



LEADERSHIP | TRUST | ADVOCACY

# **2021 Legislative Session: Prepare to Engage!**

A faint, grayscale background image of a classical building dome, likely a state capitol, is visible on the right side of the slide.

**SUPERINTENDENT COMPONENT MEETING**

NOVEMBER 18, 2020

# 2021 Legislative Session

- ▶ 2021 Legislative Session Overview
  - Setting the Stage
  - Election Update
- ▶ 2021–23 Budget Outlook
- ▶ WASA 2021 Legislative Platform
  - School Funding Coalition
- ▶ Prepare to Engage



2021 Legislative Session

# Setting the Stage for 2021

- ▶ Long, “budget” session, limited to 105 days
  - January 11–April 25
- ▶ Major focus:
  - 2021–23 Biennial Budgets (Operating, Capital, Transportation)
  - 2021 Supplemental Budgets
- ▶ Potentially limited agenda:
  - Economic recovery/tax reform
  - COVID impacts
  - Racial equity/social justice/police reform

# 2021 Session Process

- ▶ Plans being established for a remote/virtual session
- ▶ Senate Facilities & Operations Committee has adopted plan, with established priorities:
  - A session that: is safe; is transparent; not only preserves, but enhances, public participation; and functions efficiently
- ▶ Key Notes:
  - Facilities only open to legislators and authorized employees
  - Floor action will be a hybrid model
  - Committees will meet remotely
    - Electronic sign-in one hour before hearing

# 2021 Session Process

- ▶ House has not yet adopted a plan; however, expected to be similar to Senate plan
- ▶ Some conversation:
  - Because it will take longer to pass bills off the Floor, not planning on daily Floor sessions, but move more bills when they do meet
  - Working with Senate to ensure Committee process is identical in both houses
  - Legislators have been asked to introduce fewer fills and Committee Chairs have been asked to hear/adopt fewer bills

# General Election—Senate

2020: Democrats control 29–20  
(with one D caucusing with R's: 28–21)

- ▶ 26 seats on ballot (13–D, 13–R on ballot; 15–D, 8–R not up for election)
- ▶ Republicans held all open seats (3/3); Democrats had no open seats
- ▶ Each party defeated one incumbent of the other party
- ▶ Five new members: 4 Republicans; 1 Democrat

2021: Democrats control Senate 29–20  
(with one D caucusing with R's: 28–21)

# General Election—House

2020: Democrats control 57–41

- ▶ All 98 seats up for election
- ▶ Republicans held all open seats (6/6); Democrats held all open seats (7/7)
- ▶ Each party defeated one incumbent of the other party
- ▶ Fifteen new members: 7 Republicans; 9 Democrats

2021: Democrats control House, 57–41



# 2021–23 Budget Outlook

# State Budget Update

## Economic & Revenue Forecast Council June 17, 2020

- ▶ Revenue Forecast **decreased by \$4.5 billion** for the remainder of the biennium (through June 30, 2021)
- ▶ Revenue Forecast **decreased by \$4.3 billion** in 2021–23 biennium
- ▶ **\$8.8 billion shortfall** over three years

# State Budget Update

## Economic & Revenue Forecast Council September 23, 2020

- ▶ Revenue Forecast **increased \$2.1 billion** above June forecast for the remainder of the biennium (through June 30, 2021)
- ▶ Revenue Forecast **increased \$2.2 billion** above June forecast in 2021–23 biennium
- ▶ **\$4.3 billion problem** over three years—with *substantial* uncertainty

# State Budget Update

**Economic & Revenue Forecast Council  
November 18, 2020**

**To Be Determined**

ERFC providing update Forecast today

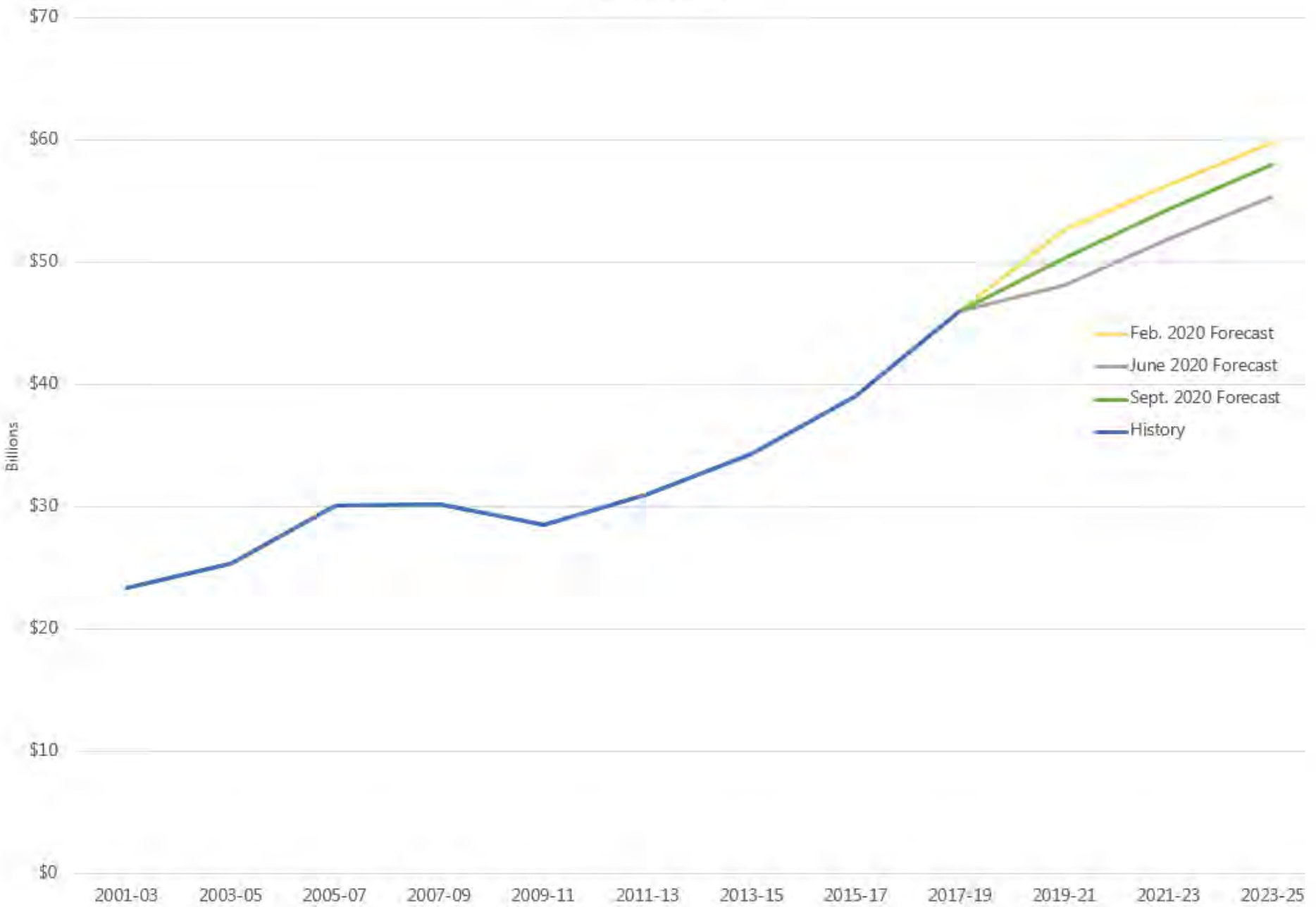


# Near GF-S forecast comparison: February, June, September 2020

	\$ millions	
	2019 - 21	2021 - 23
February	\$52,339	\$55,690
June	\$47,800	\$51,342
September	\$50,022	\$53,737
June - February	(\$4,539)	(\$4,348)
September - February	(\$2,317)	(\$1,953)

Detail may not add to total due to rounding

# NGFO Revenues (Including WEIA)



# State Budget Update

## Economic & Revenue Forecast Council

Economic Review—November 3, 2020

Monthly Revenue Collection Update—November 17, 2020

- ▶ September Collection Report: \$133 million above Forecast
- ▶ October Collection Report: \$248 million above Forecast

## Continued Forecast Risks:

- ▶ **UPSIDE**
  - COVID infection rates decline=faster reopening of businesses; greater spending; increased employment
  - An effective COVID vaccine becomes available before mid-2021
- ▶ **DOWNSIDE**
  - COVID infection rates continue to increase=slower pace of economic reopening; reduced spending and employment
  - Congress does not pass additional stimulus package

# Forecast Risks

## UPSIDE

- ▶ COVID vaccine trials are promising
  - Nov. 9: Pfizer announces vaccine demonstrated 90% efficacy in tests conducted on 43,538 people, with no serious safety concerns
  - Nov. 16: Moderna announces vaccine demonstrated 94.5% efficacy according to early results in trials with 30,000 people

# Forecast Risks

## DOWNSIDE

- ▶ COVID infection rates are spiking in third COVID surge

# Washington State COVID Infection Rates

## COVID-19 in Washington State

### Confirmed Cases and Deaths by Illness Onset Date, and Hospitalizations by Admission Date

*This chart shows the progression of the COVID-19 outbreak in Washington by cases, hospitalizations and deaths over time and is known as an epidemiologic curve. The epidemiologic curve is the curve referred to in the phrase, "flatten the curve."*

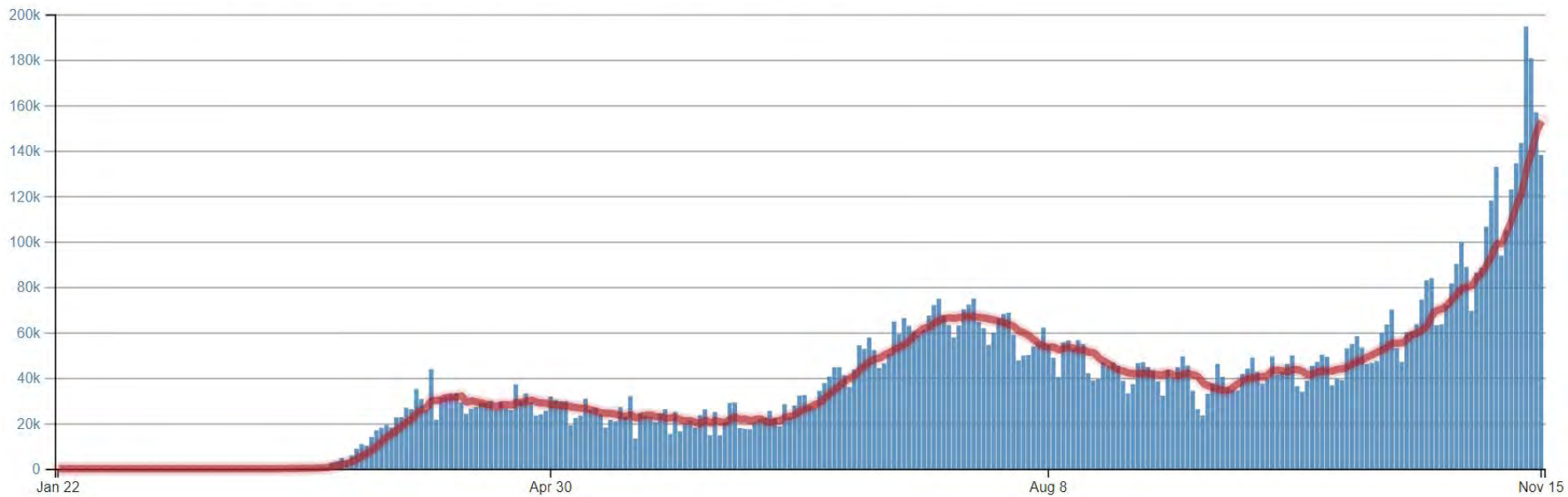
#### Confirmed Case Counts

● Confirmed Cases ● Data incomplete for recent dates — Confirmed Cases (7 day rolling avg.) — Incomplete data (7 day rolling avg.)



# United States COVID Infection Rates

**Daily Trends in Number of COVID-19 Cases in the United States Reported to CDC**



Source: CDC, Nov. 15, 2020

# Forecast Risks

## DOWNSIDE

- ▶ COVID infection rates are spiking in third COVID surge
- ▶ Governor Inslee ordered new COVID restrictions to be in place for four weeks
- ▶ A fifth Federal COVID stimulus package is highly unlikely until next year

# K-12 Non-Basic Education Budget

## Potential Reduction Options

ESDs	BEST Program
Local Effort Assistance	Supt/Principal Internships
Persistently Lowest Achieving Schools	Regional Transportation Coordinators
National Board Bonus	Dual Credit Subsidy
TPEP & TPEP Training	CTE Grants
Computer Science Grants	Aerospace Assembly
WSLA	Next Gen Science Training
Foster Youth Ed Outcomes	Homeless Students
Dual Language Grants	WA Achievers Scholars
IT Academy	College Bound Scholarships

# K-12 Non-Basic Education Budget

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# Caseload Forecast Update

- ▶ Caseload Forecast Council adopted an updated Caseload Forecast on Nov. 10
- ▶ Caseload forecast is used to adjust Maintenance Level budget (i.e., the cost of continuing current services)
- ▶ Compared to February forecast, the November forecast is estimated to reduce General Fund spending by **\$276.8 million** in FY 2021 and by **\$251.5 million** in 2021–23

# Caseload Forecast Update

## GOOD NEWS

- ▶ Updating the June Budget Outlook with:
  - September Revenue Forecast data,
  - October revenue collections,
  - Savings from governor's actions (budget vetoes; furloughs; spending freeze),
  - Expected federal Medicaid match, and
  - Use of budget reserves
- ▶ Under this scenario, budget hole is backfilled (i.e., budget is balanced), with \$274 million left in reserve

# Caseload Forecast Update

## CAVEATS

- ▶ Calculations use estimates
- ▶ Assumes federal Medicaid match
- ▶ Doesn't take into account any legislative decisions to increase spending
- ▶ Doesn't take into account state employee CBA
- ▶ Doesn't take into account pension or health care rate adjustments

# Caseload Forecast Update

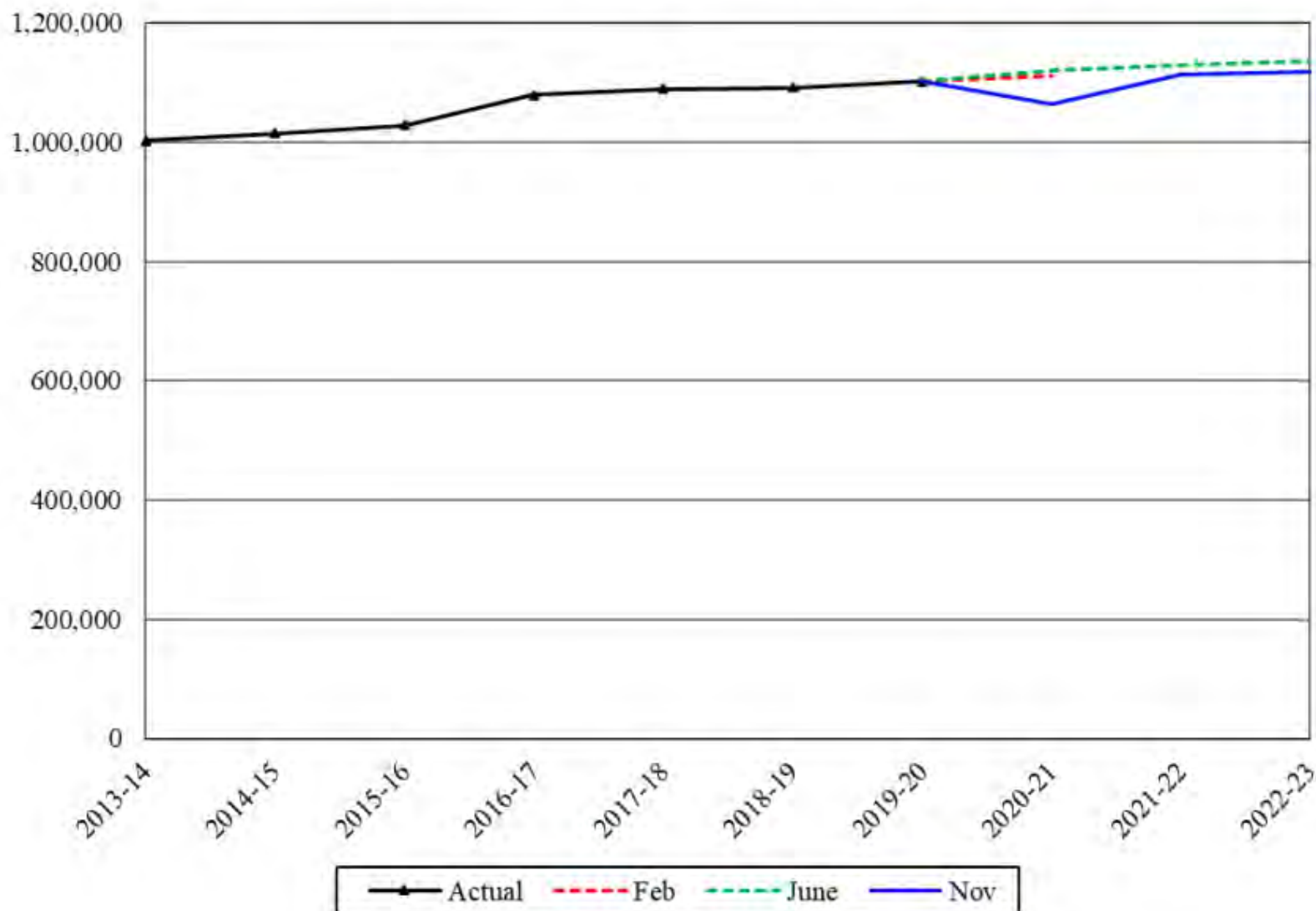
## BAD NEWS

- ▶ Significant “savings” in K–12 caseloads, including:
  - 3.4 percent reduction in enrollment
  - 10.4 percent reduction in special education enrollment
- ▶ Total three-year K–12 “savings” is **\$1.112 billion**

# Common Schools Enrollment

Caseload Forecast Council  
November 10, 2020

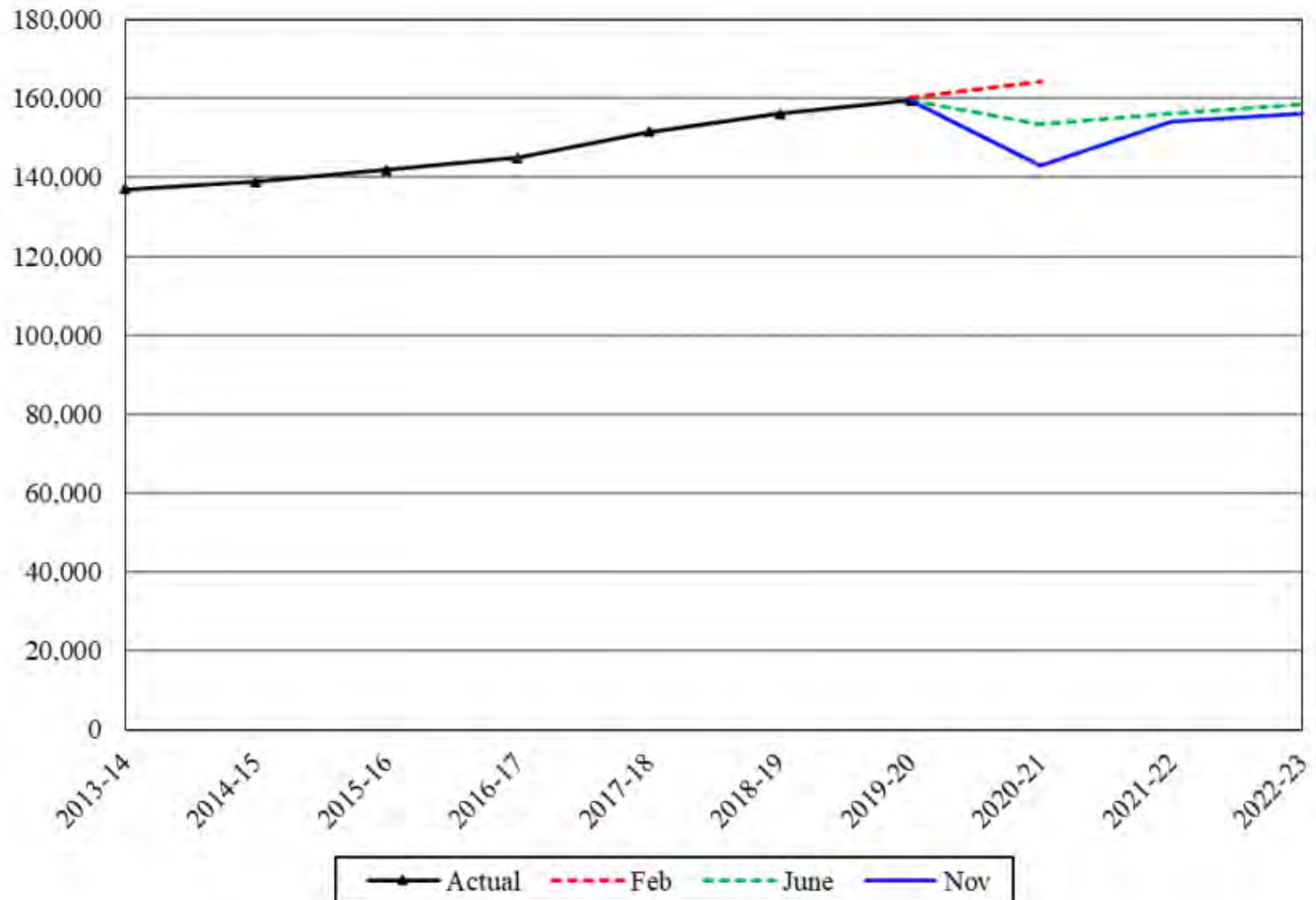
Common Schools Average Annual Enrollment (FTE)



# Common School Special Education

Caseload Forecast Council  
November 10, 2020

**Special Education Average Annual Enrollment (HC)  
(Age 3-PreK and State Funded Age K-21)**

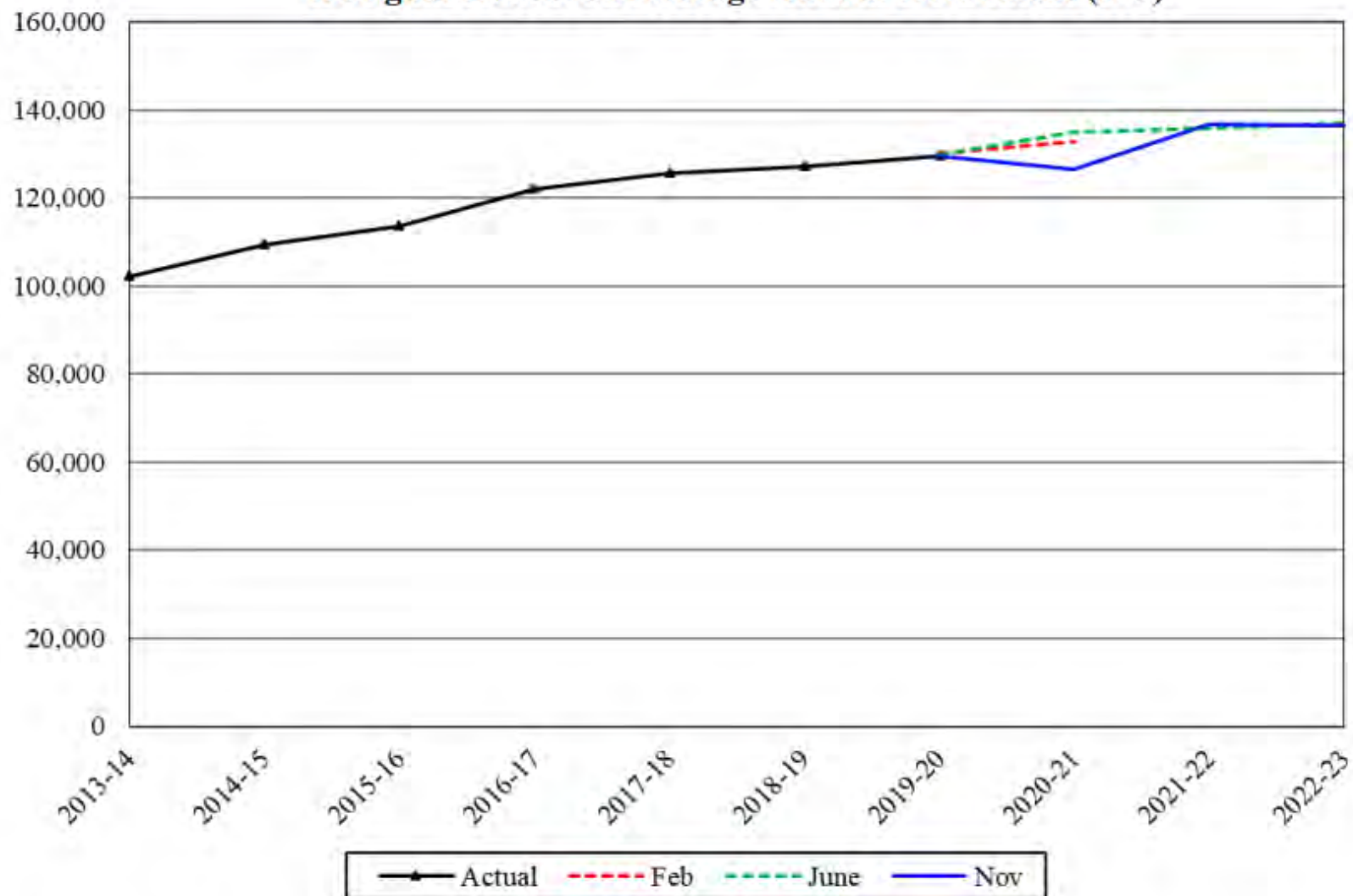


# Education

## Common School Bilingual Education

Caseload Forecast Council  
November 10, 2020

**Bilingual Education Average Annual Enrollment (HC)**



# “Would You Rather...”

- ▶ be able to fly OR be able to read minds?

**Legislators will have difficult choices; they'll ask themselves questions, such as: “Would you rather...”**

- ▶ provide “hold harmless” funding for pupil transportation OR preserve funding for Medicaid adult dental care?
- ▶ ensure stable funding for school district enrollment OR preserve funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)?
- ▶ support school construction enhancements (SCAP) OR support additional funding for salmon culvert replacements?

# WASA 2021 Legislative Platform

# WASA 2021 Legislative Platform

## Short-term Issues to Address

- Hold the line on K-12 funding—don't go backwards/honor Constitutional commitment
- Avoid “mid-year” reductions
- “No new mandates” (funded or not)
- Support technology/connectivity
- Increase local flexibility
- Clear sideboards on bargaining

**Bottom Line Message: “Do No Harm”**

# WASA 2021 Legislative Platform

## Long-term Issues

While K-12 is in “protection” mode, we must remind legislators K-12 has unmet needs

When the economy rebounds, revenues will be available to invest and we must be prepared to quickly pivot

Similar to 2020, we must temper expectations, but urgent we don't allow our needs to be forgotten—or we will lose momentum and have to start conversations all over again

# Long-term Issues

## Update Staffing Allocations

- Continues to be a core, fundamental piece of the education funding structure, but continues to contain, outdated unrealistic staffing levels

## Provide Consistent/Equitable/Ample Education Resources

- Several components of K-12's new funding structure have exacerbated inequities between districts

## Support Capital Facilities

- While not technically Basic Education, facilities remain a core need and state continues to use outdated funding formulas that fail to recognize the true cost of building

# *Wasa* 2021 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

WASA believes that the commitment of resources to the education and welfare of the children of Washington State is an investment in the quality of our future. We believe that effective school leaders initiate and manage change resulting in a system of K-12 education in which all students receive a quality education.

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

## **Short-term Needs to Address:**

- K-12 Budget
- Mid-year Reductions
- Mandates
- Flexibility
- Technology/Connectivity
- Bargaining

## **Long-term Needs to Address:**

- Staffing Allocations
- Consistent, Equitable, and Ample Education Resources
- Capital Facilities



## SCHOOL FUNDING COALITION | Immediate Student Needs

- 2021 priorities address immediate student needs

**We believe each and every student needs:**

- Stable Support
- Safety
- Access to Learning
- Well-Equipped Staff

# SCHOOL FUNDING COALITION | Immediate Student Needs

Washington's schools and districts continue to have urgent needs that require assistance to ensure all students have equitable access to continuous learning opportunities and programming. Acting on longer-term needs may have to be postponed, given the state's current financial circumstances; however, they must stay at the forefront of policy-makers' minds, as these issues must be addressed as the economy recovers. In addition to long-term issues, we urge the Legislature to immediately address several near-term issues, many of which are a direct result of the COVID-19 outbreak. We also urge the Legislature to refrain from adopting additional mandates during this crisis.

**We believe that each and every student needs:**

- Stable Support
- Safety
- Access to Learning
- Well-Equipped Staff

## Stable Support

- Reimburse for unfunded costs associated with COVID-19, beyond what is reimbursed by federal funds, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for students and staff, food service, transportation, and online learning
- Promptly pass through federal funding dedicated for schools without supplanting state funding
- Hold the line on K-12 funding and prevent mid-year budget reductions; any budget reductions deemed necessary must not create or further exacerbate funding inequities between districts and must be tied to an expenditure-mandate that is also eliminated
- Maintain stable support for enrollment and pupil transportation

## Safety

- Support funding for staffing and materials to ensure buildings and buses are clean and sanitary
- Train staff in providing trauma-informed instruction that is embedded in the social emotional framework

## Access to Learning

- Provide equitable access to technology resources including devices and broadband connectivity
- Ensure resources for individualized needs of all students

## Well-Equipped Staff

- Provide professional development for staff about racial literacy, cultural responsiveness, and stereotype threat for purposes of closing persistent opportunity gaps
- Provide professional development for staff so that they can effectively engage students in online learning

The School Funding Coalition represents the voices of nearly 8,000 school district leaders from our state's 295 school districts. We bring a front-line understanding of school district financing and the education funding issues the Legislature continues to grapple with—especially as state budget decisions are contemplated in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. For further information, please contact:

- AEA: Mitch Denning | [medenning@comcast.net](mailto:medenning@comcast.net)
- AESD: Melissa Gombosky | [melissagombosky@gmail.com](mailto:melissagombosky@gmail.com)
- AWSP: Roz Thompson | [roz@awsp.org](mailto:roz@awsp.org)
- WASA, WASBO, and WSPA: Dan Steele | [dsteeler@wasa-oly.org](mailto:dsteeler@wasa-oly.org)
- WSSDA: Marissa Rathbone | [m.rathbone@wssda.org](mailto:m.rathbone@wssda.org)



## School Funding Coalition Priorities Talking Points

The School Funding Coalition is comprised of seven statewide education associations, representing almost 8,000 school district leaders. In preparation for the 2021 Legislative Session (as well as any potential Special Session called before January), the Coalition developed a [short-list of priorities](#) to support. While each association has their own Legislative Platform, the Coalition's adopted priorities provide a set of issues in which we can come together and speak with one voice.

To assist your advocacy efforts, the Coalition has also created "talking points" for the priorities. The talking points below provide key message points for each priority, along with some additional information which provides further context behind the priorities.

We encourage you—individually and collectively—to use the priorities and talking points to guide your communications with legislators. While the Coalition supports each issue and we will strive to successfully advance each priority, we suggest that you focus on two or three specific issues to discuss as you communicate with your local legislators. Written messages should be short and concise, and in-person, phone or electronic (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.) meetings should be narrowly focused. In follow-up messages or meetings, you can provide further support for the priorities discussed, or you can advocate for additional issues. Outlining all of the priorities at once, however, may overwhelm your policymakers—and there is a risk your message will be lost.

Use the talking points to better understand the priorities and to craft supportive arguments. We encourage you not to simply copy the talking points; use your own words and voice so your message is authentic. And add your own "stories" to illuminate the issues. For example, do not just ask for stable pupil transportation funding. Explain the consequences if you lack funding; describe the potential personnel impacts or what services you might have to eliminate. Make the words "real."



School Funding Coalition Priorities: <https://bit.ly/32sRilx>

School Funding Coalition Priorities Talking Points: <https://bit.ly/2Rm0guk>

School Funding Coalition Overview Video: <https://bit.ly/32Vw284>

*WUSA*

Prepare to Engage!

# Legislative Engagement

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

You can be sure someone WILL speak up—  
and they may not have the same information,  
experience or position as you



December Legislative “Brown Bag” Webinar:

## **Finding Your Voice—The Importance of Legislative Advocacy**

December 4, 2020 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Invite your colleagues and join us to learn how to engage with your legislators and effectively advocate for your students, your schools, and your staff.

All WASA members are invited to attend this free training session; however, registration is required:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtd-uvpzkuHd1\\_4tEvialt35xfoiXCI7On](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtd-uvpzkuHd1_4tEvialt35xfoiXCI7On)



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*2020 WASA Superintendent Component Meeting*

In the bottom left corner of the slide, there are decorative geometric shapes. A large red triangle points upwards and to the right, partially overlapping a black triangle that points downwards and to the right.