

WSCA Legislative Update

Four weeks remain in the 2023 legislative session, and policy committees have just three more days to advance bills to keep them alive for the remainder of this session. Many important education related bills have continued to advance through the legislative process, including bills to fund special education, expand graduation pathways, and provide free school meals to students.

Legislation to expand access to dual credit programs (2SHB 1316) was passed from the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee last week after a robust discussion about a proposed amendment from Senator Brad Hawkins to include a provision to allow 10th graders to participate in online running start classes. The committee rejected Sen. Hawkins' amendment, but the Chair, Senator Lisa Wellman, expressed her interest in supporting an amendment when the bill reaches the Senate floor, if it has appropriate sideboards. WSCA, AWSP, and WEA have expressed concerns about this concept to members of the Senate (see attached). Watch the exchange in committee at 1:55 [here](#).

HB 1308, legislation to expand graduation pathways for students, passed unanimously out of the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee last week, and is now in the Rules committee. An amendment from Senator Jaime Pedersen makes the following changes:

- Revises the definition of "demonstrate readiness" with respect to graduation pathways to mean the student meets or exceeds state learning standards addressed in the chosen pathway.
- Requires that the performance-based learning experience graduation pathway option provides evidence that the student meets or exceeds state learning standards in English language arts and mathematics, rather than at least two of the mandatory core subject areas.
- Requires the SBE to establish graduation proficiency targets and associated rubrics aligned with state learning standards in English language arts and mathematics.
- Moves the subsection detailing the performance-based learning experience graduation pathway option.

The big news last week was, of course, the release of the Senate's operating budget proposal.

In the first year of each biennium, the Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council is required to submit a revenue report by March 20. This report helps budget writers put finishing touches on the budgets that are released near that date. Last Monday, the revenue report forecast a slowdown in the state's economic activity due to lower-than-expected real estate excise tax collections and personal income combined with higher interest rates. Projected Near General Fund revenue collections for the 2023-25 state budgets have decreased by an estimated \$483 million, a 0.7% drop from the number forecast last November. Total Near General Fund revenues are now projected at \$65.7 billion for the next two-year budget cycle, which begins July 1.

Each December, Washington's governor releases proposed budgets and subsequently, the legislative chambers release their own, which are based on that first budget. This year, with four weeks left in the legislative session, Senate budget writers released their budgets first.

On Thursday afternoon, Senate budget writers released their \$69.2 billion operating budget. The two-year operating budget adds roughly \$5.1 billion in new spending and does not rely on any new general taxes or fees. It leaves \$3.8 billion in reserves. Highlights include:

Education, Higher Education and children

- \$59 million to expand food access in schools
- \$375 million to increase support for special education students
- \$100 million to reimburse districts for special transportation needs
- \$525 million for educator salaries and health care costs
- \$25 million to pay fees for the College in the High School programs
- \$22 million for health care workforce and training (including new nursing slots)
- \$13 million to continue support for the College Grant scholarship program
- \$106 million to expand the number of ECAP early learning slots and increase provider pay
- \$215 million to bolster the childcare workforce
- \$49 million to help the state place more foster kids

On Friday morning, legislative Democrats received much anticipated good news for their budgets when the Washington State Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Capital Gains tax in *Quinn v. State of Washington*. The 2021 law applies a 7% tax to capital gains profits over \$250,000 with proceeds to go to early childhood education programs.

House budgets are expected to be released Monday, March 27. The remainder of the session is a negotiation for a final deal for each budget between the two chambers.

Upcoming Dates

March 29 - Policy committee cutoff - opposite house

April 4 - Fiscal committee cutoff - opposite house

April 12 - Floor cutoff - opposite house

April 23 - Sine Die

Upcoming Events

Early Learning & K-12 Education (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 3/27 @ 1:30pm

- [ESHB 1436](#) - Exec Session - Funding special education.
- [HB 1536](#) - Exec Session - Clarifying requirements governing the withholding of high school diplomas.
- [SHB 1658](#) - Exec Session - Authorizing public high school students to earn elective credit for paid work experience.

Education (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 3/27 @ 1:30pm

- [SSB 5054](#) - Exec Session - Promoting and facilitating the use of professional learning communities.
- [E2SSB 5243](#) - Exec Session - Concerning high school and beyond planning.

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- [E2SSB 5315](#) - Exec Session - Concerning nonpublic agencies operating special education programs for students with disabilities.
- [ESB 5462](#) - Exec Session - Promoting inclusive learning standards and instructional materials in public schools.

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 3/28 @ 4:00pm

- [SHB 1109](#) - Public Hearing - Providing funding for school districts for special education.
- [E2SHB 1238](#) - Public Hearing - Providing free school meals for all.

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
SHB 1003 Dual credit program access Expanding access to dual credit programs.	H Approps	Stokesbary
SHB 1069 Mental health counselor comp Adopting the mental health counselor compact.	S 2nd Reading	Leavitt
HB 1071 School resource officers Securing schools by authorizing funding for a school resource officer in every school.	H Education	Walsh
SHB 1109 Special education funding Providing funding for school districts for special education.	S Ways & Means	Senn
SHB 1113 Prof. educator reprimands Reviewing reprimands for professional educators.	S EL/K-12	Harris
HB 1146 Dual credit program notice Notifying high school students and their families about available dual credit programs and any available financial assistance.	S Rules 2	Paul
SHB 1207 Harassment/schools Preventing and responding to harassment, intimidation, bullying, and discrimination in schools.	S Rules 2	Senn
HB 1211 (E2SSB 5311) Special education funding Concerning special education funding formula.	H Approps	Bergquist
HB 1230 School websites/drug info.	S Rules 2	Callan

Requiring school districts and other public education entities to make information from the department of health available.

<u>E2SHB 1238</u> (SSB 5339)	Free school meals Providing free school meals for all.	S Ways & Means	Riccelli
<u>2SHB 1239</u>	Educator ethics & complaints 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.	H Rules R	Santos
<u>SHB 1273</u> (E2SSB 5243)	High school and beyond plans Concerning high school and beyond planning.	H Approps	Berg
<u>2SHB 1305</u>	Students with disabilities Improving access to and provision of a free appropriate public education for students with disabilities.	H Rules C	Pollet
<u>HB 1308</u>	Graduation pathway options Concerning high school graduation pathway options.	S Rules 2	Stonier
<u>2SHB 1316</u>	Dual credit program access Expanding access to dual credit programs.	S Ways & Means	Paul
<u>HB 1328</u>	Schools & families/funding Increasing funding to schools and families for students not meeting academic standards.	H Approps	Stokesbary
<u>HB 1354</u>	School volunteers/conviction Concerning parental involvement through volunteering in schools after a criminal conviction.	H Education	Stonier
<u>HB 1376</u>	School practice standards Aligning policies to reflect the updated standards of practice for school district staff.	H Education	Santos
<u>ESHB 1377</u>	Continuing education/K-12 Posting of approved courses and providers of continuing education.	S Ways & Means	Santos
<u>HB 1411</u>	Cross-sector prof. dev. Supporting student success through cross-sector professional development.	H Approps	Ortiz-Self
<u>ESHB 1436</u>	Special education funding Funding special education.	S EL/K-12	Pollet

<u>EHB 1478</u>	Student rights Establishing a statement of student rights.	S EL/K-12	Timmons
<u>E2SHB 1479 (SB 5559)</u>	Student restraint, isolation Concerning restraint or isolation of students in public schools and educational programs.	S EL/K-12	Callan
<u>SHB 1504 (ESSB 5257)</u>	Elementary school recess Ensuring elementary school students receive sufficient daily recess.	S EL/K-12	Low
<u>HB 1536</u>	H.S. diplomas/withholding Clarifying requirements governing the withholding of high school diplomas.	S EL/K-12	Timmons
<u>E2SHB 1565</u>	Prof. education workforce Supporting and strengthening the professional education workforce.	S Ways & Means	Ortiz-Self
<u>2SHB 1580</u>	Children in crisis Creating a system to support children in crisis.	S Ways & Means	Callan
<u>HB 1605 (SSB 5668)</u>	Small districts/skill center Concerning small districts with less than 2,750 students and significant participation in skill centers.	H Approps	Rule
<u>HB 1622</u>	Students/homelessness Supporting the needs of students experiencing homelessness.	S 2nd Reading	Fey
<u>SHB 1658</u>	Work experience/H.S. credit Authorizing public high school students to earn elective credit for paid work experience.	S EL/K-12	Shavers
<u>HB 1679 (SB 5719)</u>	Student homelessness group Modifying and extending requirements of a work group convened to address the needs of students in foster care, experiencing homelessness, or both.	S Rules 2	Rule
<u>SHB 1692</u>	Student advisory groups Creating student advisory groups.	H Rules R	Bergquist
<u>SHB 1693 (ESSB 5702)</u>	Student homelessness pilot Expanding the students experiencing homelessness and foster youth pilot program.	H Rules R	Lekanoff

<u>HB 1741</u>	Prototypical school formulas Increasing prototypical school formulas to support student health, well-being, and educational outcomes.	H Approps	Rule
<u>SB 5019</u>	School safety staff Concerning classified staff providing student and staff safety.	H Rules R	Wellman
<u>2SSB 5048</u>	College in high school fees Eliminating college in the high school fees.	H Exec Action	Mullet
<u>SSB 5054</u>	Prof. learning communities Promoting and facilitating the use of professional learning communities.	H Education	Wellman
<u>SB 5219</u>	Counseling compact Enacting the interstate counseling compact for licensed mental health counselors.	S Health & Long	Muzzall
<u>E2SSB 5243</u> (SHB 1273)	High school and beyond plans Concerning high school and beyond planning.	H Education	Wellman
<u>SSB 5248</u> (HB 1710)	Tutoring & extended learning Using COVID-19 relief funding on high quality tutoring and rigorous extended learning programs.	S Ways & Means	Braun
<u>ESSB 5257</u> (SHB 1504)	Elementary school recess Ensuring elementary school students receive sufficient daily recess.	H Passed 3rd	Nobles
<u>E2SSB 5311</u> (HB 1211)	Special education funding Concerning special education funding formula.	H Approps	Wellman
<u>E2SSB 5315</u>	Special education/nonpublic Concerning nonpublic agencies operating special education programs for students with disabilities.	H Education	Wilson
<u>SSB 5339</u> (E2SHB 1238)	Free school meals Providing free school meals for all.	S Ways & Means	Nobles
<u>SB 5408</u>	Ninth grade success grants Establishing the ninth grade success grant program.	S Ways & Means	Liias

<u>SB 5422</u>	Behavioral health/schools Providing access to behavioral health services to children using licensed clinicians colocated within the school.	S Health & Long	Wilson
<u>SSB 5441</u>	School district curricula Promoting the adoption of school district curricula that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive.	S Ways & Means	Wilson
<u>ESB 5462</u>	Inclusive learning standards Promoting inclusive learning standards and instructional materials in public schools.	H Education	Liias
<u>SB 5505</u>	School year expansion Addressing learning loss by expanding the school year.	S EL/K-12	Hawkins
<u>SB 5511</u>	K-12 education funding Enhancing and improving the equity of K-12 education funding.	S EL/K-12	Braun
<u>SB 5513</u>	CTC mental health counseling Concerning mental health counseling at community and technical colleges.	S Ways & Means	Liias
<u>SB 5527</u>	Graduation pathway options Adding additional courses to the list of courses approved as a graduation pathway option.	S Rules X	Mullet
<u>2SSB 5593</u>	Student data transfer Improving equity in the transfer of student data between K-12 schools and institutions of higher education.	H Approps	Liias
<u>ESB 5650</u>	K-12 inflationary increases Concerning salary inflationary increases for K-12 employees.	H Passed 3rd	Rolfes
<u>SB 5656</u>	School security grants Establishing the school security and preparedness infrastructure grant program.	S EL/K-12	Torres
<u>2SSB 5670</u>	Running start/10th grade Permitting 10th grade students to participate in running start in online settings.	S Rules X	Hawkins
<u>ESSB 5702 (SHB 1693)</u>	Student homelessness pilot Expanding the students experiencing homelessness and foster youth pilot program.	H APPDPA	Trudeau

[SB 5719](#)
**(HB
1679)**

Student homelessness group

S Ways & Means

Hunt

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