

TRIO[®]



THE WEEK AHEAD

YOUR TOP THREE WAYS TO ENGAGE IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

WASA
WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

WEEK 9—WEEKLY TOP THREE

March 9, 2026

- Ask A Legislator
- Documenting the Financial Pressures Facing School Districts
- TRIO Tailoring
- Bottom Line
- Quick Resources

Why This Week Matters

It is the final week of the 2026 Legislative session. The last week of session typically carries significant weight because it represents the final window for lawmakers to resolve the biggest outstanding issues, often financial, before the Legislature adjourns on **March 12 (*Sine Die*)**. Legislative leaders are expected to release final negotiated budget proposals early this week, making these discussions critical for determining what ultimately survives in the 2026 supplemental operating budget and which policy decisions will shape school district funding and likely reductions for the near future. For public education, the stakes are high as lawmakers finalize decisions affecting Transition to Kindergarten implementation, Local Effort Assistance, and other budget reductions that districts are already preparing for.

The biggest unresolved policy question entering *TRIO* is **Senate Bill 6346, the proposed “millionaires’ tax.”** The legislation would create a **9.9 percent tax on annual household income over \$1 million**, marking a historic shift for Washington, which currently does not tax personal income. If enacted, the tax is expected to generate billions in new state revenue in future biennia and help balance the state budget over the next four years. The latest proposal also directs **5 percent of revenues to early learning and child care programs through the Fair Start for Kids Act**, expands the Working Families Tax Credit, and includes provisions to exempt public schools and educational service districts from certain sales taxes on services.

With the governor now indicating he would sign the revised proposal, the coming days will determine whether lawmakers can finalize both the budget and this major tax policy before adjournment. For school districts and education leaders, the outcome of this week’s negotiations will shape not only the final details of the supplemental budget, but also the broader fiscal landscape for education funding in the years ahead – and therefore our interim charge.

WASA will provide an end-of-session summary complete with bill overviews and budget outcomes. Keep an eye on your inbox for that overview sometime next week. In the meantime...

Ask A Legislator

What’s happening:

While the legislative session has not yet concluded, it is clear the final budget will fall short of meeting the needs of students and staff. Beginning Friday, we will regroup quickly to determine how we can use the interim to strengthen our strategy so that we are unified and forceful in our advocacy during the 2027 Legislative Session.

Why it matters:

Staff cuts, mounting financial pressure on districts, and students not receiving the resources they need to learn effectively

are just some of the outcomes of this legislative session. Further cuts to K–12 education are not sustainable—and when the state fails to keep pace with rising costs, the result is effectively the same as a cut. Districts need the resources necessary to sustain basic education for every student.

Your action this week:

1. Work with your staff to determine days this school year when legislator visits work best with schedules. Ensure students and staff are available to engage with legislators on those days.
2. Highlight where state investments have led to positive student outcomes and experiences.
3. Show with numbers and stories where additional investments would serve students and staff and bring about more of the outcomes that are expected.
4. With authentic curiosity, consider asking your [legislators](#) some of the following questions:
 - What would it take for K–12 education to become a higher priority in the Legislature’s budget decisions in 2027 and beyond?
 - What information or experiences from school districts would help legislators better understand the real financial challenges we are facing right now?
 - How do you see the Legislature fulfilling the state’s constitutional paramount duty to fund basic education in light of the financial strain districts are experiencing?
 - What can school leaders do during the interim to help ensure stronger support for K–12 funding in the 2027 Legislative Session?
 - What would it take to bring greater attention from legislative leadership and the Governor’s office to the financial realities facing school districts?

Documenting the Financial Pressures Facing School Districts

What’s happening:

To help inform our funding advocacy efforts for the next legislative session, we’re gathering a better picture of the financial challenges districts are facing. Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey and share some high-level information about your district’s financial situation. Participants will be entered into a raffle for a \$50 gift card.

Why it matters:

Your responses will help us assess the financial impact of the 2026 legislative session on school districts and identify ongoing funding challenges. This information will strengthen our ability to advocate for meaningful solutions in the next session.

Your action this week:

Complete this [survey](#).

TRIO Tailoring

What’s happening:

With Thursday marking the end of the 2026 Legislative Session, this will be the last *TRIO* in your inbox for a while.

Why it matters:

TRIO was introduced this session as a new way for WASA to share timely updates with members, highlight key developments, and connect you to the most important legislative issues each week. Our goal was to keep you informed and support meaningful member engagement in the legislative process.

Your action this week:

Some parts of *TRIO* likely worked well for you, while others may need improvement. We want to make it even more useful next year, but we need your feedback to do that. Please email hchard@wasa-oly.org with your thoughts. Your feedback will be compiled and used to help guide our planning during the interim.

Bottom Line

The strength of WASA's advocacy comes from the engagement of our members. When school leaders share their perspectives with lawmakers, it ensures that policy decisions are grounded in the realities facing districts and students. Your voice matters - not just during the legislative session, but throughout the interim as we continue working to advance policies that support public education. Thank you for staying engaged and providing your insight and energy during this short, but long and difficult, legislative session. Stay with it! We are, together, part of what's holding this system together!

Quick Resources

[WASA Bill Tracker](#) (updated 3/6)

[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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