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THE WEEK AHEAD

YOUR TOP THREE WAYS TO ENGAGE IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

WASA
WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

WEEK 4—WEEKLY TOP THREE

February 2, 2026

- Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOCs) - Tuesday
- Unfunded Mandates and Financial Literacy - Wednesday
- Levy Equalization - Thursday
- Bottom Line
- Quick Resources

Why This Week Matters

We're now 22 days into the 2026 legislative session and over one-third of the way through this fast 60-day timeline. **Wednesday, February 4** is last day to have committee reports read out of policy committees in the *house of origin* (the chamber that introduced the bill), known as **policy cutoff**. Bills that haven't advanced out of policy committees by then are generally considered done for the session. Bills with a fiscal impact (cutoff is **February 9**) and those deemed **necessary to implement the budget (NTIB)** are exempt. All that to be said, nothing is truly final until the Legislature adjourns *sine die* (Latin for "without a day") on **March 12**.

1 | Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOCs) - Tuesday

What's happening:

On **Tuesday at 8 am** in the **Senate Early Learning and K-12 Committee**, **SB 5918** is scheduled for an executive session. If passed, this means the policy committee wants to signal its importance and believes it deserves broader consideration. The bill would increase funding for operations significantly, although not fully, helping districts to better meet the basic education needs of students and to meet state requirements.

Why it matters:

Although we have heard from many legislators that the funding does not exist for MSOCs this session, some legislators clearly understand its importance. Our responsibility as advocates for and of public education is to remind legislators of the paramount needs of our students, regardless of what they tell us is or isn't possible.

Your action this week:

- Before Tuesday, send a message, ([talking points](#)), to **Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee** members requesting that they pass **SB 5918** out of their committee (share [costs versus funding data/gaps](#), of student success stories made possible with current funding, and/or remaining student needs without adequate funding).
- Assuming the bill passes on Tuesday, send a message to the members of the **Senate Ways and Means Committee** to request a public hearing and executive session before February 9th (and also share why you believe they should – see list above).

2 | Unfunded Mandates and Financial Literacy - Wednesday

What's happening:

The **Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee** will hear **SB 5849** on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. The bill would require students to meet high school financial education standards as a graduation requirement beginning no later than 2033. While this is a courtesy hearing and the bill cannot advance this session, the proposal continues to resurface and is being actively promoted by the State Treasurer's Office.

Why it matters:

Although the goal of financial literacy is worthwhile, [SB 5849 \(bill overview\)](#) adds a new graduation requirement and reporting requirements without identifying funding or staffing supports. WASA is opposing the bill—not on the value of financial education, but on the continued pattern of layering mandates onto an already strained K-12 system without adequate resources or clarity around implementation.

Your action this week:

[Sign in for the record](#) and/or [email members of the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Committee](#). If you testify, consider highlighting the real-world impacts of adding [an unfunded requirement](#) to an understaffed system and the need for resources before new mandates are imposed. If your district has not yet implemented financial literacy, explaining the challenges or considerations involved would be helpful context for committee members and advocates.

3 | Levy Equalization - Thursday

What's happening:

[HB 2116](#) will be heard in [House Appropriations](#) on [Thursday at 10:30 am](#). This bill would update Washington's school enrichment funding framework by increasing local levy authority, modifying per-pupil levy limits with inflation adjustments, and requiring districts to adopt approved levy expenditure plans. The bill also expands Local Effort Assistance (LEA) for districts with lower property wealth and increases funding limits for state-tribal education compact schools, while setting future caps to maintain fiscal guardrails.

Why it matters:

This bill aims to help stabilize district budgets and improve equity in some ways for others. Higher levy caps and updated per-pupil limits reflect rising costs when there are ongoing gaps in state funding, while expanded LEA provides support to property-poor districts. Legislators also believe that clearer planning requirements and long-term caps also improve predictability for district financial planning.

Your action this week:

If [HB 2116](#) would benefit your district, consider [testifying or signing in for the record](#). If you cannot testify live, [email members of the House Appropriations Committee](#) to explain how updated levy authority and LEA would support your students, staff, and programs.

Bottom Line

As we enter Week 4 and the first policy cutoff, decisions made now will determine which bills will continue moving forward, and with what language. Staying engaged and communicating the real impacts of proposed policies on your district and students is critical to ensuring lawmakers understand the consequences before this window closes.

Quick Resources

[WASA Bill Tracker](#)
[WASA legislative platform](#)
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