

## **WSCA Legislative Update**

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The first major deadline of the 2023 session has arrived, and the number of bills facing lawmakers for action this session just decreased significantly.

Nearly 1,600 bills have been introduced so far this year. The average number of bills passed in a long session over the past decade is about 385. While there are still plenty of ideas to be hashed out over the next nine weeks, it's clear that even many of the bills currently "alive" won't make it to Sine Die.

As of 5:00 Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, any bill that did not pass from the policy committee into which it was initially referred is considered "dead" for this year. If a bill is going to cost money, it will have advanced to a fiscal committee (Ways & Means, Appropriations, Finance, Transportation), where the next hurdle to clear is Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. Beginning February 28<sup>th</sup>, lawmakers will largely be caucusing and voting on bills on the floor of their respective chambers.

The next ten days, legislators will primarily be hearing bills in the fiscal committees.

### ***Graduation pathways bill clears committee hurdle***

HB 1308 passed out of the House Education committee with a 10-5 vote on Monday. Rep. Monica Stonier, the bill's champion and sponsor, spoke strongly in favor of supporting students working toward their graduation goals. She acknowledged that the bill is also a strong workforce development bill, and it is permissive for districts – not mandated. Representatives Paul Harris, Lillian Ortiz-Self and Sharon Tomiko-Santos also spoke in favor of the bill.

Rep. Mike Steele spoke against the bill, saying lawmakers shouldn't keep making it easier to graduate and stating his position that legislators do students a disservice if they let them graduate and they're not ready. Rep. Sharon Santos said we don't want to leave students behind.

Of the 5 Republicans voting no, two voted "without recommendation" instead of "do not pass."

### ***Special Education & funding bills advance***

There are a number of proposals this session to address concerns about funding for special education, and most have cleared the policy committee deadline and are awaiting either a hearing or vote in a fiscal committee.

SB 5311, sponsored by Sen. Lisa Wellman, increases the cap on total student population for special education services from 13.5% to 15%. The bill also proposes to increase the multipliers for Pre-K – 12 students. The bill passed out of the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee unanimously, and is in the Ways & Means Committee awaiting a vote.

HB 1109, sponsored by Rep. Tana Senn, proposes to allow school districts to hire staff outside of contract hours to help relieve the backlog of IEP evaluations. The additional staff time will be funded through a grant program. It passed out of the House Education Committee unanimously and is scheduled for executive action in the House Appropriations committee Monday, 2/20.

HB 1436, sponsored by Rep. Gerry Pollet, also proposes to increase special education funding. The bill in its current form is a substitute version which takes a more moderated approach than the Senate bill, likely due to concerns about the cost to implement it. A number of organizations spoke with concerns about the bill in the hearing last week. It is scheduled for executive action in the House Appropriations committee Monday, 2/20. It is unclear which version of the bill will be voted upon.

HB 1305, also from Rep. Pollet, proposes to modify the requirements for initial student evaluations for special education and for IEP development. The bill passed out of the House Education Committee by a vote of 13-2, and has not been scheduled for a hearing in House Appropriations. There are concerns about the expedited timelines in the bill and whether they're realistic in the fact of the current workforce shortage.

## Upcoming Events

### **Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 2/20 @ 9:00am**

- [SSB 5243](#) - Exec Session - Concerning high school and beyond planning.

### **Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/20 @ 1:30pm**

- [HB 1109](#) - Exec Session - Providing funding for school districts for special education.
- [SHB 1239](#) - Public Hearing - 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.
- [SHB 1316](#) - Public Hearing - Expanding access to dual credit programs.
- [HB 1436](#) - Exec Session - Funding special education.
- [SHB 1580](#) - Public Hearing - Creating a system to support children in crisis.

### **Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 2/21 @ 9:00am**

- [SSB 5248](#) - Public Hearing - Using COVID-19 relief funding on high quality tutoring and rigorous extended learning programs.
- [SB 5513](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning mental health counseling at community and technical colleges.
- [SSB 5593](#) - Public Hearing - Improving equity in the transfer of student data between K-12 schools and institutions of higher education.
- [SSB 5670](#) - Public Hearing - Permitting 10th grade students to participate in running start in online settings.
- [SSB 5702](#) - Public Hearing - Expanding the students experiencing homelessness and foster youth pilot program.

### **Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/21 @ 1:30pm**

- [SHB 1479](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning restraint or isolation of students in public schools and educational programs.
- [SHB 1565](#) - Public Hearing - Supporting and strengthening the professional education workforce.

### **Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/22 @ 1:30pm**

- [SHB 1238](#) - Public Hearing - Providing free school meals for all.
- [SHB 1305](#) - Public Hearing - Improving access to and provision of a free appropriate public education for students with disabilities.
- [HB 1693](#) - Exec Session - Expanding the students experiencing homelessness and foster youth pilot program.

### **Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/23 @ 9:00am**

- [SHB 1239](#) - Exec Session - 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.
- [SHB 1316](#) - Exec Session - Expanding access to dual credit programs.
- [SHB 1479](#) - Exec Session - Concerning restraint or isolation of students in public schools and educational programs.
- [SHB 1565](#) - Exec Session - Supporting and strengthening the professional education workforce.
- [SHB 1580](#) - Exec Session - Creating a system to support children in crisis.

### **Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/24 @ 9:00am**

- [SHB 1238](#) - Exec Session - Providing free school meals for all.
- [SHB 1305](#) - Exec Session - Improving access to and provision of a free appropriate public education for students with disabilities.

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<b><u>Bill Details</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Sponsor</u></b>
<a href="#">SHB 1003</a> <b>Dual credit program access</b> Expanding access to dual credit programs.	H Approps	Stokesbary

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<a href="#"><u>SHB 1069</u></a>	<b>Mental health counselor comp</b> Adopting the mental health counselor compact.	S Health & Long	Leavitt
<a href="#"><u>HB 1071</u></a>	<b>School resource officers</b> Securing schools by authorizing funding for a school resource officer in every school.	H Education	Walsh
<a href="#"><u>HB 1109</u></a>	<b>Special education funding</b> Providing funding for school districts for special education.	H Approps	Senn
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1113</u></a>	<b>Prof. educator reprimands</b> Reviewing reprimands for professional educators.	S EL/K-12	Harris
<a href="#"><u>HB 1146</u></a>	<b>Dual credit program notice</b> Notifying high school students and their families about available dual credit programs and any available financial assistance.	S EL/K-12	Paul
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1207</u></a>	<b>Harassment/schools</b> Preventing and responding to harassment, intimidation, bullying, and discrimination in schools.	H 2nd Reading	Senn
<a href="#"><u>HB 1211</u></a> (SSB 5311)	<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.	H 2nd Reading	Callan
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1238</u></a> (SSB 5339)	<b>Free school meals</b> Providing free school meals for all.	H Approps	Riccelli
<a href="#"><u>SHB 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.	H Approps	Santos
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1273</u></a> (SSB 5243)	<b>High school and beyond plans</b> Concerning high school and beyond planning.	H Approps	Berg
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1305</u></a>	<b>Students with disabilities</b> Improving access to and provision of a free appropriate public education for students with disabilities.	H Approps	Pollet

<a href="#"><u>HB 1308</u></a>	<b>Graduation pathway options</b> Concerning high school graduation pathway options.	H Rules R	Stonier
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1316</u></a>	<b>Dual credit program access</b> Expanding access to dual credit programs.	H Approps	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.	H Approps	Stokesbary
<a href="#"><u>HB 1354</u></a>	<b>School volunteers/conviction</b> Concerning parental involvement through volunteering in schools after a criminal conviction.	H Education	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.	H Education	Santos
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1377</u></a>	<b>Continuing education/K-12</b> Posting of approved courses and providers of continuing education.	H Rules R	Santos
<a href="#"><u>HB 1411</u></a>	<b>Cross-sector prof. dev.</b> Supporting student success through cross-sector professional development.	H Approps	Ortiz-Self
<a href="#"><u>HB 1436</u></a>	<b>Special education funding</b> Funding special education.	H Approps	Pollet
<a href="#"><u>HB 1478</u></a>	<b>Student rights</b> Establishing a statement of student rights.	H Rules R	Timmons
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1479</u></a> (SB 5559)	<b>Student restraint, isolation</b> Concerning restraint or isolation of students in public schools and educational programs.	H Approps	Callan
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1504</u></a> (SSB 5257)	<b>Elementary school recess</b> Ensuring elementary school students receive sufficient daily recess.	H Rules R	Low
<a href="#"><u>HB 1536</u></a>	<b>H.S. diplomas/withholding</b> Clarifying requirements governing the withholding of high school diplomas.	H Rules R	Timmons
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1565</u></a>	<b>Prof. education workforce</b> Supporting and strengthening the professional education workforce.	H Approps	Ortiz-Self

<a href="#"><u>SHB 1580</u></a>	<b>Children in crisis</b> Creating a system to support children in crisis.	H Approps	Callan
<a href="#"><u>HB 1605</u></a> (SSB 5668)	<b>Small districts/skill center</b> Concerning small districts with less than 2,750 students and significant participation in skill centers.	H Approps	Rule
<a href="#"><u>HB 1622</u></a>	<b>Students/homelessness</b> Supporting the needs of students experiencing homelessness.	H Rules R	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.	H Rules R	Shavers
<a href="#"><u>HB 1679</u></a> (SB 5719)	<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.	H Rules R	Rule
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1692</u></a>	<b>Student advisory groups</b> Creating student advisory groups.	H Rules R	Bergquist
<a href="#"><u>HB 1693</u></a> (SSB 5702)	<b>Student homelessness pilot</b> Expanding the students experiencing homelessness and foster youth pilot program.	H Approps	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.	H Approps	Rule
<a href="#"><u>SB 5019</u></a>	<b>School safety staff</b> Concerning classified staff providing student and staff safety.	S 2nd Reading	Wellman
<a href="#"><u>SSB 5048</u></a>	<b>College in high school fees</b> Eliminating college in the high school fees.	S Ways & Means	Mullet
<a href="#"><u>SSB 5054</u></a>	<b>Prof. learning communities</b> Promoting and facilitating the use of professional learning communities.	S 2nd Reading	Wellman
<a href="#"><u>SB 5219</u></a>	<b>Counseling compact</b> Enacting the interstate counseling compact for licensed mental health counselors.	S Health & Long	Muzzall
	<b>High school and beyond plans</b>	S Ways & Means	Wellman

[SSB 5243](#)

(SHB  
1273)

Concerning high school and beyond planning.

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[SSB 5248](#)

(HB  
1710)

**Tutoring & extended learning**

S Ways & Means

Braun

Using COVID-19 relief funding on high quality tutoring and rigorous extended learning programs.

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[SSB 5257](#)

(SHB  
1504)

**Elementary school recess**

S 2nd Reading

Nobles

Ensuring elementary school students receive sufficient daily recess.

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[SSB 5311](#)

(HB  
1211)

**Special education funding**

S Ways & Means

Wellman

Concerning special education funding formula.

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[SSB 5315](#)

**Special education/nonpublic**

S Ways & Means

Wilson

Concerning nonpublic agencies operating special education programs for students with disabilities.

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[SSB 5339](#)

(SHB  
1238)

**Free school meals**

S Ways & Means

Nobles

Providing free school meals for all.

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[SB 5408](#)

**Ninth grade success grants**

S Ways & Means

Liias

Establishing the ninth grade success grant program.

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[SB 5422](#)

**Behavioral health/schools**

S Health & Long

Wilson

Providing access to behavioral health services to children using licensed clinicians colocated within the school.

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[SSB 5441](#)

**School district curricula**

S Ways & Means

Wilson

Promoting the adoption of school district curricula that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive.

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[SB 5462](#)

**Inclusive learning standards**

S Rules 2G

Liias

Promoting inclusive learning standards and instructional materials in public schools.

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[SB 5505](#)

**School year expansion**

S EL/K-12

Hawkins

Addressing learning loss by expanding the school year.

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[SB 5511](#)

**K-12 education funding**

S EL/K-12

Braun

Enhancing and improving the equity of K-12 education funding.

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<a href="#"><u>SB 5513</u></a>	<b>CTC mental health counseling</b> Concerning mental health counseling at community and technical colleges.	S Ways & Means	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 2	Mullet
<a href="#"><u>SSB 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.	S Ways & Means	Liias
<a href="#"><u>SB 5650</u></a>	<b>K-12 inflationary increases</b> Concerning salary inflationary increases for K-12 employees.	S Ways & Means	Rolfes
<a href="#"><u>SB 5656</u></a>	<b>School security grants</b> Establishing the school security and preparedness infrastructure grant program.	S EL/K-12	Torres
<a href="#"><u>SSB 5670</u></a>	<b>Running start/10th grade</b> Permitting 10th grade students to participate in running start in online settings.	S Ways & Means	Hawkins
<a href="#"><u>SSB 5702</u></a> (HB 1693)	<b>Student homelessness pilot</b> Expanding the students experiencing homelessness and foster youth pilot program.	S Ways & Means	Trudeau
<a href="#"><u>SB 5719</u></a> (HB 1679)	<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.	S Ways & Means	Hunt