

TRIO[®]



THE WEEK AHEAD

YOUR TOP THREE WAYS TO ENGAGE IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

WASA
WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

WEEK 5—WEEKLY TOP THREE

February 9, 2026

- Exempting K–12 from sales tax impacts
- A bill about anaphylaxis medications in schools
- Protecting early learning through Transition to Kindergarten
- Bottom Line
- Quick Resources

Why This Week Matters

Week 5 marks a major turning point in the legislative session, bringing the first fiscal cutoff today (February 9) and the official halfway mark tomorrow (February 10). Budget committees met for long public hearings and executive sessions last week, including a Saturday meeting in House Appropriations, to keep many bills moving - most of which were not education-related. After today, both chambers are shifting into eight days of rolling floor action to pass bills out of their respective chambers before the House of Origin Cutoff on February 17.

1 | Exempting K–12 from sales tax impacts

What's happening:

Last week, [HB 2257](#) passed out of the House Finance Committee with an amendment exempting K–12 from the sales tax impacts of [last session's HB 5814](#). The Seattle Times also [ran a story](#) about this issue again just last week. The bill has now been referred to the Rules Committee, which is a good sign. However, it will sit there until – and if - it is pulled from that committee to be debated and voted on the House floor, where it must pass on or before February 17 to progress.

Why it matters:

The expansion of the sales tax to services commonly used by schools, such as temporary staffing, IT, and maintenance, is creating significant unplanned costs for districts, in some cases exceeding \$1 million after budgets were already finalized. Legislators seem to be increasingly aware that this is a problem for school districts but, in a year where their focus is on increasing revenue, cutting any part of this revenue source has proven to be an uphill battle.

Your action this week:

1. Message your [House members](#) to ask that they bring [HB 2257](#) from Rules to a vote on the House floor before the February 17 cutoff. **Urge them to maintain the exemption for K–12.**
2. When communicating with legislators on this issue, use talking points from page 2 of [this document](#) and include your own projections for the cost of this sales tax to your current budget including how cuts have/would impact student learning and classroom experience.

2 | A bill about anaphylaxis medications in schools

What's happening:

The House Education Committee is holding a hearing on Wednesday this week following the fiscal cutoff to hear [SB 5240](#): Concerning anaphylaxis medications in schools. This bill was introduced in 2025 and progressed far during last year's session but didn't quite make it to the finish line. It looks like it still has legs this session as it is the only bill scheduled for that public hearing.

Why it matters:

Is this another well-intentioned but unfunded mandate? Because it would require school districts, private schools, charter schools, or state-tribal education compact schools to reimburse the cost of epinephrine under certain circumstances, it appears to create a new, unfunded cost. The [bill summary](#) can help you better understand potential impacts.

Your action this week:

1. If this proposal would cost your district money and you could project costs based on past records, please let the members of the [House Education Committee](#) know on or before Wednesday, February 11th. (Please also let us know what the impacts might be by emailing mrathbone@wasa-oly.org.)
2. You can also [sign in](#) or testify to register your district's perspective on the record.

3 | Protecting early learning through Transition to Kindergarten

What's happening:

The Governor's Proposed Operating Budget included a 25 percent cut to Transition to Kindergarten. While we have not yet seen a House or Senate Proposed Operating Budget, those conversations are well underway, and we believe the idea of cutting Transition to Kindergarten is still on the table.

Why it matters:

If your district is providing Transition to Kindergarten programs, we know that you are providing a vital and effective service to your families. There are perceptions that this program takes away seats from other early learning programs and/or that it does not have the same positive impact for preparing students for K–12. Your stories have told a different story. Those stories need to be heard.

Your action this week:

1. Reach out to [your legislators](#) to ask that they protect Transition to Kindergarten at its current levels in their proposed operating budgets.
2. Let them know why they should preserve funding by sharing kindergarten readiness data and letting them know how you meet an otherwise unmet need in your communities.

Bottom Line

While we've had success amending bills to make them optional or stopping them altogether, this is no time to let up. Even if full funding remains out of reach this session, we must continue reminding legislators of our priorities around MSOC and transportation - issues that cannot be allowed to fade, even as related bills stall. By keeping the pressure on and the focus clear, we elevate public education and reinforce what truly matters for districts and students across the state.

Quick Resources

[WASA Bill Tracker](#)
[WASA legislative platform](#)
[Legislator contact list](#)



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