

2023 Incoming Superintendents Conference
Marriott Tacoma Downtown
July 24, 2023

K-12 and the Legislature:

The Superintendent's Role in Advocacy

Legislation, Politics, and Advocacy

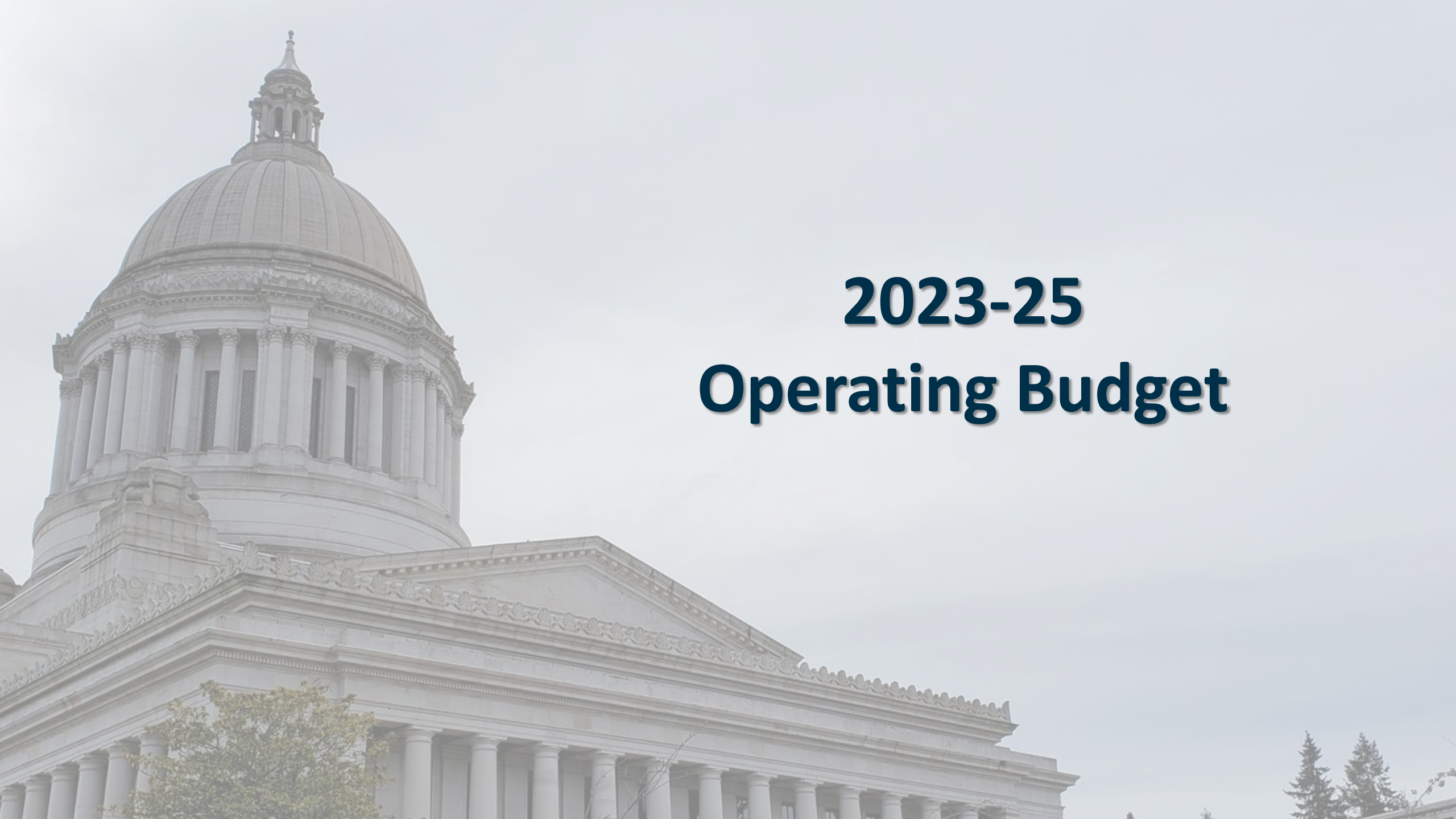
- **2023 Legislative Session**
- **2023-25 Operating Budget**
- **2024 Legislative Session**
- **Superintendent Advocacy**
 - **WASA 2024 Legislative Platform**



2023 Legislative Session

2023 Legislative Session

- First year of the 68th Biennial Legislature
 - “Long,” budget session—limited to 105 days
 - January 9 to April 23
- Major focus:
 - 2023-25 Operating, Capital, and Transportation Budgets
 - New and/or updated Policy items



2023-25 Operating Budget

2023-25 Operating Budget: *Major* K-12 Highlights

Special Education	\$371.0 million Funding provided to implement ESHB 1436: enrollment cap increase to 15.0% (\$106.9 million); increase PreK and K-12 tiered multipliers (\$253.6 million); lower safety net threshold (\$5.5 million); continue Inclusionary Practice Project (\$5.0 million).
Inflationary Factor	\$261.4 million Inflationary factor, IPD, is 3.7% in 2023-24 school year; projected 2024-25 IPD is 3.9%. As required by ESB 5650, 2024-25 inflationary factor will be IPD in Calendar Year 2023.
Pupil Transportation	\$26.0 million Special passenger excess cost reimbursement is provided for school districts with a “convincingly demonstrated need” for funding beyond the amounts provided through the STARS allocation for special passengers. No bill adopted.
Regionalization/Exp Factor “Rebase”	\$23.4 million Funding provided to “phase down” reductions of regionalization and/or experience factor over two years (2023-24 and 2024-25 school years).
Local Effort Assistance	\$31.6 million (Fiscal Year 2023) Funding provided in the 2023 Supplemental Operating Budget to assist school districts that are set to lose some—or all—of their LEA due to unexpected and extraordinary spikes in housing values.
School Meal Expansion	\$82.4 million Funding provided to support expanded access to free meals through the federal Community Eligibility Provision under 2022’s SHB 1878 (\$59.0 million) and free meals for K-4 students under E2SHB 1238 (\$23.4 million)

2023-25 *Operating* Budget—Details

➤ **WASA Operating & Capital Budget summary:**

- This Week in Olympia (TWIO), April 24 Sine Die Edition: <https://bit.ly/43ZEoJm>

➤ **Legislative Budget Website:** <https://fiscal.wa.gov>

- Complete text; statewide summary; agency detail:
<https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/2023proposals/so2325bien>
- Budget Overview/Highlights:
<https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/2023proposals/Documents/co/cohSummary.pdf>

➤ **Regionalization/Experience Factor adjustments:**

- LEAP Document 3 (April 20, 2023): <https://fiscal.wa.gov/leapdocs/2023C3.pdf>

➤ **Local Effort Assistance “Hold Harmless”:**

- LEAP Document 4 (April 20, 2023): <https://fiscal.wa.gov/leapdocs/2023C4.pdf>

2023-25 *Capital* Budget—Details

➤ **WASA Operating & Capital Budget summary:**

- This Week in Olympia (TWIO), April 24 Sine Die Edition: <https://bit.ly/43ZEoJm>

➤ **Legislative Budget Website:** <https://fiscal.wa.gov>

- Complete text; LEAP documents; project lists: <https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/2023proposals/sc2325bien>
- Budget Summary and Project Lists:
<https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/2023proposals/Documents/cc/ccSenateProposedCompromiseSummaryProjectLists042123.pdf>

➤ **Small District/Tribal Compact Schools Modernization:**

- LEAP Capital Document No. OSPI-1-2023: <https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/2023proposals/Documents/cc/ccOSPI-1-2023SDSTCMod.pdf>

➤ **2023-25 Distressed Schools:** https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/2023proposals/Documents/cc/ccOSPI_2023-25DistressedSchools.pdf

➤ **2023-25 Early Learning Facilities—School Districts:** https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/2023proposals/Documents/cc/ccCommerce_2023-25EarlyLearningFacilities-SchoolDistricts.pdf

2023 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

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2023 End of Session Report includes:

- Comprehensive review of 2023-25 Operating Budget
- Comprehensive review of 2023-25 Capital Budget
- Detailed review of all education-related bills adopted in 2023
- Summary of all education-related bills that died in 2023

<https://bit.ly/3Pcou9w>



2024 Legislative Session

2024 Legislative Session

- Second year of the 68th Biennial Legislature
 - “Short,” budget session—limited to 60 days
 - Convenes January 8
- Major focus:
 - Necessary Budget updates
 - New and/or updated Policy items

The background of the slide is a photograph of a grand, classical building, likely a state capitol. It features a large, ornate dome with a lantern on top, and a portico with many tall columns. The sky is overcast and grey. The text "Superintendent Advocacy" is overlaid on the right side of the image in a bold, dark blue font with a slight shadow effect.

Superintendent Advocacy

Superintendent Advocacy

- **WHY?**
- **HOW?**
- **WHAT?**

Legislative Advocacy: Why Be Engaged?

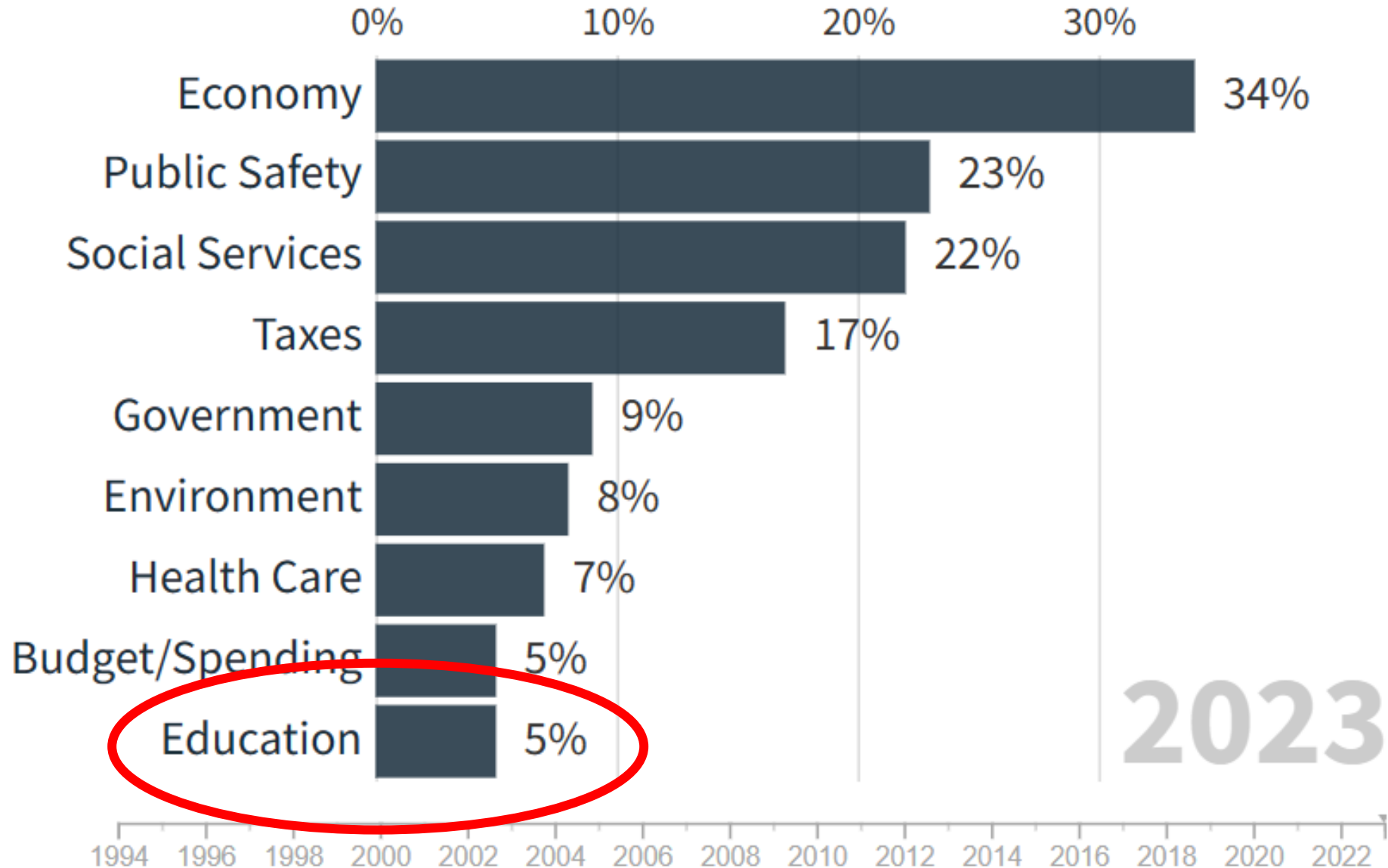
**If YOU don't advocate for your
students,
your district, and your staff,
*who will?***

The Importance of Engagement

- You can be sure *someone* WILL speak up—and they may not have the same information, experience or position as you
- You can't let the legislative vacuum be filled with voices that do not reflect your knowledge, experience and opinions

Voter Priority Issues

(December 2022)



**OH SO YOU'RE A POLITICIAN
WHO HAS
NEVER TAUGHT A CLASS?**

**TELL ME MORE ABOUT HOW
SCHOOLS SHOULD BE RUN**

Legislative Engagement

- Legislators believe they are education “experts,” but most have little background in school district issues
- Part of your job as a school superintendent is to educate legislators, making sure they understand how their decisions in Olympia affect your school district—your students, your staff, your academic program, your budget, etc.

**Remember, YOU are the education “expert”
and a valuable resource to legislators**

Legislative Engagement

- WASA will provide you resources, tools and assistance; however, YOU are in a position to **establish trust and credibility** with legislators—so they will go to you for information and advice
- You are also in a position to explain the complexities of public education and your specific needs. And only YOU can “**tell your story.**” Build data to make your case; however, frame your “ask” with a local story; personalize issues with names of students, teachers, school buildings. Stories Stick!

The background of the slide is a photograph of a grand, classical building, likely a state capitol. It features a large, ornate dome with a lantern on top, and a portico with many columns. The sky is overcast and grey. The text "HOW Should I Engage?" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

HOW Should I Engage?

Effective Advocacy

- Be informed:
 - about the *PROCESS*
 - about the *ISSUES*
 - about the *PLAYERS*

Legislative Engagement

RELATIONSHIPS

are a crucial to effective advocacy!

It is incumbent upon YOU to establish ongoing,
personal relationships with legislators

Legislative Advocacy is not a Spectator Sport—
It is a “*Contact*” Sport

Legislative Advocacy is also a *Team* Sport



While the Superintendent must take the lead,
Don't be a Lone Ranger!

- All administrators should be on the “Advocacy Team.” You should also consider involving principals, teachers, parents—and even students
- You are also encouraged to involve your school directors; as elected officials, they have a direct connection to the community—their perspective is unique and valuable



Tips for Effective Advocacy

- Be prepared
- Be respectful of the office
- Don't argue (although it's OK to respectfully disagree)
- Don't exaggerate
- Give examples (tell your "stories")
- Follow up

Tips for Effective Advocacy

- Don't assume legislators know more than they do
- Avoid education jargon and acronyms
- Don't be too informal
- Avoid "information overload"
- Make sure you have a specific "ask"
- Say "thank you"—for their time; for their consideration; their support; or just for their service

for

Legislative Advocacy

Two additional important reminders:

Advocacy is not a one-time thing, but a year-round effort

The best time to establish and build relationships is well-before the Legislative Session begins

Effective advocacy does NOT have to be hard, time-consuming, or intimidating

You must commit to it, however



WHAT am I Advocating For?

2024 Legislative Platform

»» WASA's strategy is to be bold and honest, advocating for what our students and school districts NEED—not what we think we might be able to achieve

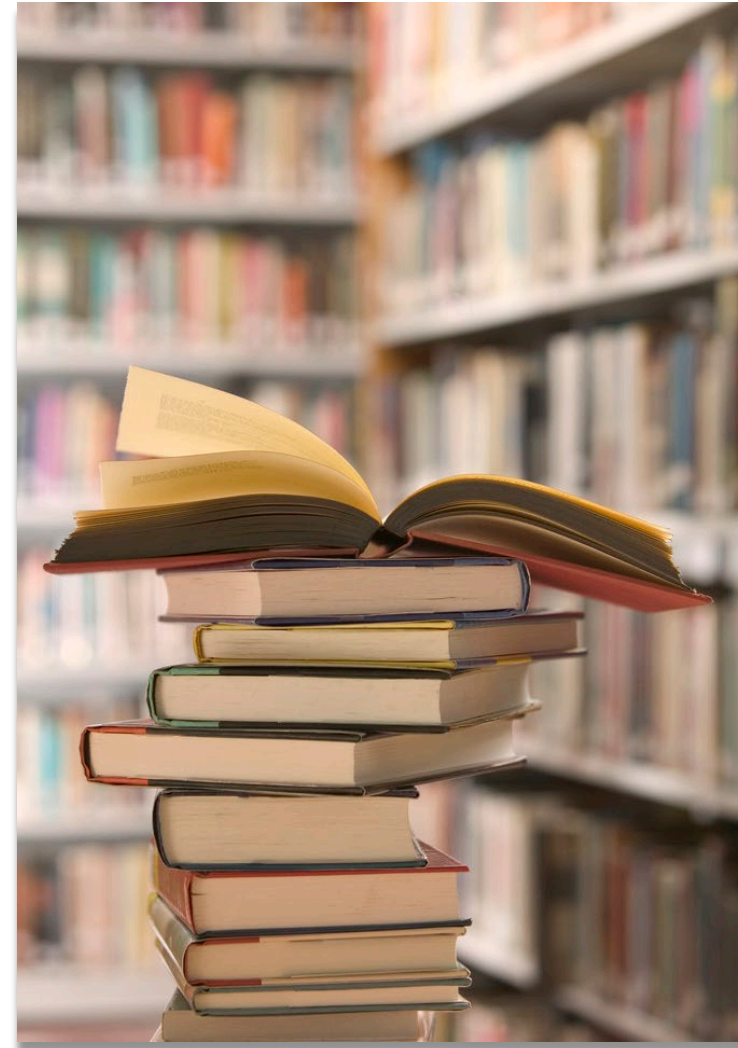
We will continue to play the
»» “long game,” building momentum and laying the groundwork for future success



Developed from a position of equity, school administrators are committed to pursuing the following priorities:

- Advance Equity
- Fully Fund Special Education
- Fix Pupil Transportation
- Provide Consistent and Equitable Education Resources
- Update Staffing Allocations
- Support Capital Facilities

Advocacy Resources



2024 Legislative Session Guide

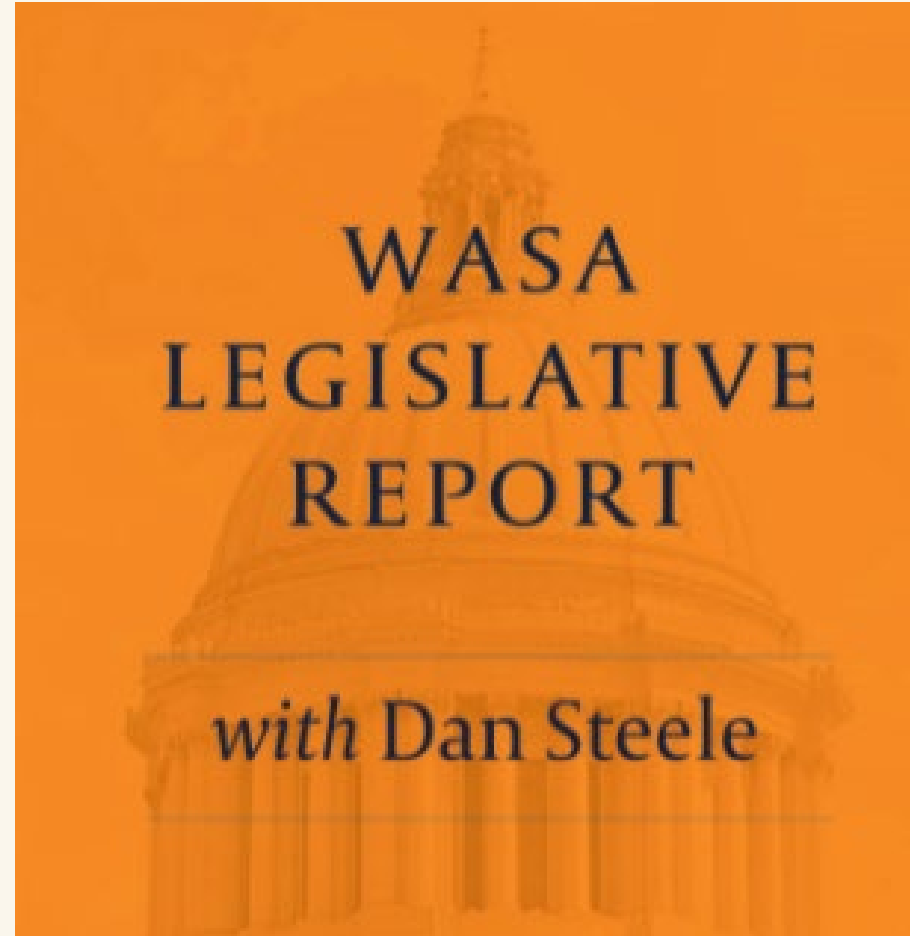


- Updated yearly and released shortly after the Session convenes, WASA's Legislative Session Guide includes all the tools you need to be engaged during the session: WASA's 2024 Legislative Platform; rosters of all House and Senate members, with office, phone, and e-mail contact information; advocacy tips; key dates in the Session; and a list of other handy resources



- Legislative newsletter e-mailed every Friday during the Legislative Session, along with intermittent “special editions” covering budget proposals and other extraordinary events
- All issues are also archived on the WASA website at:
www.wasa-oly.org/TWIO

WASA Legislative Podcast



Archived Podcasts and Subscription Information:

<https://bit.ly/2QlgWT0>

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