



IN THIS ISSUE:

- This Week in Review
- Levy Cliff
- *McCleary v. State* "Plan"
- Teacher Shortage
- Odds & Ends
- AEA
- Pensions/Health Benefits
- Committee Meeting Schedule
- Useful Links
- Bill Watch

Week 8 – February 29–March 4, 2016

This Week in Review

Today marks the last legislative cut-off deadline before the Legislature's final deadline: *Sine Die* at midnight, March 10. This week, all bills must be adopted by their opposite house (House bills from the Senate and Senate bills from the House) by today in order to remain alive. Both the House and Senate spent a considerable amount of time in their respective chambers (and political caucuses) as they worked through lengthy Floor Calendars in an attempt to move priority legislation, either onto the governor's desk, or back to the original house for concurrence. Following this evening's cut-off deadline, legislators will spend the majority of the remaining six days of this 2016 Regular Session on the floor of the House or Senate, working through bills on their Concurrence and Dispute Calendars. This week, several bills received final approval by the House or Senate and are now on the way to the governor's desk for his signature or veto. Much other legislation was adopted by the opposite house, but included amendments either in one of the opposite house committees or following action on the floor. Those bills must be sent back to the original house to reconcile differences between the houses. For a full review of the next steps in the process, please see last week's *TWIO* ([Week 7, February 26](#)).

The 2016 Supplemental Operating Budget, embodied in two separate proposals adopted by the House and Senate, [HB 2376](#) and [SB 6246](#), respectively, are part of that reconciliation process. Both bills have been adopted by their original house and await action in their opposite house fiscal committee. As noted last week, it is unlikely either bill will receive any further public action until a final, compromise budget has been agreed to by budget-writers. While an official, formal Conference Committee is also unlikely to be called, it is our understanding that budget-writers (and some Leadership) from each house have begun meeting and are negotiating in earnest. Governor Inslee met with Leadership from each house early in the week to encourage negotiators to quickly compromise and complete their work before next Thursday's scheduled adjournment. While negotiators had not yet begun meeting, no one indicated they had any concerns that they would not be able to finish the job on time.

It is positive that budget-writers are beginning the negotiating process with optimism; however, the starting points of the two budgets are very far apart, especially for a supplemental budget. Total proposed spending is significantly different, expected maintenance level spending is significantly different, and the source and use of additional revenues is significantly different. While none of the four caucuses has publicly drawn any lines in

About TWIO

This Week in Olympia is emailed to active WASA and AEA members each Friday during the Legislative Session and is posted on WASA's website at www.wasa-oly.org/TWIO.

NOTE: WASA staff is currently preparing our annual End of Session report. It will contain full details of the 2016 Operating Budget along with a comprehensive review of the many education-related bills the Legislature addressed this session. It will be emailed to all *TWIO* subscribers as soon as it is completed.

This Week in Olympia:

Week 8,

February 29–March 4, 2016

continued

the sand about any particular issue, the Senate Majority Coalition Caucus along with their colleagues in the House Republican Caucus have clearly indicated they do not see the need to raise any additional revenue. That would put the House's proposal for teacher raises in jeopardy. Additionally, Republicans have expressed their concerns and reticence in using Budget Stabilization Account (BSA) funding, which would put a \$318 million hole in the House budget. The House proposes to use BSA funds for wildfire costs (\$190 million), Local Effort Assistance costs (\$91 million) and homeless services (\$37 million). Eliminating BSA as a funding source would likely force reductions in other spending in the budget to accommodate the necessary funding for wildfire costs; however, without a BSA funding source, LEA maintenance and homeless services funding could be in jeopardy.

As budget talks get underway, this is the time of session when the rumors start to fly (even more than normal). Often it is hard to decipher the fact from the fiction. One rumor that has received a lot of play (and is highly likely to be true) is the effort to use charter schools as a budget bargaining chip. While most (supporters and opponents alike) would agree that charter schools will be used as trade bait, what it will or may be traded for is a mystery. Although at this point it does not seem overly likely, some talk is that a "levy cliff" fix may be a part of the mix.

Regardless what the trade target may be (if it's been determined), it is clear that the effort to move a charter bill remains alive and well. In fact, in addition to [SB 6194](#)—which sits in limbo in the House Education Committee, but is presumed to be alive as a bill "Necessary to Implement the Budget," because it was specifically referenced in the Senate budget—new legislation has surfaced this week. [SB 6670](#), [HB 3000](#), and [HB 3002](#) all were introduced as "Title-only bills." SB 6670 relates to "public schools that are not common schools;" HB 3000 is a bill "relating to education," but is believed to be a placeholder for charters; and HB 3002 is a bill "relating to charter schools." Understanding that SB 6194 may not fly in the House and understanding that the proposed solution in the bill (utilizing lottery revenues in the Opportunity Schools Account) may not be acceptable, there are ongoing discussions about various compromises. At least two potential compromises being discussed are: giving school district boards of directors the "right of first refusal" for charters within their boundaries; and moving the current Charter School Commission under the authority of OSPI.

As negotiations between the houses continue on charter legislation, we received a bit of a surprise Wednesday night when SB 6670, the Senate's charter "title-only" bill was added to the executive session list for yesterday's Senate Ways & Means hearing. As the hearing began, there was no indication of any new language on the bill and it was unclear what, if anything, would be adopted. As staff briefed Committee members on the other bills on the agenda, the question was finally answered. SB 6670 was described as a "title-only" bill and there was no new language to flesh out the legislation. Senator Bruce Dammeier (R-Puyallup) spoke up to clarify the intentions, however. He noted that there are "active negotiations" between the houses on charter schools legislation and movement of SB 6670, still as a title-only bill, was simply to ensure that the Senate had a vehicle available for charters. The assumption is that a bill will be moved from the House (presumably a new HB 3000 or HB 3002), but by moving SB 6670 from Committee, the Senate has a viable vehicle to accept any negotiated agreement in case the House bills get hung up. SB 6670, again with no specific language, was adopted by the Ways & Means Committee yesterday (with no discussion...of course, what was there to talk about?).

Another bill that has become linked with the budget discussion is late-arriving [SB 6668](#). Fred Yancey, The Nexus Group, noted the introduction of this bill in his Pensions/Health Benefits report in last week's *TWIO*. The bill, which is a key part of the Senate budget proposal is important to understand. In short, the bill would merge the assets, liabilities, and membership of the Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Retirement System Plan 1 (LEOFF Plan 1) with the Teachers' Retirement System Plan 1 (TRS Plan 1).

This Week in Olympia:

Week 8,

February 29–March 4, 2016

continued

Based on the most recent valuation, LEOFF 1 is 127 percent funded with a surplus of \$1.2 billion, while TRS 1, based on current actuarial studies, is 69 percent funded with a \$2.9 billion unfunded liability. Under the current law, the TRS 1 unfunded liability is set to be defrayed by 2027. With the proposed merger of the two systems, the unfunded liability of TRS Plan 1 is expected to be defrayed in 2024, approximately three years earlier than under current law.

While the merger would not impact members' retirement benefits or current employee contributions, there would be positive changes to employer contributions. For most members of TRS, the employer is a local school district, and the employer contributions are paid from state funds allocated to school districts for the support of the common school system. Under the bill, TRS 1 employer contributions, currently 6.23 percent, scheduled to increase to 7.2 percent in 2018, would be reduced to 4.24 percent. This rate reduction is expected to save the state \$75 million in the current biennium and an expected additional savings of \$243.8 million in the 2017–19 biennium. The 25-year savings to the state General Fund is estimated at \$1.5 billion. School districts would also receive a fiscal benefit from the lower employer contribution rate for locally funded K–12 staff. (NOTE: As an incentive to LEOFF 1 members, the bill would also provide their retirees and survivors a one-time payment of \$5,000. Active and vested inactive members would receive the \$5,000 payment upon retirement.)

Why bring this issue up? First, the proposed merger is anticipated to save a significant amount of state money without impacting benefits of plan members (although that lack of impact has been questioned by LEOFF members). Second, this is an “education issue” because it impacts TRS 1 members, and it has also become one of those “linkage” issues. While there is NO nexus between this bill or issue and the approaching “levy cliff,” legislators have been talking about the two issues together. In this week's Senate Majority Coalition Caucus media availability, Senate Majority Leader Mark Schoesler (R-Ritzville) was asked about how intent the caucus was in moving this bill. He smiled and said, “Well, it creates quite a bit of saving for our local school districts...and we know if we're going to roll back the levy lid, we're going to have to come up with some money for LEA.” Then he reiterated, “There are benefits to local school districts,” adding, “this is an idea certainly worth discussing.”

As Fred noted last week, this plan is controversial and many LEOFF members have come out in force to vocally oppose the “raiding” of their pension benefits. The plan is also controversial because of the inconsistent manner in which it has been addressed. Last week, Senator Andy Hill (R-Redmond), Chair of the Ways & Means Committee, provided several arguments against amendments to the Senate budget made on the floor. The consistent theme from him was that the Supplemental Budget was not the place for major policy decisions...yet SB 6668 is an extremely major policy decision, introduced with little notice or discussion. Further, pension-impacting bills routinely are sent through the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) for review, comment, and recommendation. Remember one of the arguments used last year against the bill ([HB 1737](#)) to allow early retirees to return to the classroom to substitute? Senator Schoesler forcefully opposed the bill because (among other reasons) it was not “properly vetted” by SCPP. Although SCPP did not provide a specific recommendation for or against HB 1737 last session, the Committee had multiple conversations about the issue. To our knowledge, however, SB 6668—or a general review of merging LEOFF 1 and TRS 1—has NEVER even been broached by SCPP. In Ways & Means today, Senator Steve Conway (D-Tacoma) introduced an amendment which would have stalled SB 6668 and sent it to the SCPP to be “properly vetted.” As you can imagine, the amendment was soundly defeated before the original SB 6668 was adopted.

Levy Cliff

With less than a week remaining in this session, it is crunch time for many important issues remaining on the table. For K–12 education, the biggest issue outstanding continues to be

This Week in Olympia:

Week 8,

February 29–March 4, 2016

continued

addressing the “levy cliff.” As noted last week, legislators have been discussing potential compromises to deal with the level cliff (something less than the full one-year delay of the levy lid reduction, LEA reduction and “ghost revenue” elimination as contemplated by [HB 2698](#), which remains stalled in the Senate Ways & Means Committee). And, as discussed above, the levy cliff potentially has become trade bait for charter schools.

Early this week, WASA Executive Director Bill Keim sent a message to superintendents reminding them of our (WASA’s and WASBO’s) position/message on the levy cliff. We continue to strongly argue:

The state must assume responsibility for basic education compensation costs prior to any reduction in local levies. A compromise reduction in local levies now (or partial reduction), without the corresponding assumption of state responsibility, will cause teacher layoffs, substantially lower the ability to provide basic education requirements, and harm students.

As Bill noted in his message, our primary concern is that accepting anything short of a one-year extension of the levy cliff (via HB 2698 or some other mechanism) would violate both the “do no harm” and “deal with compensation first” principles that we have established. At this point, we believe accepting some level of cut and the corresponding need for teacher layoff’s this year is a bad strategy. Even though we have fought hard for this all session, it is starting to look like having nothing happen this year would be preferable than a partial fix because at least that will put increased pressure on the Legislature to solve the problem early in the 2017 Session. Additionally, agreeing to a partial fix this session may preclude us from achieving a “full” fix next session, as many legislators will assume the problem has been solved and will move onto other issues.

If you are contacting your legislators—or if they approach you—we hope your discussion with them can be consistent with our position outlined here.

McCleary v. State “Plan”

To date, there are only a small handful of measures that have made it all the way through the legislative process, having been adopted by both the House and Senate, and await action by the governor. And, so far, only one bill has been signed into law, [SB 6195](#). Crafted by Governor Inslee’s *McCleary* Workgroup, SB 6195, embodies the so-call *McCleary* Plan that has been ordered by the Supreme Court. Or at least, that is what legislators and the governor believe has been adopted. At this point, we can rest assured that legislators and the governor believe the current job is done. For a bill that does not do much of anything, there was an air of accomplishment in the governor’s conference room as he signed the legislation earlier this week. In comments to the press, Governor Inslee noted that “The Legislature has continually made progress on fully funding education, and this bill is the next necessary step in that process.”

The Supreme Court had ordered the Legislature to submit a “complete plan for fully implementing its program of basic education.” When the state (i.e., the Legislature) submits its annual progress report to the Court, required thirty days after the governor signs the Supplemental Operating Budget, the Court will have an opportunity to review and determine whether SB 6195 meets their order and will purge the current Contempt of Court ruling—or if they will believe more work is necessary. While most legislators are happy to have this behind them and are ready to move on (either onto the work of finishing *McCleary*—or onto other things), there are some legislators that believe the “plan” will not be sufficient to satisfy the Court and they wonder aloud about whether they will be back in Olympia sometime this fall to try again.

For now, at least, we are in a holding pattern. While legislators and the governor (along with educators, NEWS and the public) await a response from the Court, the work of the new Education Funding Task Force will begin. OSPI is already having conversations about how

This Week in Olympia:
Week 8,
February 29–March 4, 2016
continued

best to collect data that will be requested and soon the Washington State Institute for Public Policy will begin its process to hire a consultant to work on the project. As additional steps are taken, we will continue to keep you apprised.

Teacher Shortage

Early in this session, legislators were hammered by most of the education organizations about the growing crisis of teacher and substitute teacher shortages. Although a few legislators continued to deny the reality, the resistance to necessary solutions dwindled. At least ten bills were introduced to address the issue with either narrow, specific solutions or more broad-based “shotgun” approaches to the problem. Many of the bills were heard; however, as the session draws to a close, three key vehicles continue to move: **HB 1737** (addressing early retirees as substitutes); **HB 2573** (an omnibus bill with multiple approaches) and **SB 6455** (a multi-tiered approach to the problem).

Throughout the course of the session, the bills weaved in and out of the legislative process. HB 1737 was amended multiple times; however, its focus remained on early retirees as substitutes. The two other bills began to merge and the lines between the two versions were blurred. In simple terms, HB 2573 was morphed into SB 6455 in the Senate, while the House transformed SB 6455 into a copy of HB 2573. As the end of session approaches, it appears all three bills will remain alive and at some point it is likely a Conference Committee will be formed to negotiate on a final bill. Which bill would be the vehicle for that is unclear; however, in a Conference Committee the three bills would likely be further melded into a comprehensive package.

As HB 2573 and HB 1737 were moving through the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee last week, Sen. Dammeier essentially stated that the goal was to keep these three vehicles alive and moving and they would eventually be merged together with the best pieces of each bill surviving the process. In his mind, he felt there were really four outstanding questions that needed to be addressed:

1. The format of the new Forecast Council (SB 6455) needed to be refined;
2. The process of professional certification for out-of-state teachers needed to be addressed;
3. The total number of hours retirees would be allowed to teach/sub needed to be finalized; and
4. The minimum required pay for substitutes needed to be finalized.

These questions are still being pondered by sponsors and supporters; however, the hope is that in the coming days one of the bills will be thrown into a Conference Committee where ALL of the necessary issues can be thoroughly discussed and agreed upon. We do not know what the final outcome of this will be, but things appear to be moving in a very positive direction.

Odd & Ends

After many years of trying, legislation has finally been adopted to change the deadline for notices of nonrenewal of contracts for certificated school employees. Current law requires certificated staff to be provided with RIF notices by May 15—unless the state Operating Budget is not adopted by May 15. In that case, the nonrenewal deadline moves to June 15. Under **HB 2023**, as adopted and awaiting the governor’s signature, the May 15 RIF notice deadline would be automatically moved to June 15 if the state Operating Budget is not adopted by the end of the Regular Session of the Legislature.

This bill is still not a perfect solution; however, hopefully it will provide school districts a bit more certainty when it appears the Legislature will not be able to complete its business on time.

AEA

By Mitch Denning

This Week in Olympia:
Week 8,
February 29–March 4, 2016
continued

As the session begins to wind down, AEA is quite concerned about the Senate Ways & Means Committee not recognizing the need to at least give **SHB 2698**, delaying the levy cliff by one year, a public hearing, even though it's not funded in the Senate Operating Budget.

In working with the WASBO/WASA Local Funding Group, WASBO has made our position clear that the State must first assume responsibility for basic education compensation costs prior to any reduction in local levies. Should there be a legislative compromise reduction or partial reduction in levies now, without the corresponding assumption of state responsibilities, the result would be teacher layoffs, a substantially lowering of the ability to provide basic education requirements, and harm to students.

WASBO this week communicated this message with all members of the WASBO Legislative Affairs Committee and Large District Roundtable members, so districts would be able to share their specific consequences should the levies be partially reduced, without accompanying new state compensation.

On Monday, WSNA testified on **SHB 1295**, breakfast after the bell, in the Senate Ways & Means Committee as “other,” as we support the bill passed out of House Appropriations on January 21. We asked the committee to consider amending Section 3 to allow schools to “give consideration” to Washington grown foods, rather than being required to “give preference” to said foods; the latter would restrict bid procurement requirements.

We also requested that the sugar requirement in Section 3 and accompanying sugar work group in Section 7 be eliminated as schools' breakfasts already comply with federal meal patterns and nutrition standards, and these standards are periodically reviewed by USDA as needed. Therefore, there wouldn't be a need for a work group to be convened.

After the hearing, we were pleased that Senator Bruce Dammeier (R-Puyallup) proposed a striker amendment which would have provided \$500,000 to OSPI to administer one-time startup allocation grants of \$6,000 to high needs schools on a first-come, first served basis that wish to offer the BAB program. The amendment removed both the “give preference” to Washington grown food and the sugar amendment as well as the work group. Also removed was a provision stating that OSPI and school districts would only implement the program after funding was provided in either a biennial or Supplemental Operating Budget.

Unfortunately, Senator Dammeier's striker did not move out of the committee. However, the bill is still alive, as it's funded in the House Budget Committee at \$2.69 million, and we'll wait to see if the program is funded in the Conference Operating Budget.

On February 22, in the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Committee, WSNA testified in support of **SHB 2964**, extending the elimination of reduced-price co-pays, which was funded in the House Supplemental Operating Budget at \$500,000. Last week WSNA proposed an amendment, which would require OSPI to distribute the funds to all reduced-price students in pre-schools, elementary, middle, and then high schools, rather than beginning with the highest need schools as the bill indicates. We feel a more uniform implementation of the bill by schools would ensure that all qualifying reduced-price students would eat for free, rather than just those students in schools where the free/reduced rate was 70 percent or higher. Unfortunately, the bill did not move out of the Early Learning & K–12 Committee.

Then, on Wednesday, when WSNA became aware that the bill, as passed the House on February 16, would have a better chance to move forward in the budget negotiations process, WSNA withdrew the amendment.

This Week in Olympia:

Week 8,

February 29–March 4, 2016

continued

Finally, WAMOA continues to watch the Capital Supplemental Budget process, as the Senate has passed their capital budget, **SSB 6201**, and now it awaits debate and approval on the House floor. WAMOA is pleased that SSB 6201 provides for a Joint Legislative Task Force on School Funding. The group would study the needs of the School Construction Assistance Program, and also ensure that state assistance would continue to help meet the facility needs of K–3 class size reduction and all-day kindergarten.

Pensions/Health Benefits

By Fred Yancey – The Nexus Group

“Stopping at third adds no more to the score than striking out. It doesn’t matter how well you start if you fail to score.”

Billy Sunday

Many important issues continue to remain to be hashed out by legislators. The game has started and we’re in the 9th inning.

As the legislative deadlines approach three bills concerning the early retiree/substitute issue continue to be alive. They are all on the floor calendars awaiting action in their respective chambers.

On the Senate floor calendar

HB 1737 (Representative Orcutt and others) Addressing the availability of retired teachers as substitutes. The bill allows early retirees to return and substitute for up to 630 hours a calendar year. It mandates that “the employing school district compensates the district’s substitute teachers at a level that is at least equal to the full daily amount allocated by the state to the district for substitute teacher compensation.” The bill would sunset August 1, 2020. It contains an emergency clause, so once approved by both houses and signed by the Governor, it would immediately come into effect.

2SHB 2573 (Representatives Santos, Magendanz, and others) Concerning the shortage of public school teachers and substitute teachers. This bill deals with the broad topic of how to address teacher shortages. One section deals with the use of early retirees. The hours allowed are 867 per school year. It contains the same language mandating payment at least equal to the amount allocated by the state to the district for substitute teacher compensation was added. It will sunset August 1, 2020.

On the House floor calendar

SB 6455 (Senators Dammeier, Rolfes, and others) Expanding the professional educator workforce. This bill is similar to HB 2573 reported above in that it deals with many teacher shortage issues. One section deals with retiree/substitute teachers. That section will sunset either August 1, 2020 or July 1, 2021. The hours are 867 per calendar year and includes the use of said retirees as mentor teachers/advisers. It also mandates that the employing school district compensates the district’s substitute teachers at a level that is at least equal to the full daily amount allocated by the state to the district for substitute teacher compensation. (Currently around \$152)

Editorial COMMENT: The issue of compensation is contentious. Clearly, it will increase costs to individual districts; a true unfunded mandate. The current state allocation is based on four days per certificated employee times the number of formula allocated staff, not actual staff. It is ironic that Senator Schoesler who put this amendment in originally, believes the substitute problem in scarcity is because districts don’t pay them enough. Yet, he and others are opposed to helping to meet the teacher shortage issue by raising salaries. No problem

This Week in Olympia:**Week 8,****February 29–March 4, 2016*****continued***

asking for local districts/levy dollars to pay increased costs for substitutes, but the State paying more for teachers? No way. Go figure.

Also, in reading the language, there is confusion over whether just retiree/substitutes are to be paid the state rate, or all substitutes are to be paid that rate. Opinions vary. As an aside, SB 6455 looks to have the inside track for passage. It carries the WEA seal of approval and is championed by a leading Republican.

At any rate, it is hoped that if and when a bill passes it will either have floor amendments that improve the bill(s) or that the conference committee can be convinced to change the bill(s). But, at this point they remain as described.

Other issues**Insurance Study:**

A proviso in both budgets directs the public employees benefit board to explore the feasibility of transferring retirees from a Medicare supplement plan to a group Medicare advantage PPO. This proposal claims significant savings to the state and individuals who choose this option could be achieved. If approved, this will bear more attention, since it could conceivably take away all other choices available to a qualifying person choosing a Medicare supplement through PEBB. The proviso was stricken from the Senate budget by an adopted amendment by Senator Karen Fraser. The Senate has not yet acted on the House Budget which still contains the proviso.

Other:

The Senate Budget has a controversial proposal and a resulting bill dealing with the unfunded liability status of TRS Plans I. **SB 6668** would merge the assets, liabilities and membership of the Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Retirement System Plan 1 (LEOFF Plan 1) with the Teachers' Retirement System Plan 1 (TRS Plan 1). Currently, these are separate systems with separate trust funds from which benefits of each system are paid. If the LEOFF Plan 1 and TRS Plan 1 merger is approved the unfunded liability of TRS 1 will decrease. (This unfunded status is due to the legislature failing to make full pension payments for over a decade)

If enacted, the state would immediately save \$75 million. The Republican Senate budget assumed passage and counted this new money in its spending plans. In the 2017–19 budget, over \$243 million would be saved. These are real dollars. Point of fact, that according to the fiscal note, school districts would also save real dollars. The employer rate paid for retirement including the surcharge to retire the TRS 1 deficit would change from the current 6.23 percent (7.2 percent in 2018) to 4.24 percent. The employee rate would remain at 6 percent by statute.

This bill was introduced one day, the next day held an 8 a.m. public hearing with testimony limited to one-minute per person, and then voted out of committee the next day strictly along party lines. Wham! Bam! No one testified in support of the bill, and most notably was the argument that this pension policy change should be studied by the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) who could make a recommendation. This is the same reason prominent Republican legislators gave for not supporting the retiree/substitute proposal last session. The SCPP did study this and made a recommendation to make this change. But, obviously, those same legislators don't feel this major pension change needs the same treatment. Pure politics in play. This bill has yet to appear on the Senate floor calendar but is clearly necessary to implement the budget. It is not dead.



Legislative Resources

Committee Meeting Schedule

Legislative Committees Meetings are scheduled to be held at the following times but are subject to change.

Up-to-date meeting schedules and agendas are available on the [State Legislature website](#).

Mondays

1:30–3:25 p.m.

Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education
Senate Hearing Room 1

House Education
House Hearing Room A

3:30–5:30 p.m.

Senate Ways & Means
Senate Hearing Room 4

House Appropriations
House Hearing Room A

Tuesdays

1:30–3:25 p.m.

Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education
Senate Hearing Room 1

House Education
House Hearing Room A

3:30–5:30 p.m.

Senate Ways & Means
Senate Hearing Room 4

Wednesdays

3:30–5:30 p.m.

Senate Ways & Means
Senate Hearing Room 4

House Appropriations
House Hearing Room A

Thursdays

8–9:55 a.m.

Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education
Senate Hearing Room 1

House Education
House Hearing Room A

3:30–5:30 p.m.

Senate Ways & Means
Senate Hearing Room 4

House Appropriations
House Hearing Room A

Useful Links

Washington State Government
<http://www.access.wa.gov>

State Legislature
<http://www.leg.wa.gov>

Senate
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate>

House of Representatives
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/House>

Legislative Committees
<http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/Calendar.aspx>

Legislative Schedules
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/calendar.aspx>

Office of the Governor
<http://www.governor.wa.gov>

OSPI
<http://www.k12.wa.us>

TVW
<http://www.tvw.org>

Session Cutoff Calendar

January 11, 2016

First Day of Session.

February 5, 2016

Last day to read in committee reports in house of origin, except House fiscal, Senate Ways & Means, and Transportation committees.

February 9, 2016

Last day to read in committee reports from House fiscal, Senate Ways & Means, and Transportation committees in house of origin.

February 17, 2016

Last day to consider bills in house of origin (5 p.m.).

February 26, 2016

Last day to read in committee reports from opposite house, except House fiscal, Senate Ways & Means, and Transportation committees.

February 29, 2016

Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal, Senate Ways & Means, and Transportation committees.

March 4, 2016*

Last day to consider opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session).

March 10, 2016

Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

*After the 54th day, only initiatives, alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, messages pertaining to amendments, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session may be considered.

Bill Watch

TWIO tracks critical education bills each week as they are introduced. Detailed bill information can be accessed by clicking on the bill number. The following is a list of the bills of highest interest to school administrators that remain alive—or maybe considered “necessary to implement the budget.” Bills that were previously on this list, but are not technically dead, have now been moved to our comprehensive bill watch list that is located on the [WASA website](#).

Bill #	Title	Status	Sponsor
EHB 1003	Schools, disaster recovery	S Passed 3rd	Hawkins
HB 1086	Public record commercial use	H Appropriations	Moeller
E2SHB 1236	College bound scholarship	S Higher Education	Ortiz-Self
E3SHB 1295	Breakfast after the bell	S Ways & Means	Hudgins
HB 1322	State retirement plans	S Ways & Means	Reykdal
HB 1345	Professional learning	S Passed 3rd	Lytton
2SHB 1408	Family engagement coordinator	S 2nd Reading	Ortiz-Self
ESHB 1420	School siting task force	H Local Government	Wilcox
HB 1528	Epinephrine autoinjectors	H Rules X	Robinson
4SHB 1541	Educational opportunity gap	S 2nd Reading	Santos
SHB 1562	Allergen information in public schools	H Rules R	Sullivan
HB 1666	State-wide student assessments	H Appropriations	Magendanz
3SHB 1682	Homeless students	S 2nd Reading	Fey
2SHB 1737	Retired teachers/substitutes	S 2nd Reading	Orcutt
E2SHB 1745	Voting rights	S 2nd Reading	Moscoso
EHB 1770	Teacher certification	S Early Learning/K–12	Bergquist
SHB 1790	Nurse in school setting	S Rules 2	Springer
HB 1804	Educator professional growth	S Rules 2	Springer
SHB 1855	Local graduation requirements	S Early Learning/K–12	Caldier
HB 1865	Visual screening in schools	H Appropriations	Magendanz
SHB 1867	Classroom teacher evaluation	S 2nd Reading	Bergquist
2SHB 1900	School counselor, etc.	S Early Learning/K–12	Ortiz-Self
HB 1941	School district bonds/voting	H Education	Gregerson
E2SHB 1983	Teacher financial assistance	S Ways & Means	Pollet
4SHB 1999	Foster youth education outcomes	S Passed 3rd	Carlyle
HB 2023	School employee contracts	S Passed 3rd	Parker
HB 2076	Racial disproportionality	H Rules R	Sawyer
ESHB 2148	State auditor	S Accountability & Reform	Chandler

HB 2168	Fiscal matters T.O.	H Appropriations	Hunter
HB 2169	Fiscal matters T.O.	H Appropriations	Hunter
HB 2177	Education T.O.	H Appropriations	Hunter
HB 2178	Education T.O.	H Appropriations	Hunter
HB 2179	Revenue T.O.	H Finance	Hunter
HB 2180	Revenue T.O.	H Finance	Hunter
HB 2183	Sexual abuse prevention K–12	H Appropriations	McCabe
HB 2187	General obligation bonds T.O.	H Capital Budget	Dunshee
HB 2188	Capital Budget T.O.	H Capital Budget	Dunshee
HB 2189	Capital Budget T.O.	H Capital Budget	Dunshee
SHB 2214	High school student assessments	S Early Learning/K–12	Reykdal
HB 2229	Excise tax/education, public service T.O.	H Finance	Carlyle
HB 2230	Excise tax/education, public service T.O.	H Finance	Carlyle
HB 2231	Fair market/education, public service T.O.	H Finance	Carlyle
HB 2232	Excise tax/education, public service T.O.	H Finance	Carlyle
HB 2233	Excise tax/education, public service T.O.	H Finance	Carlyle
HB 2234	Excise tax/education, public service T.O.	H Finance	Carlyle
HB 2235	Excise tax/education, public service T.O.	H Finance	Carlyle
HB 2236	Excise tax/education, public service T.O.	H Finance	Carlyle
HB 2237	Excise tax/education, public service T.O.	H Finance	Carlyle
HB 2269	Tax system/education public service T.O.	H Appropriations	Hunter
HB 2290	Public record request limits	H State Government	MacEwen
HB 2295	Education funding/federal forest lands	H Appropriations	Rossetti
HB 2298	Domestic partnerships/PERS	S Ways & Means	Moeller
HB 2306	Schools, offensive names	H Education	Sawyer
HB 2324	Educational interpreters	H Education	Van De Wege
HB 2325	Firearms/hunting education	H Education	Muri
HB 2333	PERS plan choice	H Appropriations	Reykdal
HB 2353	OPMA/civil penalties	H Rules R	Hunt
HB 2360	Quality education council	S Passed 3rd	Lytton
HB 2361	School levy lid revisions/delay	H Appropriations	Lytton
ESHB 2366	Basic education obligations	S Early Learning/K–12	Lytton
HB 2367	Public non-common schools	H Education	Magendanz

HB 2373	Student mental health	H Appropriations	Senn
ESHB 2376	Operating Supplemental Budget 2016	S Ways & Means	Dunshee
HB 2377	Schools/GMA	H Local Government	Taylor
HB 2378	Caseload forecast council	H Rules R	Stanford
HB 2380	Supplemental Capital Budget	H Rules R	Tharinger
SHB 2381	School counselors task force	S Early Learning/K–12	Ortiz-Self
HB 2382	Teachers/alternate route programs	H Appropriations	Magendanz
HB 2389	School-age child care	H Rules R	Kagi
HB 2392	Pesticide exposure	H Health Care/Wellness	Ortiz-Self
SHB 2396	Homeless youth health care	S Health Care	McBride
SHB 2405	Notices, records, & parties	S Passed 3rd	Muri
HB 2409	Special needs students	H Appropriations	Orwall
HB 2415	Worksite learning	H Education	Pike
SHB 2427	Local government modernization	S 2nd Reading	Springer
SHB 2429	Student assessment results	S Early Learning/K–12	Caldier
2SHB 2449	Truancy reduction	S 2nd Reading	Orwall
HB 2451	Postsecondary & K–12 partnerships	H Higher Education	Stambaugh
HB 2472	Teacher salaries & mentoring	H Appropriations	Santos
HB 2476	180-day school year waivers	S Passed 3rd	Johnson
HB 2479	Tax preferences	H Finance	Lytton
HB 2490	Public employee bargaining	H Labor & Workplace Standards	Manweller
HB 2513	Truancy/school assignments	H Judiciary	Klippert
HB 2537	State spending programs review	H Appropriations	Stokesbary
HB 2547	Synthetic turf materials	H Environment	Pollet
HB 2556	Academic achievement certificate	H Appropriations	Hunt
HB 2557	Unused shared leave return	S Passed 3rd	Hunt
E2SHB 2573	Teacher shortage	S Rules 2	Santos
HB 2576	Local agency public records	H Rules X	McBride
HB 2586	School siting	H Local Government	Reykdal
HB 2589	Gender-segregated facilities	H Judiciary	Hunt
HB 2595	Schools/safe technology use	H Education	Ortiz-Self
HB 2597	School sexual abuse plans	S Passed 3rd	Orwall
HB 2607	Integrated student services	H Education	Magendanz

HB 2608	Student and teacher data	H Education	Magendanz
HB 2609	Educator cultural competence	H Education	Magendanz
HB 2639	School bus rider safety	S 2nd Reading	McCabe
HB 2643	School district procedures	H Education	Short
HB 2657	Teacher years of service	H Appropriations	Stokesbary
HB 2664	School PE exemptions	H Education	Cody
HB 2665	Tax preferences approval	H Finance	Santos
HB 2666	Tax expenditure transparency	H Appropriations	Santos
HB 2669	Public school PE requirement	H Appropriations	Riccelli
HB 2670	School assessment system	H Education	Young
HB 2671	Early learning agency definition	H Rules X	Kagi
HB 2690	Academic support pilot	H Education	Sells
EHB 2698	Levy lid revision delay	S Ways & Means	Lytton
HB 2714	Unfunded state mandates	H Education	Rossetti
HB 2722	Small & limited public works	H Capital Budget	Kochmar
HB 2727	Teacher retention	H Education	Stokesbary
HB 2728	Reading coaches' grants	H Education	Stokesbary
HB 2729	School grading and choice	H Education	Stokesbary
HB 2734	High school science testing	H Appropriations	McCaslin
HB 2742	School library materials	H Appropriations	Reykdal
SHB 2743	High school diploma issuance	S Early Learning/K-12	Reykdal
HB 2779	School competitive bidding	H Capital Budget	Kilduff
HB 2782	Gender segregated facilities	H Judiciary	Klippert
HB 2786	I-1366 fee increase requirements	H Appropriations	Shea
HB 2822	Underserved groups/I-200 repeal	H Capital Budget	Santos
HB 2823	School violence reports	H Rules X	Parker
HB 2824	Public school education success	H Education	Sawyer
ESHB 2825	Disabled student services	S 2nd Reading	Frame
HB 2829	Collective bargaining	H Labor & Workplace Standards	Chandler
HB 2833	Educational grant program	H Appropriations	Young
HB 2837	School class size task force	H Rules R	Farrell
HB 2846	Apprenticeship utilization	H Rules R	Ormsby
SHB 2851	School director compensation	S 2nd Reading	Frame

HB 2862	School district fiscal notes	H Appropriations	Rossetti
HB 2868	Career & technical education materials	H Appropriations	Reykdal
HB 2881	Educator shortage	H Education	Pollet
HB 2889	School board absences	H Education	Short
HB 2902	Charter school tax credit	H Finance	Hargrove
HB 2919	College readiness assessment	H Education	Gregerson
HB 2921	Professional educator workforce	H Education	Hickel
HB 2934	Rail transportation task force	H Transportation	Moscoso
HB 2941	School bathrooms	H Judiciary	Short
HB 2945	Growth Management Act review	H Rules R	Appleton
HB 2947	OSPI elimination/Dept. of education	H Gen Government & Information	Sullivan
HB 2948	Career and college readiness	H Appropriations	Santos
HB 2963	High school exam payment	H Education	Moscoso
SHB 2964	Reduced-price lunch copays	S Ways & Means	Gregerson
HB 2965	School accountability	H Appropriations	Magendanz
HB 2968	Kindergarten, K-3 class size	H 2nd Reading	Tharinger
HB 2978	School choice	H Education	Stokesbary
HB 2985	Educational space inventory	H 2nd Reading	Riccelli
HB 2988	Budget stabilization T.O.	H 2nd Reading	Dunshee
HB 2989	Career & technical education materials	H Appropriations	Reykdal
HB 2995	Four-year balanced budget	H Appropriations	Dunshee
HB 2996	Tax preferences/K-12 funding	H Rules R	Lytton
HB 3000	Education T.O.	H Education	Appleton
HJR 4210	School district bonds/voting	H Education	Gregerson
HJR 4212	Public safety/paramount duty	H Appropriations	Klippert
HJR 4213	Const. amendment on taxes	H Finance	Shea
HJR 4214	2/3 vote for tax increases	H Finance	Shea
HJR 4215	2/3rd vote for tax increases	H Finance	Orcutt
HJR 4216	Eliminating OSPI	H Gen Government & Information	Sullivan
SB 5351	Education T.O.	S Early Learning/K-12	Litzow
SB 5352	Education T.O.	S Early Learning/K-12	Litzow
ESSB 5435	State deferred comp program	H Rules R	Bailey
SB 5517	Sexual harassment prevention	S Rules X	Kohl-Welles

SB 5559	Tuition waivers/state employees	S Rules X	Billig
SB 5668	Voting rights	S Rules X	Habib
SB 5675	Dual language instruction	S Ways & Means	Roach
2ESSB 5915	Fiscal notes & impact statements	H Appropriations	Brown
SB 5928	Education T.O.	S Ways & Means	Dammeier
SB 6049	Fiscal matters T.O.	S Rules 2	Hill
SB 6050	Fiscal matters T.O.	S Rules X	Hill
SB 6059	Education T.O.	S Rules X	Hill
SB 6060	Education T.O.	S Ways & Means	Litzow
SB 6061	Revenue T.O.	S Ways & Means	Hargrove
SB 6063	Revenue T.O.	S Ways & Means	Ranker
SB 6064	Revenue T.O.	S Ways & Means	Ranker
SB 6069	Education T.O.	S Ways & Means	Ranker
SB 6072	Transportation revenue T.O.	S Transportation	King
SB 6073	Transportation funding, appropriations T.O.	S Transportation	King
SB 6097	Future teachers/conditional scholarship	S Rules X	Ranker
SB 6129	District-based elections	S Rules X	Roach
SB 6163	District charter schools	S Early Learning/K-12	Billig
SB 6171	Open Public Meetings Act/civil penalties	H 2nd Reading	Roach
SB 6174	Ballot titles/initiatives	S Rules X	Ericksen
SB 6182	High school graduation tests	S Early Learning/K-12	McAuliffe
SB 6183	Local school district levies	S Early Learning/K-12	McAuliffe
SB 6189	Native American curriculum	S Ways & Means	McCoy
SB 6190	Schools/"redskins" term	S Early Learning/K-12	McCoy
SB 6192	Educational opportunity gap	S Early Learning/K-12	McCoy
E2SSB 6194	Public schools/not common	H Education	Litzow
E2SSB 6195	Basic education obligations	C3 L16	Rivers
ESSB 6201	Supplemental Capital Budget	H 2nd Reading	Honeyford
SB 6230	Warrantless school searches	S Rules X	O'Ban
SB 6232	Civics education & campaign compliance	S Early Learning/K-12	Fain
SB 6233	Student freedom of expression	S Rules X	Fain
SB 6241	Teacher salaries & mentoring	S Early Learning/K-12	Billig
2SSB 6243	Youth suicide prevention	H Appropriations	Litzow

SB 6244	Educational opportunity gap	S Rules X	Litzow
SB 6245	Visual screening in schools	H Appropriations	Litzow
ESSB 6246	Operating Supplemental Budget 2016	H Appropriations	Hill
SB 6259	School director compensation	S Rules X	Carlyle
SSB 6273	Schools/safe technology use	H Passed 3rd	Lias
SB 6291	Weighted GPAs	H Rules R	Braun
SB 6292	Education funding/federal forest lands	H Appropriations	Braun
SB 6298	Homeless students gap act	S Ways & Means	Frockett
SB 6332	Teacher shortage	S Early Learning/K-12	Litzow
SB 6340	Voter preregistration	S Govt Operations & State Security	Fain
SB 6353	School levy lid revisions/delay	S Early Learning/K-12	Rivers
SB 6368	Academic support pilot	S Early Learning/K-12	Hobbs
SB 6371	Early learning agency definition	H 2nd Reading	Litzow
SB 6393	Small & limited public works	S Rules X	Warnick
SB 6407	Recess time requirement	S Early Learning/K-12	Fain
2SSB 6408	Paraeducators	H Rules R	Hill
ESSB 6426	School siting	H Local Government	Conway
SB 6429	School day start times	S Rules X	McAuliffe
SB 6431	K-12 leave cost study	S Early Learning/K-12	Mullet
SB 6432	Student mental health	S Early Learning/K-12	Litzow
SB 6443	Gender segregation. facility rules	S Failed 3rd	Ericksen
SB 6453	Worksite learning	S Early Learning/K-12	Cleveland
E2SSB 6455	Professional educator workforce	H 2nd Reading	Dammeier
SB 6458	School assessment system	S Early Learning/K-12	Chase
SB 6460	Statewide assessments	S Early Learning/K-12	Chase
SB 6469	Teaching cursive in schools	S Early Learning/K-12	Roach
SB 6473	College readiness assessment	S Early Learning/K-12	Baumgartner
SB 6476	School assessment system	S Early Learning/K-12	Roach
2SSB 6497	Truancy reduction	H Rules R	Hargrove
SB 6504	Budget stabilization appropriations	S Ways & Means	Hargrove
SB 6507	Pesticide exposure	S Agr./Water/Rural Economics	Chase
SB 6512	State need grant/STEM degree	S Rules X	Baumgartner
SB 6515	Firearms/hunting education	S Early Learning/K-12	O'Ban

SB 6516	Month of the kindergartener	S Early Learning/K–12	Fraser
SB 6540	Safe playgrounds & turf	S Energy, Environment	Chase
SB 6548	Gender-segregated facilities	S Rules X	Warnick
SB 6549	Retired teachers/substitutes	S Early Learning/K–12	Conway
SB 6552	Assessment inventory tool	S Early Learning/K–12	McAuliffe
SB 6560	High school equivalency tests	S Higher Education	Chase
SB 6588	Music education/elementary schools	S Early Learning/K–12	Chase
SB 6604	Tax & fee increase limits	S Ways & Means	Ericksen
ESB 6620	School safety funding plan	H Passed 3rd	McAuliffe
SB 6640	High school science testing	S Early Learning/K–12	Mullet
SB 6643	School bus toll exemption	S Transportation	Bailey
SB 6661	Career & technical education materials	S Ways & Means	Rolfes
SB 6663	Voting rights	S Govt Operations & State Security	Miloscia
SB 6666	Fiscal matters T.O.	S Ways & Means	Braun
SB 6667	Fiscal matters T.O.	S Ways & Means	Braun
SB 6670	Schools/not-common public T.O.	S Ways & Means	Fain
SJR 8208	Tax and fee increases	S Govt Operations & State Security	Roach
SJR 8209	2/3rd vote for tax increases	S Govt Operations & State Security	Roach
SJR 8211	2/3rd vote for tax increases	S Failed 3rd	Roach
SJR 8212	Constitution amendment on taxes	S Govt Operations & State Security	Ericksen
SJR 8213	Four-year balanced budget	S Rules 2	Hill
SJR 8214	Income tax/construction amendment	S Ways & Means	Chase
SJR 8216	2/3rd vote for tax increases	S Held	Roach