

## WSCA Legislative Update

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The Washington Legislature concluded its business on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 p.m. and adjourned Sine Die. On the final day of the session, lawmakers adopted a \$69 billion budget which included funding for several critical programs, including special education, free school meals for students, and college in the high school programs. The Senate passed the budget with bipartisan support, but the House vote was strictly along party lines. The budgets passed the House and Senate relatively early in the day Sunday.

However, the final vote on a controversial drug possession bill failed in a dramatic fashion late Sunday and Governor Inslee is suggesting he may call the Legislature back into a special session to resolve the issue before June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The issue stems from a 2021 Supreme Court ruling that the state's felony drug possession law was unconstitutional. That year, the Legislature passed a stop-gap bill making drug possession a misdemeanor, but ending that policy by July 1, 2023. A compromise bill emerged on Saturday evening that would have raised the penalty to a gross misdemeanor, but would have prevented local jurisdictions from adopting their own ordinances. Republicans in the House locked up to vote against the bill, arguing that local governments should adopt their own policies. With a divided Democratic caucus, the bill only garnered 43 of the necessary 50 votes to pass, even though the Speaker left the vote open for several minutes trying to persuade members to change their votes.

As of adjournment, it is unclear whether a special session will occur.

House Minority Leader JT Wilcox (R-Roy) announced on the last day of session he will be stepping down as caucus leader. He plans to remain in the Legislature. A vote for new leadership is expected to take place before the end of May. Deputy Leader Joel Kretz (R-Wauconda) may also be stepping down, but that has yet to be confirmed.

Senate Ways & Means Committee Chair Christine Rolfes (D-Bainbridge Island) has announced her interest in being appointed to the Kitsap County Commission upon the departure of Commissioner Rob Gelder on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Although it's possible to serve as both a County Commissioner and State Senator, Rolfes has said publicly she will not remain in the Senate if she secures the appointment. A vacancy in one of the most powerful committees in the Legislature would likely set off a chain reaction of events as a new Chair is selected, as well as a new Senator from the 23<sup>rd</sup> District.

- E2SHB 1238, a bill to provide free school meals to about 600,000 Washington students, has passed the Legislature and been delivered to the Governor for his signature. The budget includes \$23.4 million to implement HB 1238.
- HB 1308, establishing an additional graduation pathway option of completing a performance-based learning experience, has passed the Legislature and been delivered to the Governor for his signature.
- 2SHB 1316, legislation to expand access to dual credit programs, has been passed and delivered to the Governor.
- HB 1436, funding for Special Education, has been passed by the Legislature and received a robust **\$352 million in funding** for implementation in the final operating budget. The bill increases the 13.5% cap to 15% beginning in the 2023-24 school year, and increases the multiplier as follows:

Pre-K	1.15	1.2
K-12 students in Gen Ed > 80%	1.0075	1.12
K-12 students in Gen Ed < 80%	0.995	1.06

The bill also stipulates if a student’s IEP costs exceed 2 times the average per-pupil expenditure, the district may access the safety net for high cost students (for districts with more than 1,000 FTE students, IEP costs must exceed 2.2 times the average expenditure). The operating budget included funding for a JLARC study as well as a performance audit of special education, but it did not include funding for special education navigators that had been included in previous versions of the bill.

- 2SSB 5048, funding “College in the High School” courses for all students, has been passed by both chambers and is headed to the Governor. This bill eliminates all fees for students participating in CHS programs.
- In addition to the important policy priorities listed above, the final operating budget also included \$27,000 for ongoing work related to the implementation of SB 5030 (2021) and continues the funding for school counselors, nurses, social workers and psychologists based on HB 1664 (2022).
- For qualifying high-poverty schools with > 50% free & reduced lunch in the prior school year, an additional allocation for school counselors is provided (.166 for elementary/middle school and .157 for high school).

<b><u>Bill Details</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Sponsor</u></b>
<b><u><a href="#">SHB 1069</a></u></b> <b>Mental health counselor comp</b> Adopting the mental health counselor compact.	Signed into law	Leavitt
<b><u><a href="#">HB 1071</a></u></b> <b>School resource officers</b> Securing schools by authorizing funding for a school resource officer in every school.	Dead	Walsh
<b><u><a href="#">SHB 1109</a></u></b> <b>Special education funding</b> Providing funding for school districts for special education.	S Ways & Means	Senn
<b><u><a href="#">SHB 1113</a></u></b> <b>Prof. educator reprimands</b> Reviewing reprimands for professional educators.	Dead	Harris
<b><u><a href="#">HB 1146</a></u></b> <b>Dual credit program notice</b> Notifying high school students and their families about available dual credit programs and any available financial assistance.	Dead	Paul
<b><u><a href="#">SHB 1207</a></u></b> <b>Harassment/schools</b> Preventing and responding to harassment, intimidation, bullying, and discrimination in schools.	Del to Gov	Senn
<b><u><a href="#">HB 1211</a></u></b> <b>(E2SSB 5311)</b> <b>Special education funding</b> Concerning special education funding formula.	H Approps	Bergquist

<a href="#"><u>HB 1230</u></a>	<b>School websites/drug info.</b> Requiring school districts and other public education entities to make information from the department of health available.	Del to Gov	Callan
<a href="#"><u>E2SHB 1238</u></a> (SSB 5339)	<b>Free school meals</b> Providing free school meals for all.	Del to Gov	Riccelli
<a href="#"><u>2SHB 1239</u></a>	<b>Educator ethics &amp; complaints</b> Establishing a simple and uniform system for complaints related to, and instituting a code of educator ethics for, conduct within or involving public elementary and secondary schools.	Dead	Santos
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1273</u></a> (E2SSB 5243)	<b>High school and beyond plans</b> Concerning high school and beyond planning.	H Approps	Berg
<a href="#"><u>2SHB 1305</u></a>	<b>Students with disabilities</b> Improving access to and provision of a free appropriate public education for students with disabilities.	Dead	Pollet
<a href="#"><u>HB 1308</u></a>	<b>Graduation pathway options</b> Concerning high school graduation pathway options.	Del to Gov	Stonier
<a href="#"><u>2SHB 1316</u></a>	<b>Dual credit program access</b> Expanding access to dual credit programs.	Del to Gov	Paul
<a href="#"><u>HB 1328</u></a>	<b>Schools &amp; families/funding</b> Increasing funding to schools and families for students not meeting academic standards.	Dead	Stokesbary
<a href="#"><u>HB 1354</u></a>	<b>School volunteers/conviction</b> Concerning parental involvement through volunteering in schools after a criminal conviction.	Dead	Stonier
<a href="#"><u>HB 1376</u></a>	<b>School practice standards</b> Aligning policies to reflect the updated standards of practice for school district staff.	Dead	Santos
<a href="#"><u>ESHB 1377</u></a>	<b>Continuing education/K-12</b> Posting of approved courses and providers of continuing education.	Dead	Santos
<a href="#"><u>HB 1411</u></a>	<b>Cross-sector prof. dev.</b> Supporting student success through cross-sector professional development.	Dead	Ortiz-Self

<a href="#"><u>ESHB 1436</u></a>	<b>Special education funding</b> Funding special education.	Del to Gov	Pollet
<a href="#"><u>EHB 1478</u></a>	<b>Student rights</b> Establishing a statement of student rights.	Dead	Timmons
<a href="#"><u>E2SHB 1479 (SB 5559)</u></a>	<b>Student restraint, isolation</b> Concerning restraint or isolation of students in public schools and educational programs.	Dead	Callan
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1504 (ESSB 5257)</u></a>	<b>Elementary school recess</b> Ensuring elementary school students receive sufficient daily recess.	S EL/K-12	Low
<a href="#"><u>HB 1536</u></a>	<b>H.S. diplomas/withholding</b> Clarifying requirements governing the withholding of high school diplomas.	Del to Gov	Timmons
<a href="#"><u>E2SHB 1565</u></a>	<b>Prof. education workforce</b> Supporting and strengthening the professional education workforce.	Dead	Ortiz-Self
<a href="#"><u>2SHB 1580</u></a>	<b>Children in crisis</b> Creating a system to support children in crisis.	Del to Gov	Callan
<a href="#"><u>HB 1605 (SSB 5668)</u></a>	<b>Small districts/skill center</b> Concerning small districts with less than 2,750 students and significant participation in skill centers.	Dead	Rule
<a href="#"><u>HB 1622</u></a>	<b>Students/homelessness</b> Supporting the needs of students experiencing homelessness.	Del to Gov	Fey
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1658</u></a>	<b>Work experience/H.S. credit</b> Authorizing public high school students to earn elective credit for paid work experience.	Signed into law	Shavers
<a href="#"><u>HB 1679 (SB 5719)</u></a>	<b>Student homelessness group</b> Modifying and extending requirements of a work group convened to address the needs of students in foster care, experiencing homelessness, or both.	Del to Gov	Rule
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1692</u></a>	<b>Student advisory groups</b> Creating student advisory groups.	Dead	Bergquist

<a href="#"><u>SHB 1693</u></a> (ESSB 5702)	<b>Student homelessness pilot</b> Expanding the students experiencing homelessness and foster youth pilot program.	Dead	Lekanoff
<a href="#"><u>HB 1741</u></a>	<b>Prototypical school formulas</b> Increasing prototypical school formulas to support student health, well-being, and educational outcomes.	Dead	Rule
<a href="#"><u>SB 5019</u></a>	<b>School safety staff</b> Concerning classified staff providing student and staff safety.	Dead	Wellman
<a href="#"><u>2SSB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5048</u></a>	<b>College in high school fees</b> Eliminating college in the high school fees.	Del to Gov	Mullet
<a href="#"><u>SSB 5054</u></a>	<b>Prof. learning communities</b> Promoting and facilitating the use of professional learning communities.	Dead	Wellman
<a href="#"><u>SB 5219</u></a>	<b>Counseling compact</b> Enacting the interstate counseling compact for licensed mental health counselors.	Dead	Muzzall
<a href="#"><u>E2SSB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5243</u></a> (SHB 1273)	<b>High school and beyond plans</b> Concerning high school and beyond planning.	Del to Gov	Wellman
<a href="#"><u>SSB 5248</u></a> (HB 1710)	<b>Tutoring &amp; extended learning</b> Using COVID-19 relief funding on high quality tutoring and rigorous extended learning programs.	Dead	Braun
<a href="#"><u>ESSB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5257</u></a> (SHB 1504)	<b>Elementary school recess</b> Ensuring elementary school students receive sufficient daily recess.	Del to Gov	Nobles
<a href="#"><u>E2SSB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5311</u></a> (HB 1211)	<b>Special education funding</b> Concerning special education funding formula.	H Rules R	Wellman
<a href="#"><u>E2SSB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5315</u></a>	<b>Special education/nonpublic</b> Concerning nonpublic agencies operating special education programs for students with disabilities.	H Spkr Signed	Wilson
	<b>Free school meals</b>	S Ways & Means	Nobles

[SSB 5339](#)

(E2SHB  
1238)

Providing free school meals for all.

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<a href="#"><u>SB 5408</u></a>	<b>Ninth grade success grants</b> Establishing the ninth grade success grant program.	Dead	Liias
<a href="#"><u>SB 5422</u></a>	<b>Behavioral health/schools</b> Providing access to behavioral health services to children using licensed clinicians colocated within the school.	Dead	Wilson
<a href="#"><u>SSB 5441</u></a>	<b>School district curricula</b> Promoting the adoption of school district curricula that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive.	Dead	Wilson
<a href="#"><u>ESB 5462</u></a>	<b>Inclusive learning standards</b> Promoting inclusive learning standards and instructional materials in public schools.	Dead	Liias
<a href="#"><u>SB 5505</u></a>	<b>School year expansion</b> Addressing learning loss by expanding the school year.	Dead	Hawkins
<a href="#"><u>SB 5511</u></a>	<b>K-12 education funding</b> Enhancing and improving the equity of K-12 education funding.	Dead	Braun
<a href="#"><u>SB 5513</u></a>	<b>CTC mental health counseling</b> Concerning mental health counseling at community and technical colleges.	Dead	Liias
<a href="#"><u>SB 5527</u></a>	<b>Graduation pathway options</b> Adding additional courses to the list of courses approved as a graduation pathway option.	S Rules X	Mullet
<a href="#"><u>2SSB 5593</u></a>	<b>Student data transfer</b> Improving equity in the transfer of student data between K-12 schools and institutions of higher education.	Del to Gov	Liias
<a href="#"><u>ESB 5650</u></a>	<b>K-12 inflationary increases</b> Concerning salary inflationary increases for K-12 employees.	Signed into law	Rolfes
<a href="#"><u>SB 5656</u></a>	<b>School security grants</b> Establishing the school security and preparedness infrastructure grant program.	Dead	Torres
	<b>Running start/10th grade</b>	S Rules X	Hawkins

[2SSB  
5670](#)

Permitting 10th grade students to participate in running start in online settings.

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[ESSB  
5702](#)

**Student homelessness pilot**

Del to Gov

Trudeau

(SHB  
1693)

Expanding the students experiencing homelessness and foster youth pilot program.

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[SB 5719](#)

**Student homelessness group**

Dead

Hunt

(HB  
1679)

Modifying and extending requirements of a work group convened to address the needs of students in foster care, experiencing homelessness, or both.

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