



WASA • WSSDA • WASBO

2025 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE AND DAY ON THE HILL

Seatac Hilton and Convention Center

JANUARY 11–12

**PLUS
Mid-Session
Webinar
Feb. 12!**

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GREETING

Greetings from our Presidents!

Welcome to the NEW 2025 WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Legislative Conference!

As we prepare for the start of the 69th biennial legislative session on Monday, our legislative priorities are clear, united, and well-communicated to key legislators. With our collaborative efforts and early organization, we're ready to advocate for:

- Special Education
- Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC)
- Pupil Transportation

This year, in response to your feedback, we've re-imagined this conference to better equip you for the session ahead:

- Designed for deeper learning and greater interaction
- Timed to position you for advocacy throughout the entire session
- Conveniently located to facilitate travel for more attendee

We're also thrilled to welcome Tami Pyfer, Chief of Staff and VP External for UNITE, co-author of the *Dignity Index*, and former Education Policy Advisor to Utah Governor Gary Herbert. With her extensive experience in education policy, coalition building, and stakeholder engagement, Tami will share strategies to advocate for public education in ways that:

- Ease divisions
- Prevent violence, and
- Solve challenges.

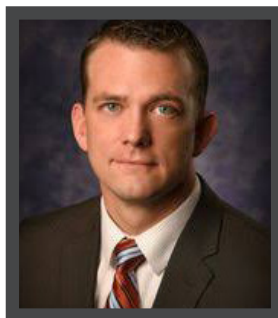
Through keynote presentations, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities, you'll gain new insights, advocacy skills, and a deeper understanding of our shared priorities. These tools will help you engage effectively with legislators—not only during this session but throughout the year.

A united voice, rooted in common messages, is crucial to achieving a brighter future for every student in our P-12 system. Thank you for your commitment and your vital role in advancing education for the children and youth of our state.

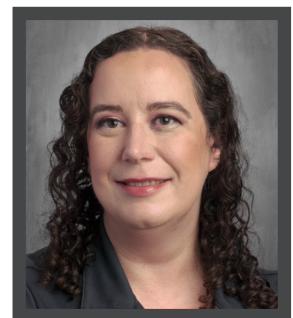
With appreciation for your active engagement in this conference,



BOB MAXWELL
Superintendent, Pullman SD
President, WASA



DEREK SARLEY
School Director, Walla Walla SD
President, WSSDA



PAULA MCCOY
Executive Director of Business Services
Ridgefield SD | President, WASBO

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

3:30 p.m. **OUR SHARED LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: THE BIG THREE**
Executive Directors: Joel Aune, WASA | Brianne King, WASBO | Tricia Lubach, WSSDA
Marissa Rathbone, Director of Strategic Advocacy, WSSDA
Dan Steele, Assistant Exec. Dir. of Government Relations, WASA
Emerald Ballroom

4:25 p.m. **BREAK & TRANSITION**

4:35 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSION I**
Crystal A-C, Mercer, Orcas

5:30 p.m. **WASA • WSSDA • WASBO RECEPTION**
Emerald Foyer
STUDENT SOCIAL
Mercer

6:15 p.m. **DINNER & KEYNOTE**
Introduction by Bob Maxwell, President, WASA
Dignity as a Problem-Solving and Advocacy Strategy
Tami Pyfer, Chief of Staff & Vice President of External Affairs, The Dignity Index

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

7:15 a.m. **BREAKFAST**
Emerald Foyer

8:00 a.m. **LEGISLATIVE PERSPECTIVES**
Introduction by Paula McCoy, President, WASBO
Senator Lisa Wellman, Chair Senate, Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee
Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos, Chair House Education Committee
Emerald Ballroom

8:50 a.m. **BREAK & TRANSITION**

9:00 a.m. **CONCURRENT SESSION II**
Crystal A-C, Mercer, Orcas

9:55 a.m. **BREAK & TRANSITION**

10:05 a.m. **CONCURRENT SESSION III**
Crystal A-C, Mercer, Orcas

11:00 a.m. **BREAK & TRANSITION**

11:10 a.m. **THROUGH THE EYES OF A STUDENT**
Introduction by Derek Sarley, President, WSSDA
Emerald Ballroom

12:00 p.m. **CLOSING**

Wi-Fi Name: Hilton-Meeting | **Password:** Legislative2024

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Title	Location	Times Offered
Advocacy Essentials: Understanding the Legislative Landscape to Effectively Support K-12	Crystal C	Saturday 4:35-5:30 p.m. Sunday 9:00-9:55 a.m. Sunday 10:05-11:00 a.m.
Bites and Snacks! Maximizing Student Voice in Our Schools and Communities	Orcas	Sunday 9:00-9:55 a.m. Sunday 10:05-11:00 a.m.
Crafting Your Legislative Action Plan	Crystal A	Sunday 9:00-9:55 a.m. Sunday 10:05-11:00 a.m.
K-12 Funding Basics	Mercer	Saturday 4:35-5:30 p.m. Sunday 9:00-9:55 a.m. Sunday 10:05-11:00 a.m.
The Dignity Index: A Deeper Dive	Crystal A	Saturday 4:35-5:30 p.m.
Understanding the Big Three	Crystal B	Saturday 4:35-5:30 p.m. Sunday 9:00-9:55 a.m. Sunday 10:05-11:00 a.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

DESCRIPTIONS

ADVOCACY ESSENTIALS: UNDERSTANDING THE LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE TO EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT K-12

Melissa Gombosky, Gombosky Public Affairs | Mike Hoover, WSSDA Advocacy Consultant | Marissa Rathbone, WSSDA Director of Strategic Advocacy

This session will equip participants with knowledge and skills to effectively champion the needs of public schools within their state legislators, including understanding key issues, identifying effective communication methods, building coalitions, using the Washington State Legislator Online platform, and engaging with policymakers to ensure quality education policy for each and every student. Participants will explore different types of advocacy strategies and learn how to navigate the advocacy landscape to achieve desired outcomes.

BITES AND SNACKS! MAXIMIZING STUDENT VOICE IN OUR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

James Layman, Director Association of Washington Student Leaders

Learn strategic and impactful ways to maximize and increase student voice in your schools and communities utilizing AWSL's proven strategies and approaches, empowerment, and voice!

THE DIGNITY INDEX: A DEEPER DIVE

Tami Pyfer, Co-creator of the Dignity Index | Karren Minalga, K12 Specialist | Alexa Merrill, Dignity Ambassador, BYU

This session offers a preview of the Dignity Index with emphasis on the practical applications for schools and school leadership. Three members of our Dignity Index team with rich experience in public education will take attendees through scoring exercises, school-based scenarios, and interactive skill-building activities. Attendees will learn how the Index can be applied to education leaders and students alike.

UNDERSTANDING THE BIG THREE

Jolynn Berge, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer, Northshore School District | Tim Merlino, Superintendent, Educational Service District 112

This breakout session will provide attendees with a detailed review of the "Big Three": Special Education, Materials, Supplies & Operating Costs (MSOC), and Pupil Transportation. Presenters will review talking points and additional details to ensure members "speak with one voice."

CRAFTING YOUR LEGISLATIVE ACTION PLAN

Shawn Batstone, Assistant Executive Director Professional Learning, WASA | Kim Fry, Assistant Executive Director Learning Innovation and AI, WASA

Join this interactive breakout session to equip yourself with practical tools and strategies for advocating effectively for increased public education funding. Participants will collaborate to build tailored legislative action plans. Leave empowered with information and actionable steps to influence policymakers and secure the resources your students deserve.

K-12 FUNDING BASICS

Dan Steele, Assistant Executive Director for Governmental Relations, WASA

Washington's K-12 funding system is complex and often misunderstood. This breakout session will crack the code to understanding the key, foundational elements of education finance. As we advocate for ample funding for the "Big Three," having a basic understanding of K-12 funding will help you better understand how special education, MSOC, and pupil transportation connect with the overall system.

SPONSORS

Thank you to our sponsors for making this conference possible and for their on-going work in supporting children in public education.



PIPER | SANDLER

Foster
Garvey



OAC



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

TO OUR STUDENT PERFORMERS FROM HIGHLINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Highline High School Mariachi Tesoro

Program Director: David Aristizabal Ruiz

REACHING OUT TO LEGISLATORS

MEETINGS WITH LEGISLATORS

Scheduling Meetings

Call or email the legislator's office well in advance to schedule either an in-person meeting or video conference. Be prepared to state the purpose of the meeting and the names of those who will be in attendance.

Video Conferencing Meetings with Legislators

Due to busy schedules, it may be necessary to meet with legislators using video conferencing.

TIPS FOR MEETINGS

- Schedule meeting well in advance.
- Note subject matter and attendees.
- Do your homework (know the process, issues, and players).
- Prepare presentation or outline; select spokesperson.
- Introduce yourself and/or team.
- Briefly present your case:
 - "Just the facts"—avoid emotion.
 - Note the impacts; use a district example.
- Use visuals and prepare supporting data/information.
- Leave time for legislator to speak.
- Follow up with written "thank you" and one-page summary.
- Re-state your position and provide follow-up information.

TIPS FOR WRITING

- Think about your timing.
- Stick to one subject.
- Be brief.
- Be positive; be polite.
- Ask for action—and a response.
- Think about letters from students.
- Avoid form letters.
- Say "thank you."

TIPS FOR PHONING

- Ask for legislator or specific assistant.
- Name, title, school district.
- Focus on one issue/bill.
- State your position—be prepared to provide rationale for position.
- Ask for your legislator's position.

TIPS FOR EMAILING

- See above for writing tips.
- Limit e-mail to very short messages.
- Provide your full postal address (address of school/district or voter registration).

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Travis Hanson, Mead

REGION 105

Curt Guailianone, Mt. Adams
Robert Bowman, Naches Valley

REGION 108

James Everett, Meridian

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REGION 171

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BPAC

Jill Pratt, Rochester

ESDS

Steve McCullough, ESD 123

IPAC

Linda McKay, NCESD 171

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Tabitha Mires, Mason

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John Sander, Franklin Pierce

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Dave Larson, Tukwila
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Marisa Peloquin, University Place,
Vice Chair

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Karen Bolton, Bremerton

DA 5

Kelsi Hamilton, Chehalis
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DA 6

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Trish Huddleston, Woodland

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Miranda Skalisky, Wenatchee
Susie Metzger, Manson

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Kyle Shinn, Granger

DA 9

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HUMAN RESOURCES

Keri Hutchins, Mead

BOARD DIRECTOR REP

Monica Hunsaker, South Kitsap

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

LEG DISTRICTS	SCHOOL DISTRICTS
1	Edmonds, Everett, Lake Washington, Monroe, Northshore, Shoreline
2	Bethel, Carbonado, Centralia, Eatonville, North Thurston, Puyallup, Rainier, Tenino, Yelm
3	Cheney, Liberty, Mead, Spokane, West Valley (Spokane)
4	Central Valley, East Valley (Spokane), Mead, Newport, Orchard Prairie, Riverside, Spokane, West Valley (Spokane)
5	Auburn, Enumclaw, Issaquah, Kent, Renton, Snoqualmie Valley, Tahoma
6	Cheney, Deer Park, Great Northern, Mead, Medical Lake, Nine Mile Falls, Reardan-Edwall, Riverside, Spokane
7	Brewster, Bridgeport, Chewelah, Columbia (Stevens), Colville, Coulee-Hartline, Curlew, Cusick, Deer Park, Eastmont, Ephrata, Evergreen (Stevens), Grand Coulee Dam, Inchelium, Keller, Kettle Falls, Lake Chelan, Loon Lake, Mansfield, Mary Walker, Methow Valley, Nespelem #14, Newport, Nine Mile Falls, Northport, Okanogan, Omak, Onion Creek, Orient, Orondo, Oroville, Pateros, Republic, Riverside, Selkirk, Summit Valley, Tonasket, Valley, Waterville, Wellpinit, Wenatchee
8	Kennewick, Kiona-Benton City, Pasco, Paterson, Prosser, Richland
9	Almira, Asotin-Anatone, Benge, Central Valley, Cheney, Clarkston, Colfax, Colton, Creston, Davenport, Dayton, East Valley (Spokane), Endicott, Freeman, Garfield, Grand Coulee Dam, Harrington, Inchelium, Keller, LaCrosse, Lamont, Liberty, Lind, Medical Lake, North Franklin, Oakesdale, Odessa, Othello, Palouse, Pomeroy, Prescott, Pullman, Reardan-Edwall, Ritzville, Rosalia, Spokane, Sprague, St. John, Starbuck, Steptoe, Tekoa, Waitsburg, Warden, Washtucna, West Valley (Spokane), Wilbur, Wilson Creek
10	Anacortes, Arlington, Burlington-Edison, Conway, Coupeville, La Conner, Lakewood, Lopez, Marysville, Mount Vernon, Oak Harbor, South Whidbey, Stanwood-Camano
11	Highline, Issaquah, Kent, Renton, Seattle, Tahoma, Tukwila
12	Cascade, Cashmere, Entiat, Granite Falls, Index, Issaquah, Lake Chelan, Mansfield, Manson, Monroe, Pateros, Riverview, Skykomish, Snohomish, Snoqualmie Valley, Stehekin, Sultan, Wenatchee

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

CONTINUED

LEG DISTRICTS	SCHOOL DISTRICTS
13	Almira, Cle Elum-Roslyn, Coulee-Hartline, Damman, Eastmont, Easton, Ellensburg, Ephrata, Grand Coulee Dam, Kittitas, Moses Lake, Naches Valley, Odessa, Othello, Palisades, Quincy, Royal, Selah, Soap Lake, Thorp, Wahluke, Warden, Waterville, Wilson Creek
14	Bickleton, Centerville, East Valley (Yakima), Finley, Glenwood, Goldendale, Grandview, Granger, Kennewick, Klickitat, Lyle, Mabton, Mount Adams, Pasco, Paterson, Prosser, Roosevelt, Sunnyside, Toppenish, Trout Lake, Union Gap, Wapato, West Valley (Yakima), White Salmon Valley, Wishram, Yakima, Zillah
15	East Valley (Yakima), Grandview, Granger, Highland, Kiona-Benton City, Mount Adams, Naches Valley, Prosser, Selah, Sunnyside, Toppenish, Union Gap, Wahluke, Wapato, Warden, West Valley (Yakima), Yakima, Zillah
16	College Place, Columbia (Walla Walla), Dixie, Kahlotus, Kiona-Benton City, North Franklin, Othello, Pasco, Prescott, Prosser, Richland, Star No. 054, Touchet, Wahluke, Waitsburg, Walla Walla, Washtucna
17	Camas, Centerville, Evergreen (Clark), Glenwood, Hockinson, Kickitat, Lyle, Mill A, Mount Pleasant, Skamania, Stevenson-Carson, Trout Lake, Washougal, White Salmon Valley
18	Battle Ground, Evergreen (Clark), Hockinson, Ridgefield, Vancouver
19	Aberdeen, Adna, Boistfort, Castle Rock, Centralia, Chehalis, Cosmopolis, Elma, Evaline, Kelso, Longview, McCleary, Montesano, Napavine, Naselle-Grays River Valley, North River, Oakville, Ocean Beach, Ocosta, Pe Ell, Raymond, Rochester, Satsop, South Bend, Toledo, Wahkiakum, Willapa Valley, Winlock
20	Battle Ground, Castle Rock, Centralia, Chehalis, Eatonville, Green Mountain, Hockinson, Kalama, Kelso, La Center, Morton, Mossyrock, Mount Adams, Napavine, Onalaska, Ridgefield, Rochester, Tenino, Toledo, Toutle Lake, Vancouver, White Pass, Winlock, Woodland, Yelm
21	Edmonds, Everett, Mukilteo
22	North Thurston, Olympia, Tumwater
23	Bainbridge Island, Bremerton, Central Kitsap, North Kitsap

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

CONTINUED

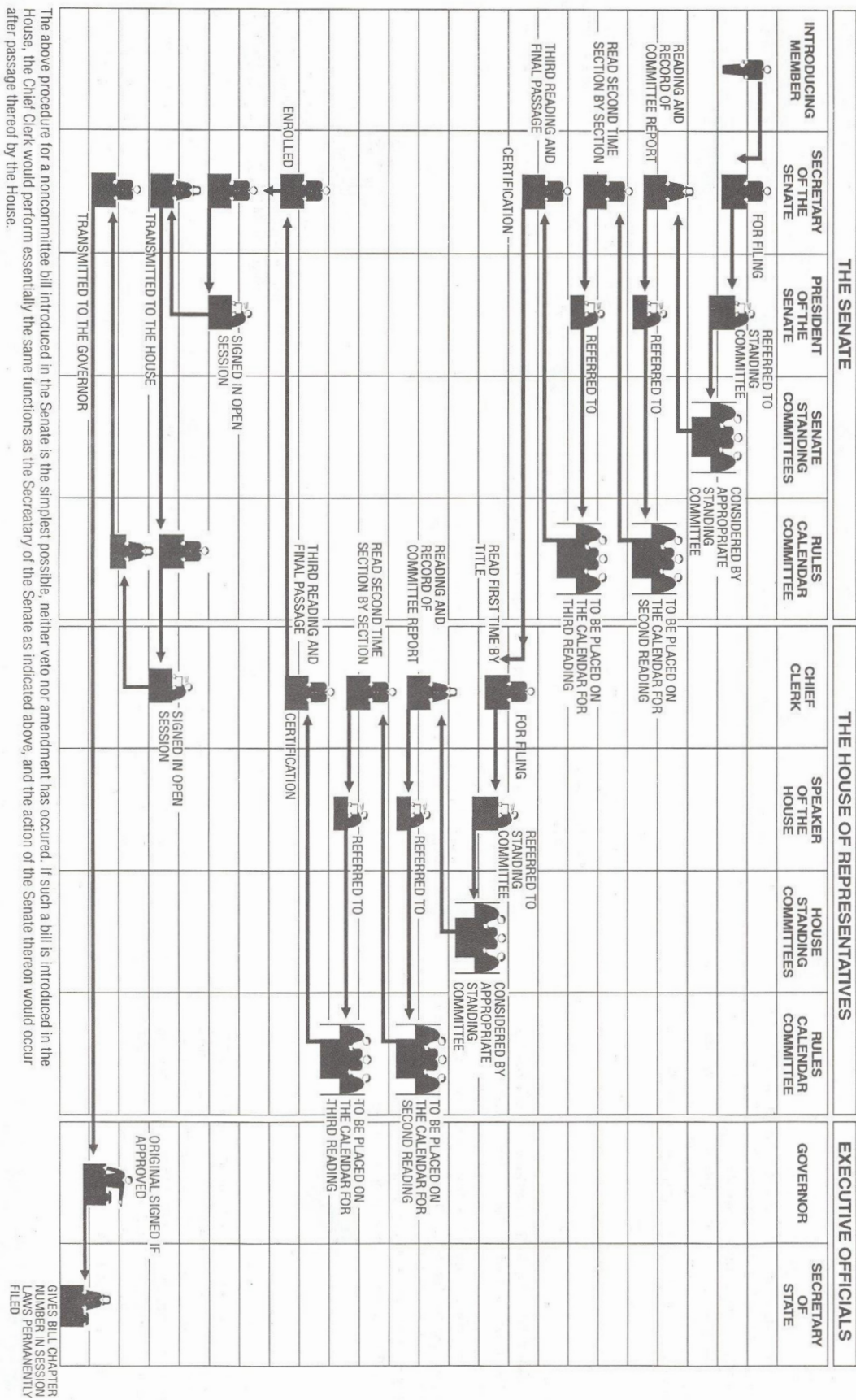
LEG DISTRICTS	SCHOOL DISTRICTS
24	Aberdeen, Brinnon, Cape Flattery, Chimacum, Crescent, Elma, Hoquiam, Lake Quinault, Mary M Knight, Montesano, North Beach, Oak Harbor, Port Angeles, Port Townsend, Queets-Clearwater, Quilcene, Quillayute Valley, Satsop, Sequim, Taholah, Wishkah Valley
25	Bethel, Franklin Pierce, Orting, Puyallup, Sumner
26	Bremerton, Central Kitsap, Peninsula, South Kitsap
27	Fife, Puyallup, Tacoma
28	Bethel, Clover Park, Steilacoom Hist., Tacoma, University Place, Yelm
29	Bethel, Clover Park, Franklin Pierce, Tacoma
30	Auburn, Federal Way, Fife, Kent
31	Auburn, Bethel, Carbonado, Dieringer, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Orting, Puyallup, Sumner, White River
32	Edmonds, Seattle, Shoreline
33	Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton, Tukwila
34	Highline, Seattle, Tukwila, Vashon Island
35	Central Kitsap, Elma, Grapeview, Griffin, Hood Canal, Mary M Knight, McCleary, North Mason, North Thurston, Olympia, Pioneer, Rainier, Rochester, Shelton, South Kitsap, Southside, Tenino, Tumwater, Yelm
36	Seattle
37	Renton, Seattle
38	Everett, Marysville, Mukilteo, Lake Stevens, Snohomish
39	Arlington, Burlington-Edison, Concrete, Conway, Darrington, Everett, Granite Falls, Lake Stevens, Lakewood, Marysville, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, Snohomish, Stanwood-Camano, Sultan

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

CONTINUED

LEG DISTRICTS	SCHOOL DISTRICTS
40	Anacortes, Bellingham, Burlington-Edison, La Conner, Lopez, Mount Baker, Mount Vernon, Orcas Island, San Juan Island, Sedro-Woolley, Shaw Island
41	Bellevue, Issaquah, Lake Washington, Mercer Island, Renton, Snoqualmie Valley
42	Bellingham, Blaine, Concrete, Ferndale, Lynden, Meridian, Mount Baker, Nooksack Valley, Sedro-Woolley
43	Seattle
44	Edmonds, Everett, Lake Stevens, Monroe, Mukilteo, Northshore, Snohomish
45	Bellevue, Issaquah, Lake Washington, Northshore, Riverview, Seattle, Snoqualmie Valley
46	Seattle
47	Auburn, Federal Way, Kent, Tahoma
48	Bellevue, Lake Washington
49	Battle Ground, Evergreen (Clark), Ridgefield, Vancouver

THE COURSE OF A BILL



PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND REMOTE HEARINGS

Remote Testimony: Registration closes one hour before hearing begins; time will likely be limited; registering does not guarantee ability to speak.

Written Testimony: Window for written testimony will close 24 hours after the start time of hearing.

Note Position on Bills for the Record: Same registration process, without testimony or written comments.

Participating in Hearings: <https://leg.wa.gov/learn-and-participate>

PRIOR TO TESTIFYING

- Register in Committee Sign In page: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/CSI>
- To testify, registration closes one hour before the start time of the hearing.
- Written comments are accepted for 24 hours after the start time of the hearing.
- Prepare your remarks in writing if possible.
- After registering, you'll receive a unique sign-in link; test your system in advance and be punctual signing into the hearing.
- Be mindful of amendments or substitutes to your bill.

MAKING YOUR REMARKS

- Introduce yourself; clearly indicate who you're representing, if anyone.
- Be prepared to have very limited time.
- Be brief and be clear about your position; use your written comments to guide you, but don't READ your testimony.
- Avoid technical jargon, acronyms.
- Be prepared for questions—but don't answer if you don't know ("I'll get back to you"—AND then follow through).

ADDITIONAL TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY

- Be prepared.
- Be respectful of the office.
- Don't argue (although it's OK to respectfully disagree) and don't exaggerate.
- Give examples (tell your "stories").
- Follow up.
- 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; for their support; or just for their service.

WASA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



2025 Legislative Platform

“It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision
the education of all children residing within its borders...”

—Article IX, Section 1, Washington State Constitution

School administrators acknowledge the Legislature’s efforts to fully fund basic education, including the provision of significant additional funding in the last ten years. Nevertheless, funding for at least three major components of basic education—Special Education, Pupil Transportation, and Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC)—continue to be dramatically underfunded.

School administrators are committed to ensuring each and every student is provided with equitable learning environments where they can learn and achieve their educational goals and aspirations. In pursuit of this commitment, WASA urges the 2025 Legislature to fulfill their obligation to fully fund the following Basic Education programs:

Special Education

The 2025 Legislature must fully fund the cost of special education services. School districts have a legal obligation to serve all students with disabilities in Washington, regardless of cost of services, yet they do not have the necessary resources to provide those services. Even with recent funding enhancements, the gap between school district expenditures for special education and related services substantially exceeds funding—and continues to grow. This gap requires districts to continue to use local funding sources, including local levies, to cover necessary costs. To ensure school districts are provided with funding that reflects the actual costs of service delivery, the Legislature must increase special education tiered multipliers and remove the arbitrary enrollment funding cap.

Pupil Transportation

The 2025 Legislature must promptly fulfill its obligation to comprehensively fix the pupil transportation formula to ensure it is more transparent, predictable, and adequately funded. The intent of the current Student Transportation Allocation Reporting System (STARS) is to allow the Legislature to allocate funding to districts that aligns with actual costs of providing school transportation services. Regardless of the intent, the STARS formula has consistently underfunded districts’ actual pupil transportation expenditures. The STARS formula cannot forecast allocations with credible accuracy, calculates a final allocation in February which complicates budget decisions for school districts and the Legislature, and uses an efficiency rating that is detrimental to efficient districts because they are at risk of less funding in the model.

Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC)

The 2025 Legislature must immediately address the significant underfunding of allocations for Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC). While staffing represents the largest expense for school districts, there are many costs to running a school district which are non-staff related. The Legislature provides an allocation to cover these costs by providing for Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC) at a specific rate per student; however, state funding for MSOC has not kept pace with actual school district costs. Liability insurance alone has increased over 100 percent in the last five years, while utility costs have increased more than 40 percent. Other costs, such as food and fuel, have also increased dramatically. Current per pupil rates for Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs simply do not come close to matching costs of running a school district. These costs are increasing through no fault of School Districts, superintendents or school boards and their decisions. When required costs of running a school district exceed state funding, local revenues, mostly levies, must be used to fill the gap, reducing local resources for school district and community expectations.

Washington Association of School Administrators
PO Box 14459 | Tumwater, WA 98511
360.489.3642 | 800.859.9272 | www.wasa-oly.org

WASA is a statewide organization representing 1,500 active
and retired public school superintendents and administrators.

WASA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

CONTINUED



Legislative Priorities

School administrators will focus their advocacy efforts in the 2025 Legislative Session on the full funding of basic education—specifically Special Education, Pupil Transportation, and Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC). As school districts face increasing financial difficulties, however, school administrators have ongoing concerns about the state’s K–12 funding structure that must be addressed. These issues must continue to remain on legislators’ radar:

Update Staff Allocations

WASA urges the Legislature to continue to provide for more realistic staffing ratios in the Prototypical School Funding Model (PSFM). The Prototypical School Funding Model is a core, fundamental part of the education funding structure. The funding ratios for most staff positions, however, have remained the same since the Model was first implemented in 2010, resulting in outdated and unrealistic state-funded staffing levels. The first priority must be the completion of implementation of Phase I of the recommendations from the Staffing Enrichment Workgroup (2019): improving staffing allocations for critically needed school principals; providing additional professional development to close achievement gaps; and adding continuous improvement coaches as an enhancement to the PSFM.

Modify Regionalization/Experience Factor

WASA urges the Legislature to immediately revamp the methodology of regionalization and experience factors to ensure school districts receive more consistent and equitable resources. The current regionalization methodology of using housing costs is flawed and the implementation of experience factors is unsound. The current calculation of these factors has exacerbated inequities between districts and must be updated swiftly.

Reform Levy/Local Effort Assistance

Inequities between districts were exacerbated by capping levy authority of property rich districts at a higher level than neighboring property poor districts—while diminishing levy capacity for all districts at the same time. Spiking housing values are negatively impacting many districts’ efforts to adopt levies and are causing many districts eligible for Local Effort Assistance (LEA) to lose funding—or lose eligibility all together. Legislators have consistently stated their intent to “reform” levy/LEA policies; however, action has yet to be taken.

Support Capital Facilities

WASA urges the Legislature to provide robust and reliable funding for school facilities, including funding for school districts that have difficulty passing local bonds or have limited debt capacity to support necessary new construction or modernization. While WASA appreciates the recent update in the Construction Cost Allowance, the Legislature must continue to enhance the state’s investment in K–12 construction by updating the antiquated, pre-1980 funding formulas to ensure funding more closely reflects actual construction costs and educational space needs. Additionally, the Legislature must finally give Washington’s citizens the opportunity to decide whether school district bond issues should be approved with a simple majority vote.

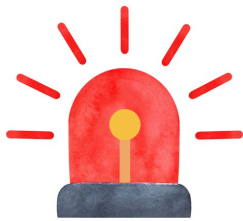
WSSDA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



Washington State School Directors' Association

WSSDA is a state agency comprised of the 1,477 locally elected school board directors who serve the state's 1.1 million students in their communities and statewide.

WSSDA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2025



Outdated Funding Formulas Force Cuts and Strain Schools

Our public education system is operating without the staff or resources needed to serve students and many districts are being forced to cut staff further as the funding crisis gets more dire. With fewer staff to respond to students' changing needs and without the resources needed to implement the mounting list of state laws, more and more of our districts will join the list of those under enormous financial strain. Full, ample, sustainable, and equitable funding is paramount to fulfill all aspects of Washington's Program of Basic Education and close opportunity gaps. To support equitable learning and to implement the laws that have already been enacted, districts must receive funding that is full, ample, sustainable, and equitable in the following priority areas:

Underfunded and Underserved: SPED Shortfall Impacts All Students

Solution: Increase the tiered multipliers, advance inclusionary practices, and remove the enrollment funding cap.

Inflation Crunch: Materials Priced Out of Reach

Solution: Increase the Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC) allocations to reflect rising and uncontrollable costs to include a one-time stabilization to eliminate underfunding and adjust the future allocations by inflation; rebase the MSOC formula at least every four years to ensure allocations keep up with cost increases that are beyond a district's control.

Loss of Vital Staff: Outdated Prototypical Model Forces Deep Cuts

Solution: Update and fund the prototypical school funding model to ensure that districts have the staff needed to serve each and every student within their care.

Students Stranded: Transportation Formula is Out of Date

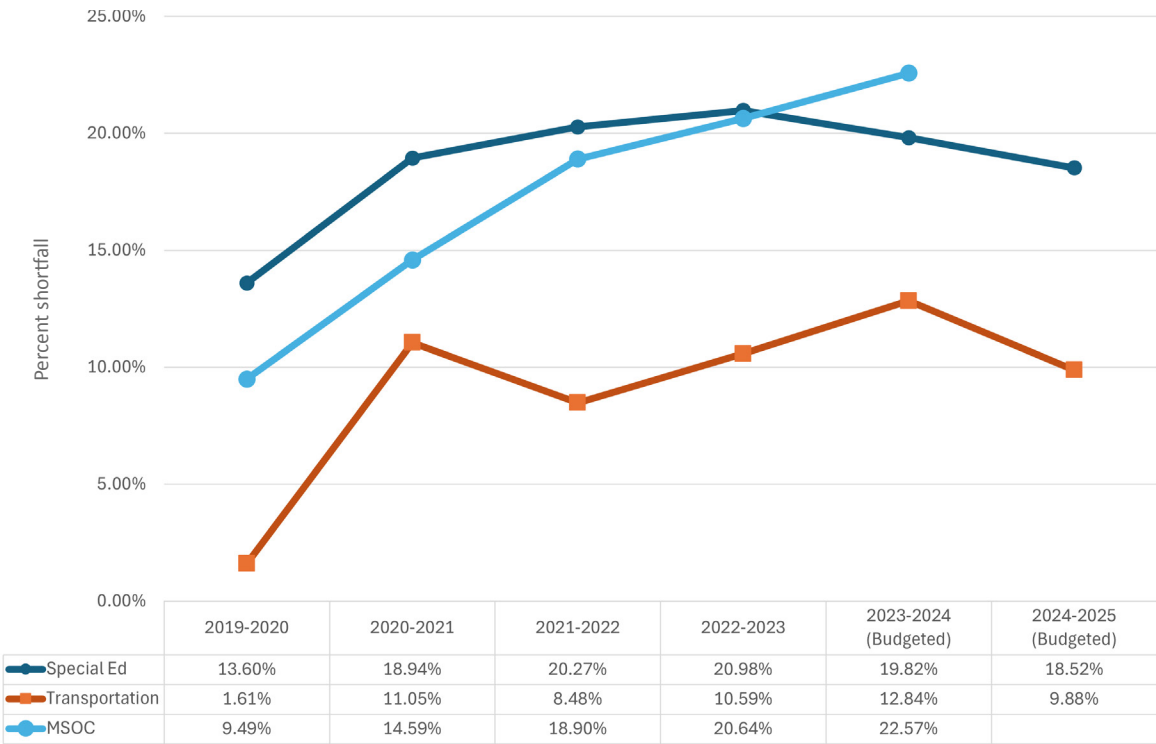
Solution: Update the Student Transportation Allocation formula to reflect and cover actual costs.

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WSSDA LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM CONTINUED

By the Numbers

Funding Shortfalls by Major Categories, 2019-2020 to 2024-2025
Percentages are the percent of spending not covered by direct state allocations



Special Education

Providing the legally required and ethically necessary supports and services for students with disabilities requires resources. However, the cost to respond to students’ needs exceeds current funding. As a result, some students are not receiving all the support they need to be successful. Additionally, the lack of needed resources forces compromises that impact overall district functions, such as staff and program cuts. This funding inequity has a ripple effect on students throughout the system. By supporting students with disabilities, each and every student benefits from an inclusive and adequately resourced learning environment.

MSOC

Districts must buy materials and equipment to support learning, as well as pay the bills, but don’t receive sufficient resources to do either through the outdated MSOC allocations. Recent and significant inflation has impacted all operating costs including, but not limited to, utilities and insurance. The rising costs of all MSOC categories have forced districts to choose between providing vital programs for students and covering standard expenses.

Staffing

In both rural and urban and large and small districts, more staff with diverse backgrounds and skills are needed to provide relevant instruction and timely instructional supports. Even before the pandemic, the state allocation to cover salaries, benefits, and pension programs for necessary staffing levels was out-of-date and insufficient; students’ changing instructional demands over recent years has widened the already concerning gap between staff support and student need.

Transportation

School buses provide transportation for students so that they can access instruction. Yet, the allocation to fund school transportation is woefully out-of-step with actual costs. Student transportation includes both the familiar yellow school buses, as well as less traditional, cost-effective resources for students experiencing homelessness.



For more info, go to wssda.org/priorities.

“Educational equity can only exist when a student’s level of opportunity and achievement cannot be predicted based on race, characteristics, or circumstances. Therefore, we must identify and eliminate any discriminatory practices and prejudices within our state’s public education system.”
—WSSDA’s member-adopted position on educational equity

WASBO LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



The Washington Association of School Business Officials (WASBO) advocates for the following legislative actions to ensure sustainable funding for the K-12 public education finance system:

2025 KEY PRIORITIES

- Increase **MSOC** Funding
- Fully Fund **Special Education**
- Enhance **Pupil Transportation** Funding
- Fully Fund **Substitute Costs**

Updates to these priorities are essential to safeguarding district resources and ensuring local levies can **enhance** education rather than **filling** funding gaps for basic operational needs.

► MATERIALS, SUPPLIES & OPERATING COSTS (MSOC) ALLOCATIONS

While staffing remains the largest school district expense, non-staff costs are significant. The Legislature provides funding for these through MSOC at a set rate per student, but this funding has not kept up with actual district expenses. For example:

- Insurance costs have **increased by over 100% in five years.**
- Utility costs have **risen by more than 40%.**

With these increasing costs, MSOC funding falls short, forcing districts to rely on local levy revenue meant to enhance education - not cover basic costs like insurance and utilities. These are not "enhancements" but essential expenses. Paying for basic costs often comes at the expense of building maintenance and other critical needs.

WASBO urges the Legislature to increase MSOC funding to reflect actual district expenses, ensuring that essential services are covered without straining local levies.



► FULLY FUND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Despite the Legislature's investments over the last 5 years, Special Education remains underfunded, forcing districts to rely on local levies to meet state and federal mandates.

To ensure students are not negatively impacted, **WASBO urges the Legislature to fully fund Special Education** by:

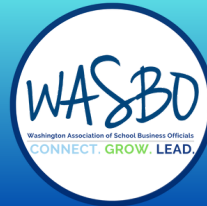
- Increasing tiered multipliers
- Eliminating the enrollment cap
- Removing the safety net threshold

Both the enrollment cap and the safety net threshold are policy decisions made by the Legislature that are neither required nor consistent with providing a free, appropriate public education to our students.



The Washington Association of School Business Officials (WASBO) is a statewide organization representing 1,800 members involved in school finance and operations.

WASBO 2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM CONTINUED



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS 2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

► PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

We appreciate the Legislature's continued provision of additional funding to address the excess costs of transporting special passengers, such as special education, foster, and McKinney-Vento students. However, over the past five years, most districts have received transportation allocations that fall short of covering their actual costs, creating significant funding gaps.

Much of this gap stems from the current formula, which does not fully account for the unique needs and higher costs associated with special passengers.

WASBO urges the Legislature to:

- **Increase dedicated funding for transporting special passengers**
- **Create a data-driven safety net process** that offers flexibility for districts with unique transportation needs not covered by the existing formula.

These changes are crucial to ensuring that districts can meet their transportation obligations without having to rely on local funds to fill the gaps.



► FULLY FUND SUBSTITUTE COSTS (FOR REQUIRED STAFF LEAVE)

Under **RCW 28A.400.300**, school districts are required to provide a **minimum of 10 days** of leave for both classified and certificated staff. However, the state currently only provides funding for certificated teacher substitutes for 4 days per basic education-funded teacher FTE at a rate of \$151.86 per day, which equates to approximately \$16 per hour.

At this time, there is no funding received for classified substitutes. This leaves a significant gap in covering the actual cost of substitutes, forcing districts to use local levy funds or other resources to meet this shortfall. In addition, school districts are also required to provide sick leave to substitutes under state law, further increasing the financial burden on districts without additional funding from the state.



WASBO urges the Legislature to fully fund the costs associated with required staff leave by:

- **Increasing the number of substitute days funded** to reflect the actual minimum leave required by law (10 days per FTE).
- **Provide funding for substitute costs for all staff FTE funded**
- **Adjusting the daily substitute rate to align with actual market rates and local cost-of-living factors**, ensuring districts can secure qualified substitute teachers.
- **Providing additional funding to cover the cost of sick leave for substitutes**, as mandated by state law, to alleviate the financial strain on districts.

By fully funding substitute costs, including sick leave for substitutes, districts can focus local levy funds on enhancing education, rather than covering essential staffing requirements.

The Washington Association of School Business Officials (WASBO) is a statewide organization representing 1,800 members involved in school finance and operations.

STAY UP TO DATE



THIS WEEK IN OLYMPIA

This Week in Olympia, or *TWIO*, is a 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

RESOURCES

- School Funding website:
www.waschoolfunding.org
- School Funding Toolkit:
<https://bit.ly/46yIFFp>
- Funding Gap Template:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-TeVHGYkMpH0T79L-JmnNsyhRhXlaSiOV>



WASA LEGISLATIVE REPORT PODCAST

Archived Podcasts and
Subscription Information:
<https://bit.ly/2QlgWT0>

MID-SESSION WEBINAR

Districts will schedule their own time with legislators throughout the legislative session.

Registrants will be invited to attend a mid-session webinar to refine our shared advocacy efforts for the end of the session.

February 12, 2025 | 12:00–1:30 p.m.

STAY UP TO DATE

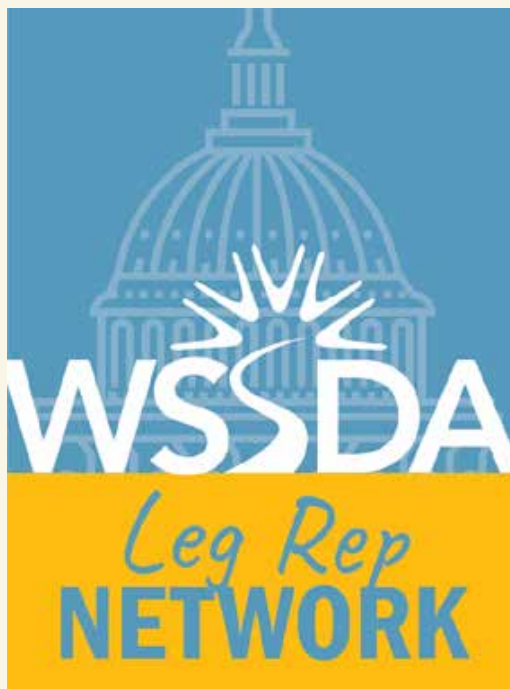
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InSession is a weekly email that provides regular updates about WSSDA's Strategic Advocacy efforts. InSession emails are now complemented by a live, weekly webinar component, **InSession Live**, which will provide opportunities to engage with advocacy experts and ask questions in real time. InSession and InSession Live will provide the following:

- Action alerts for critical bills relating to WSSDA priorities
- Tips on how your district can effectively weigh in on bills
- Hearing schedules for legislative committees
- Additional ways to stay informed and engaged during session
- Guest speakers with advocacy advice
- And much more!

To learn more about InSession and InSession Live, visit wssda.org/legupdates.



Are you a School Board Leg Rep?

Join us each month during the 2025 legislative session for the Leg Rep Learning Hour!

We'll cover:

- Bill and topic-specific strategies
- Engaging your board and community
- Timely information about weighing in
- How other Leg Reps advocate effectively
- And much more!

For more information, visit wssda.org/legreps.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Legislative Advocacy Planning Template

Purpose:

This template is designed to help you strategically plan and prepare for effective advocacy during the upcoming legislative session.

1. Define Your Legislative Priorities

Focus on one or more of the key priorities identified in the Legislative Platform:

- Special Education;
- Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC); and/or
- Pupil Transportation

Why these issues matter:

2. Identify Your Key Legislators/Contacts ([Find Your Legislative or Congressional District](#))

Key Contact (Name/Role)	Contact Info (email/phone)	Notes

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

CONTINUED

3. Develop Your Messaging

Message for each priority	Supporting Data

4. Plan Your Advocacy Strategy ([WASA Legislative Toolkit](#) and [WA School Funding Information](#))

Engagement Activity	January 13-22	January 23-February 1	February 2-11
Sample: <i>Attend the hearing on education funding and meet with Rep. Smith to discuss MSOC funding increases.</i>	Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check legislative committee schedule. Set appointment with Rep. Smith. Next Steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send follow-up to Rep. Smith saying thank you for meeting with talking points. 	Actions: Next Steps:	Actions: Next Steps:

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

CONTINUED

Engagement Activity	January 13-22	January 23-February 1	February 2-11

5. Build Your Advocacy Team

Team Members

6. Measure and Follow Up

Track Progress

7. Prepare for Session Day (Optional)

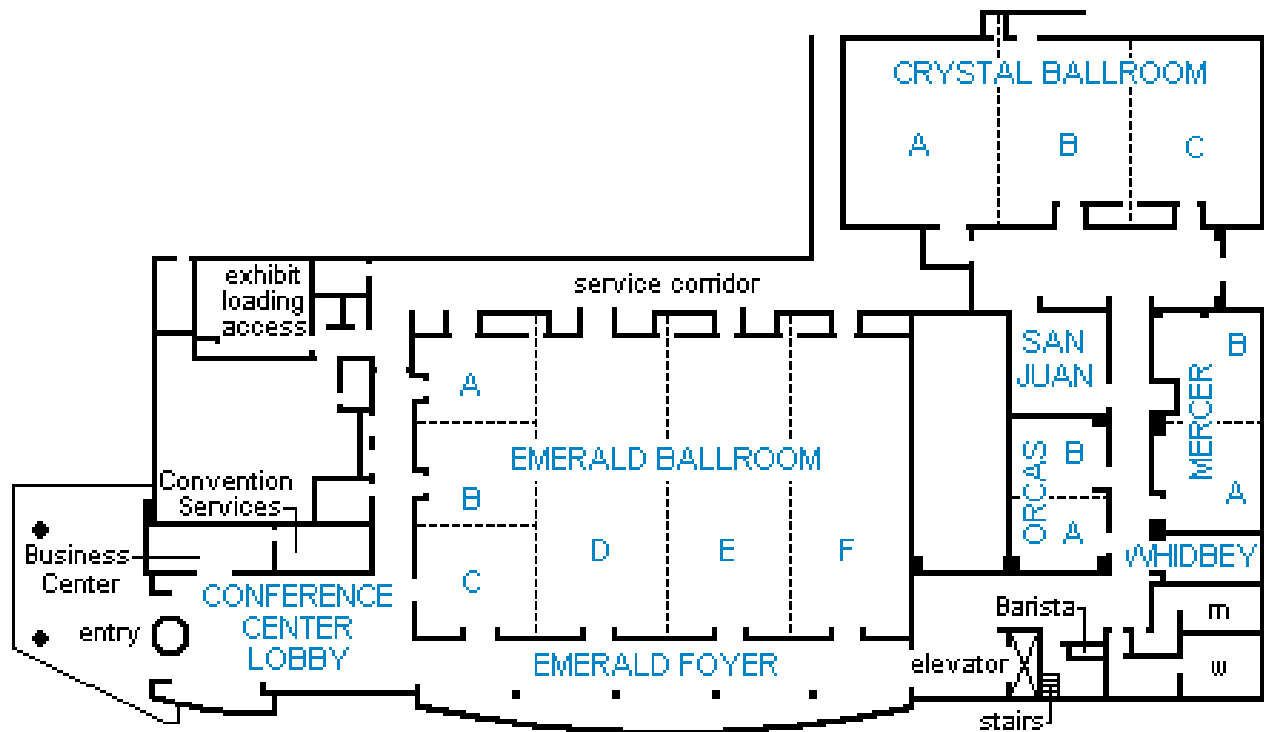
Legislative Advocacy Day Plan

8. Share Your Plan

Please share a copy of your plan with WASA, WASBO and WSSDA so we can help provide any direct support that might be needed.

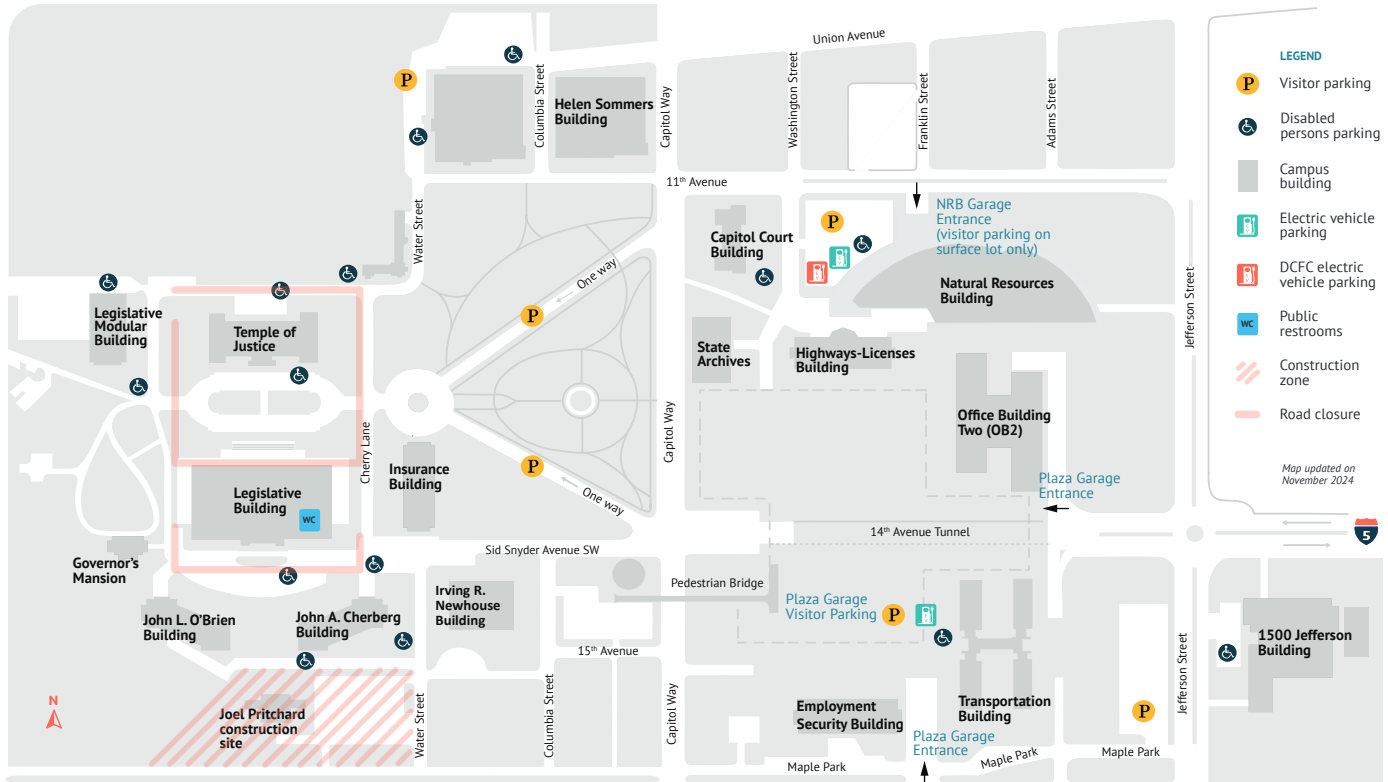
- WASA – Dan Steele, Assistant Executive Director
- WASBO – Brianne King, Executive Director
- WSSDA – Marissa Rathbone, Director of Strategic Advocacy

HILTON MAP



Wi-Fi Name: Hilton-Meeting
Wi-Fi Password: Legislative2024

CAPITOL CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION



2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

Legislative Mid-Session Webinar

February 12
12–1:30 p.m. | Zoom

February 5, 6, & 8

WSSDA Winter Leadership Academy
Virtual

June 22–24

WASA/AWSP Summer Conference
Spokane

February 11–13

WASBO Budget Workshop
Virtual

July

WASA Incoming Superintendent Conference
Des Moines

March 17–18

WASA Spring Conference
for Small Schools Leaders
Wenatchee

June 27–28

WSSDA Summer Leadership Academy
Lacey/Olympia

May 3

WASA Women in Leadership Conference
Lake Chelan

September 19–20

WSSDA General Assembly

May 4–6

WASA Superintendent Conference
Lake Chelan

November 20–22

WSSDA Annual Conference 2025
Hyatt Regency Seattle

May 7–9

WASBO Annual Conference
Spokane

