

WASA Superintendents Conference
Campbell's Resort, Lake Chelan
May 6, 2025

WASA Legislative Advocacy: Looking Ahead to 2026

2025 Legislative Platform

➤ 2025 Focus: “The Big Three”

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

➤ Why “The Big Three”?

- 1) Success in 2025 will positively impact **ALL 295 school districts**; automatically serves to unify WASA members
- 2) Each issue is a Basic Education program, constitutionally required to be amply funded; there is clear, documented evidence none are fully funded



2026 Legislative Platform

WASA's Legislation & Finance Committee developing 2026 Platform

➤ Plan:

- April 28—L&F Committee reviewed Draft Platform
- May 12—L&F Committee scheduled to adopt recommendation
- Mid-May—Board to review/adopt final Platform

➤ **Finalize The Big Three**

- MSOC
- Special Education
- Pupil Transportation

➤ **K-12 Ample & Equitable Finance System**

➤ **On-going/Long-term Priorities**

- Update Staff Allocations
- Modify Regionalization/Experience Factor
- Reform Levy/Local Effort Assistance
- Support Capital Facilities
- *Substitute Costs*



2026 Legislative Platform

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➤ Plan:

- April 28—L&F Committee reviewed Draft Platform
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➤ Why:

- The 2025 Legislature failed to fulfill its constitutional obligation. Strategy is to continue with the "Big 3" to: position WASA in the lead; maintain consistency; sustain Coalition; and build on momentum

2025 Legislative Session

➤ 2025-27 Biennial Need vs Biennial Funding

Big Three	2025-27 NEED	2025-27 FUNDED
Special Education	\$1.12 Billion	\$309.6 Million
MSOC	\$1.23 Billion	\$78.9 Million
Pupil Transportation	\$179.2 Million	— —
TOTAL	\$2.53 Billion	\$388.5 Million



2025 Legislative Platform

Partners supporting the “Big 3”:

- Association of Educational School Districts (AESD)
- Washington State School Directors’ Association (WSSDA)
- Washington Association of School Business Officials (WASBO)
- Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP)
- Alliance of Educational Associations (AEA):
 - Washington Association of Maintenance and Operations Administrators (WAMOA)
 - Washington School Nutrition Association (WSNA)
- Rural Education Center (REC)
- Washington Association of Career and Technical Administrators (WACTA)
- Washington School Personnel Association (WSPA)
- Washington State Parent Teacher Association (WSPTA)

“You miss 100% of the
shots you don’t take.”

-Wayne Gretzky

