Of School Districts](#)
 - [Bill Report](#) (summary)
 - [HB 2593 - Addressing School District Accounting, Budgeting, And Reporting Requirements](#)
 - [Bill Report](#) (summary)
 - [Talking points](#) from interim discussions with WASA members
 - [SB 6247 - Concerning School District Financial Management](#)
 - [Bill Report](#) (summary)
 - [SB 6260 - Implementing Efficiencies And Programming Changes In Public Education](#)

- [Bill Report](#) (summary)
- [SB 6125 - Providing Enrollment Stabilization Funding](#)
- Engage with [legislators](#) by sharing real-world examples of how these proposals would impact your district operations
- [Testify or submit written comments](#) to help inform policy design and flag unintended consequences **early**. The bills listed above will be heard during one of the following hearings this week:
 - House Education
 - [Monday @ 1:30](#)
 - Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education
 - [Tuesday @ 8 am](#)
 - [Thursday @ 10:30 am](#)

2 | Now We're Talking...About Math and Reading

What's happening:

The House and Senate Education Committees will each hear a bill this week that considers math and/or reading instruction. Both bills:

- Attempt to move Washington more firmly toward structured literacy grounded in evidence-based practices
- Amend [RCW 28A.320.202](#) to redefine district responsibilities for literacy instruction
- Expand expectations around professional preparation for educators in reading and literacy
- Tie literacy instruction to multitiered systems of supports (MTSS) and early intervention

The key differences are:

- [HB 1295](#) is literacy-focused and systemic, centering early literacy, dyslexia, educator training, and alignment across statutes
- [SB 6192](#) is broader and more prescriptive, pairing structured literacy with structured numeracy, adding financial incentives, extending literacy expectations through grade 12, and emphasizing assessment-driven accountability.

A high-level draft comparison of the bills is available [here](#).

Why it matters:

Math and reading instruction are part of your daily work. Legislative conversations about them are less common, which has both benefits and drawbacks. If we want policy discussions to reflect the effective practices already in place, your voice is critical.

Your action this week:

Sign up to testify [HB 1295](#) and/or [SB 6192](#) to share how your math and reading programs are working.

Share student stories and data. If you can't testify, send a message to [your legislators](#). Talk about what is working already, and why, and what you actually need to close gaps.

3 | Use Your Voice at Public Education Advocacy Day

What's happening:

On Thursday, January 29th, as a part of the 2026 WASA-WSSDA-WASBO Legislative Conference, your "day on the hill" will include various opportunities to connect with one another and legislators as follows:

8:30 am - 9:30 am:	Kickoff on Capitol Steps
8:00 am - 10:00 am:	House Education Public Hearing
10:30 am - 12:30 pm:	Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Public Hearing
2:00 pm - 2:45 pm:	Legislator Meeting Debrief
3:00 pm - 3:45 pm:	Legislator Q&A

Why it matters:

Days on the Hill are critical because cuts are inevitable this session, and legislators are actively deciding where those reductions will fall. Being present at the Capitol puts real faces and lived experience behind those choices, helping ensure decisions are informed by the day-to-day realities of schools and the students and communities they serve.

Your action this week:

Attend Public Education Advocacy Day with your leadership team, students and/or staff. Schedule meetings with [legislators](#) before you arrive. If you can't make it in person, schedule some Zoom meetings with them this week or next. It's important to stay connected during the session so that your perspectives can inform legislators' thinking.

Bottom Line

Week 3 engagement is essential as the first policy cutoff arrives next week, determining which proposals move forward this session. In a difficult environment shaped by cuts and tax decisions, the voice of school leaders matters more than ever, helping inform which ideas are set aside for future refinement and which merit thoughtful consideration as the session progresses.

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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