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## Week 2 – January 19–23, 2015

### CALL TO ACTION

### 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](http://www.wasa-oly.org/TWIO).**

Educators have been haranguing the Legislature for years to step up to its responsibilities (both the moral imperative and the legal requirement) to “fully fund” K–12 education, Washington’s constitutional paramount duty. Finally, we have an “outside” voice standing with us. In January 2012, the Supreme Court unanimously agreed in its landmark *McCleary* decision that the state has consistently failed to meet its constitutional obligation to provide ample funding for K–12 education. And this past September, the Court found the Legislature in contempt of court for failing to produce a twice-ordered “phase-in plan for achieving the state’s mandate to fully fund basic education.” According to legal scholars, this is the first time ANY state’s Legislature has ever been found in contempt by a Supreme Court. Sometimes being “first” is not a good thing.

The *McCleary* ruling—and the Court’s decision to retain jurisdiction over the case—provides educators a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to support and enhance K–12 education. This is an opportunity that we absolutely cannot waste. The Court decision and its contempt ruling provide leverage that educators have never been able to apply; however, we cannot depend on *McCleary* alone. School administrators—and all members of the education community—must continue to keep legislators’ feet to the fire to ensure they remember their oath to uphold the constitution and meet their obligations.

That is where this Call to Action comes in. As we’ve mentioned previously in *TWIO*, there is a heavy debate about the level of funding needed to comply with *McCleary*. Governor Inslee included \$1.3 billion in *McCleary* related funding (full funding of Maintenance, Supplies and Operating Costs [MSOC] as scheduled, along with full funding of K–3 Class Size and All-Day Kindergarten a year ahead of schedule) in his 2015–17 Operating Budget proposal. He has stated, and his staff has reiterated, adoption of his budget would fully implement HB 2776. Technically true. However, the Court’s *McCleary* decision is NOT simply an order to fund enhancements in HB 2776. In fact, central to the *McCleary* decision is the full implementation of HB 2261, noted by the Court as a “promising reform package...which if fully funded, will remedy deficiencies in the K–12 funding system.”

Senator Andy Hill (R-Redmond), Chair of the Senate Ways & Means Committee, has argued that only two K–12 policy enhancements are statutorily required this biennium: I-732 COLAs and MSOCs in HB 2776. Again, technically true. However, a budget limited to providing an MSOC enhancement and an I-732 COLA will NOT appease the Supreme Court—nor will it

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meet the needs of school districts across the state. Not only will Hill's plan not fund any additional components of HB 2261 (read: compensation), it would put the state even farther behind schedule to fully fund basic education by 2018.

Fortunately, the House, in particular Representative Ross Hunter (D-Medina), Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, is talking about funding of HB 2261, in particular educator compensation, along with funding for HB 2776. At this point, however, the issue has gained little real traction.

It is becoming increasingly clear that K–12 education WILL receive additional funding this year. The real questions are: How much will we receive? Where will the money be directed? And, Where will the money come from? The Legislature needs to provide enough of an enhancement that the state can get back on track to meeting the Court's (and originally, the Legislature's) 2018 deadline. The money needs to be funneled to MSOC and educator compensation—not just the required I-732 COLA, but an enhancement to the salary allocation model. And, the funding cannot come at the expense of other state services that will have direct, negative impacts on school districts.

It is incumbent upon school administrators—and everyone in the education community—to maintain regular contact with your local legislators. Please take the time touch base with each of your legislators, whether that contact be a personal visit, a formal letter, a short written note, a phone call or a quick e-mail. And once you make that contact, continue to regularly connect with them throughout the session. Even the busiest educator should be able to find five minutes a week to touch a legislator. Ask them to uphold their oath and stand up for basic education. Ask for a significant enhancement to basic education to get the state back on track to comply with *McCleary*. Finally, it would be helpful for your WASA staff if you would let us know who you're contacting, when you've contacted them and how they are responding.

We have a long, uphill battle. Together, we can make a difference!

## **2015 Session Guide Released**

So you want to respond to our Call to Action, but you're not sure where to start? WASA's 2015 Legislative Session Guide has been completed and disseminated to school administrators. It is also available on the [WASA website](#).

The Guide includes all the tools you need to be engaged this session: WASA's 2015 Legislative Platform; rosters of all House and Senate members, with office, phone and e-mail contact information; key dates in the session; and a list of other handy resources.

WASA has also updated the WASA website with a set of advocacy tools. Visit our [Legislative Action Center](#) to get caught up on *TWIO*, check our Bill Watch or review Legislative Committee schedules. We have also begun to compile a library of [Sample Legislative Communications](#), including WASA talking points and sample letters from your colleagues. Keep coming back to hone your messages—and provide us with *your* communications to help us build our library.

## **This Week in Review**

During the first week of the legislative session, much time was spent on organizing the House and Senate and going through the regular start-of-session ceremonies—including swearing in new members, officially electing leadership and hearing from Governor Inslee as he presented his annual State of the State Address. Most legislative committees began meeting, although many of them used the first set of meetings to hold work sessions to bring new members up-to-speed and to ensure all members had a common understanding of the issues.

(NOTE: It appears all committees in both houses have a firm set of members—with the exception of the Senate Rules Committee. Following the Senate Democrat's mini-coup on the first day of session to elect Senator Pam Roach (R-Auburn) as the President Pro Tempore, over the Majority Coalition's choice, Senator Tim Sheldon (D-Potlatch), Senate Leaders have

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postponed appointing members to the Rules Committee. Legislative websites currently list only two members: Lt. Governor Brad Owen (D) and Sen. Roach—both of whom, under Senate Rules, are automatically named Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. It is unclear when members will be appointed and it is unclear why members have not yet been appointed. You try not to read too much into various happenings on the Hill; however, it is assumed Roach's unanticipated victory has impacted the Majority Coalition's strategies. Other than this being another sign of a unique session—and a bit of early intrigue for Olympia insiders—it is unlikely this situation will have any ultimate impact on the session.)

Now that most of the ceremonial happenings are out of the way, the second week of the session was a time for legislators (as well as staff and advocates) to begin getting their routines down as they settle in for what is increasingly looking like a strange, difficult and, presumably, very lengthy session. Many committees continued to hold work sessions, while several others started to wade into an already backed up list of bills. In the first 12 days of session, over 1,000 bills, resolutions and memorials have already been introduced.

### **Capital Construction Budget**

With the heavy focus on the budgets—the 2015–17 Operating Budget, the 2015–17 Capital Construction Budget and the 2015–17 Transportation Budget—fiscal committees in both houses continued to review Governor Inslee's proposals. Last week, both the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Ways & Means Committee held public hearings on Inslee's proposed 2015–17 Operating Budget (**HB 1106/SB 5077**) and this week, the House Capital Budget Committee took testimony on his 2015–17 Capital Budget.

**Governor Inslee's 2015–17 Capital Budget**, introduced as **HB 1115**, includes more than \$3.8 billion for state construction projects, funded with \$2.16 billion in new General Obligation Bonds (introduced as a separate bill, **HB 1116**) and \$17.27 million in previously authorized bonds. As it has become regular practice in recent years, the remaining funds (\$1.67 billion) would come from dedicated cash accounts, such as the Public Works Assistance Account and the Model Toxics Control Account. The budget request also includes \$3.20 billion in re-appropriations for projects previously authorized, but not yet completed.

K–12 would receive \$677.2 million in the budget (compared to **Superintendent Dorn's request** of \$3.26 billion). The majority of the funding, \$596.1 million, would be provided to the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP), which would “fully fund” the expected requests from local school districts. Funding would also be provided to complete inventory and building condition assessments for all public school districts once every six years, for school mapping and for OSPI to develop a formula-based method of providing energy incentive assistance for qualifying projects. OSPI would be required to prioritize grant requests that will result in filling capacity needs to reduce kindergarten through third grade class sizes. Additional funds would be provided for: Small Repair/Healthiest Next Generation Grants (\$15.0 million); Full-Day Kindergarten Capacity Grants (\$10.0 million); and Skills Centers (\$36.1 million). For additional information, see the **Dec. 18 Special Edition of TWIO**.

Following a briefing on Inslee's proposed budget from Committee staff and the governor's office, the hearing was open for public testimony. Like the hearings for the Operating Budget, the Capital Budget Committee hearing room was packed (overflowing, in fact) and testimony time for each person was limited to two minutes (Olympia “regulars” were held until the end of the hearing and only had 90 seconds to zip through their comments). With our limited time, WASA took a similar approach to our Operating Budget testimony and focused on our major concerns rather than addressing the few positive aspects of the request. We did say that we appreciated the governor's “full funding” of current SCAP requests—but strongly noted that the supposed “full” funding simply was not enough because the state's current funding formulas do not reflect the actual cost of construction or the true space needed for learning. We urged the House to significantly increase the Construction Cost Allowance (CCA) and the Student Space Allocation (SSA) to meet actual costs and space needs. We also

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expressed serious concerns that the governor's budget fails to provide additional construction assistance to implement class size reductions or state funding of all-day kindergarten (even though the governor, in his Operating Budget request, proposes to fully fund those *McCleary* related items a year ahead of schedule).

Several years ago, when the House unveiled its Capital Budget request for that particular biennium, budget-writers (Democrats and Republicans together) publicly stated in a press conference that their proposal was the first to recognize that capital construction was an integral part of education reform. At the time, we applauded that recognition. In testimony this week, we said the connection between the capital budget and the operating side for education is even more necessary, noting that the Supreme Court, as part of its continued oversight of the *McCleary* education funding decision, has made several pointed comments about the Legislature's inadequate funding for school construction. We closed by urging the House Capital Budget Committee to take a leadership role—as they have in recent years—in providing adequate capital funding for school facilities.

### **K–12 Funding Review**

Last week, the House Education Committee used one of its work sessions to be briefed on **basic education and education funding**: an overview of K–12 finance; a primer on the constitutional history of basic education; recent basic education finance reform legislation (2009's HB 2261 and 2010's HB 2776); and a review of Initiative 1351 (class size reduction). This week, similar work sessions were held in each house's budget-writing committees: Ways & Means in the Senate and Appropriations in the House—although they took different approaches.

On Tuesday, the Senate Ways & Means Committee was provided with a broad **overview of K–12 funding** by staff from the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education and Senate Ways & Means Committees. That overview was followed by a presentation from the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP). **WSIPP's presentation** was focused on student outcomes linked to class size, all-day kindergarten programs and access to early education. For the last two years, the Senate Majority Coalition Caucus has been linking general discussions of education finance (and specifically *McCleary* and/or HB 2261/HB 2776) with discussions about student “success.” The link between these two presentations was not at all subtle. Multiple questions were raised during the overview regarding the Legislature's ability to revise or redefine basic education. The response, using the Supreme Court's own language, was consistent with what we have been hearing (and saying) for a long time: “The Legislature has an obligation to review and revise the Basic Education Program as the needs of students and the demands of society evolve”—HOWEVER, “Any reduction of programs or offerings from the Basic Education Program must be accompanied by an education policy rationale...” and must not be made due to a “fiscal crisis or mere expediency.” Further, the Court has been clear the Legislature “must show that a program it once considered central to providing basic education no longer serves the same educational purpose or should be replaced with a superior program or offering.”

So, HB 2261 or HB 2776 cannot simply be amended—or “gutted” as Senator Steve Litzow (R-Mercer Island) desires—just because legislators don't like the current law or they think it's too expensive or difficult to fund; there must be an “education policy rationale.” That's where WSIPP's presentation comes in. Majority Coalition members have attacked multiple pieces of HB 2261/HB 2776 for the last two years, but the main targets have been class size reductions and all-day kindergarten, as they've argued funding would be better spent elsewhere. The research (at least from WSIPP) is fairly clear: overall, reducing class size improves student test scores and graduation rates; however, the largest benefits and lowest risk are in early elementary grades. In other words, the benefits greatly outweigh the cost in the early grades, but not nearly as much in the later grades. Similarly, there are significant gains for students in full-day kindergarten programs; however, those gains tend to “fade out” by the fifth grade. Is this enough “proof” for the Court to give the Legislature a pass on

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amendments to the class size or all-day kindergarten components in basic education? It is not clear; however, just like all the crime dramas on TV, where the police continue to scour the streets searching for enough evidence to convince the prosecutor that they have a case, we can expect more “experts” and their “evidence” arriving in town in the coming months.

On Wednesday, the House Appropriations Committee held a similar work session and received a similar [overview on K–12 Finance](#) (minus a presentation from WSIPP). While the two work sessions were very similar, there were subtle nuances between the presentations. A very distinct difference between the two presentations was the scant focus on HB 2261 in the Senate. While it was mentioned, it was almost exclusively discussed coupled with HB 2776. Because HB 2261 was glossed over, there was a complete absence of any discussion of compensation reform in the Senate. As we’ve noted before—and will continue to strongly advocate throughout this session—full implementation of HB 2776 DOES NOT fully fund basic education or fully comply with the Supreme Court’s orders in the *McCleary* decision. HB 2261 clearly state’s the Legislature’s intent to “enhance the current salary allocation model” and the Court has stated it is “deeply troubling” the Legislature has not addressed the compensation component of HB 2261.

The House Appropriations Committee also discussed levies and Local Effort Assistance (LEA or “levy equalization”), while the Senate essentially glossed over the issue. The House discussed the need to address the overreliance on local levies—without specifically talking about any solutions. It was noted in passing that one option may be to “swap” local levies for state property tax funds, but there was no additional discussion beyond that quick mention.

As a side note, there had been several groups of legislators (of various numbers and composition) meeting during the interim last year in an attempt to tackle the local levy conundrum. To date, we have not seen—or heard about—any specific potential solution from those legislators. We assume many of them continue to meet; however, none of them have been willing to reveal what they have been discussing or when (or if) any of them will release anything. One of the early key proponents of the “levy swap” idea was Rep. Hunter; however, after many fits and starts he has finally backed away from his original plan and no longer talks about a “levy swap.” When the issue is raised, he pointedly notes that he wants to deal with “comprehensive property tax reform,” but has yet to detail what that elusive phrase means. While we’ve been waiting for the “big reveal” on solving the overreliance on local levies issue, a bill was introduced somewhat under the radar this week. Senator Mark Mullet (D-Issaquah) introduced [SB 5334](#). His bill (which has no co-signers) simply would increase the state property tax and reduce local levies by the same amount. A little more complex part of the bill requires that the increased state property tax be redistributed to the school district from which it came. Although this bill does not delve into the difficult issues of levy grandfathering, high property tax rates or adjustments to LEA, it does, in a fairly straightforward way, address the basic issue of districts’ overreliance on local levies. Because SB 5334 tries to tackle a pretty complex problem with a fairly simplistic fix, it is very unlikely this bill will go far, if it moves at all. The very positive aspect of the bill is that now there is an actual plan (workable or not) on the table. Hopefully, this will spark a conversation—and maybe move some of those backroom discussions out into the open.

Continuing the discussion of the levy swap...the Washington Association of Realtors, and more specifically, those individual realtors that operate within your local districts, has been very supportive of K–12 education; for example, they supported the simple majority for school district levies and fairly consistently support K–12 funding in general. Realtors know that when they are trying to sell a house, being in a “good” school district enhances property value—and the ability to sell the house. This week, the Realtors had their annual Legislative Day and one of the issues they were apparently supporting is the “levy swap.” The Association’s [most recent magazine](#) highlighted *McCleary* and noted, “Washington Realtors has been a supporter of the levy swap idea as a revenue neutral way to funnel more money to schools.” I don’t intend to bash realtors, but this statement shows how easily some ideas

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are to misunderstand. There are some legislators that support the levy swap concept because it would “solve” the *McCleary* problem in a revenue neutral way. Huh? How can a revenue neutral swap “funnel more money to schools”? It won’t. A simple levy swap might partially address the Court’s concern about an overreliance on local levies, yet it will do nothing to assist schools if you take money out of one pocket and simply put the same amount of money in the other pocket. That’s called money laundering—and it won’t do anything to fully fund basic education. Property tax continues to appear to be the only real funding source of any significant size available, so it will likely be a part of a *McCleary* solution, but we will have to move cautiously as plans begin to emerge.

### **Revenue Conversation**

As described previously in *TWIO* (**Jan. 12 Special Edition**), there is a wide divide on the question of whether new revenues are needed to fund education and other necessary services and ultimately balance the state budget. Senate Majority Coalition members continue to believe the expected nearly \$3.0 billion in revenue growth is more than enough revenue to: continue all current services, “fully finance the next statutorily required *McCleary* enhancement” and fund K–12 staff salary increases under I-732 (see Sen. Hill’s “**2015 Budget Preview**”). House Democrats, on the other hand continue to believe “Every dime of new revenue for the next biennium is already dedicated to existing programs, and there are about a billion dollars of expenditures that will need to be made in addition to that in the 2015–17 budget, plus we have to make a \$1.2 to \$2 billion new investment in K–12 education” (see Rep. Hunter’s “**Washington Budget 2015–17**”).

These polar opposite opinions are not expected to change anytime soon; however, the conversation regarding revenue is starting to build. On Tuesday, the House Finance Committee held a work session to review the **revenue-related components of Governor Inslee’s proposed budget**. David Schumacher, Director of the Office of Financial Management—the governor’s budget office—briefed the Committee on Washington’s current tax system and the rationale for requesting revenue. He then walked through each of the revenue proposals that Inslee has proposed. On Wednesday, the Senate Ways & Means Committee was also briefed on the **governor’s revenue package**. As you can imagine, the House was much more receptive to Schumacher’s message—although both fiscal committees include members from both parties.

Even though much of Governor Inslee’s revenue proposals are essentially dead in the water in the Senate (due to the Rule change adopted Day 1 of the session, which requires any bill that creates a new tax to receive a two-thirds vote in order to advance from Second Reading to Third Reading and Final Passage), it is important that the conversation continue. At some point in the session—likely the 11th hour—the Legislature’s game of “budget chicken” will have to end. In order to solve the necessary legislative math problem (50 House votes + 25 Senate votes + 1 signature from the governor = passage), compromises will have to be made. Although both sides are about as far apart as they can be, at least all four caucuses are getting a better understanding of the proposals currently on the table.

### **Other Committee Action**

The week started off on Monday in the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee with a hearing on a draft bill that had not even been introduced yet; the bill was formally introduced on Wednesday as **SB 5393**. The bill would provide school districts will additional flexibility. Great! Unfortunately, in order for a school—NOT a school district—to receive that flexibility, it must be recognized for exemplary performance based on the Washington Achievement Index. The school board in the district in which a recognized school operates would have to adopt a resolution notifying OSPI and the State Board of the school’s status—and for one year, the school would be exempt from most state laws and rules applicable to other schools and school districts. The bill includes a list of laws and rules which the school must still comply with, which are similar to the short list of laws and rules that charter

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schools must operate under. In testimony, WASA expressed our ongoing support for local control and our support for the “idea” behind the bill; that is, the provision of local flexibility. Our positive comments stopped there. We noted our continued belief that ALL schools and districts should have flexibility to provide educational services that best meet local needs and desires. We expressed our concerns that the bill’s flexibility would be offered only to “successful” schools, based on a single measure. We argued that this is backwards. Instead, ALL schools and districts should receive flexibility—as spelled out in HB 1209 (Education Reform Act of 1993), but has never been realized—and, if they prove to be unsuccessful, then perhaps a consequence could be the limiting of flexibility. The other main concern we mentioned was the bill’s allowance for individual schools or districts to waive certain laws or rules. We stated that if there is a law or rule that is an obstacle to a school/district from succeeding, that law/rule should be repealed—for ALL school districts. There are also multiple operational concerns with the bill; however, rather than try to assist in perfecting a bad bill, we ended our comments.

The Committee also heard **SB 5082**, providing career and technical education opportunities for elementary school students. Like so many bills that have been or will be introduced this session, this is a laudable goal; however, with greater funding needs—such as adequate funding for current secondary school CTE programs—this is an idea that should wait.

On Monday in the House Education Committee, there was a public hearing on two College in the High School bills: **HB 1031** and **HB 1081**. Both bills would expand eligibility to participate in College in the High School programs to 10th graders. HB 1031 would also require participating school districts to provide general information about the programs to 9th graders and their parents.

The House Education Committee also held a work session to discuss small school districts. First, Committee staff provided a **broad overview of small school districts** in the state. Jim Kowalkowski, Director of the Rural Education Center and Davenport School District Superintendent, followed up with an excellent presentation discussing the **successes and challenges facing small school districts**. WASA Executive Director Bill Keim also presented his perspective as Director of a statewide education association and as a former ESD Superintendent (113) on the **challenges in small school districts**. Mike Colbrese, Executive Director of WIAA, closed out the work session with a review of combined and cooperative programs in small school districts, specifically related to athletics and activities.

On Tuesday, the House Education Committee moved back into a work session to review **Assessments and the Common Core State Standards**. It was a pretty broad discussion, with presentations from Committee staff, a representative of the National Conference of State Legislatures and OSPI.

On Friday, the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee held a public hearing on four bills, including **SB 5179**, implementing new certification standards for paraeducators. Last session, legislation was adopted directing the Professional Educator Standards Board to convene a workgroup to design program specific minimum employment standards for paraeducators, professional development and education opportunities that support the standards, a paraeducator career ladder, an articulated pathway for teacher preparation and certification, and teacher professional development on how to maximize the use of paraeducators in the classroom. The **Workgroup’s initial report** was submitted to the Legislature just before the start of this session. SB 5179, called a “significant education reform which will have a significant impact on student outcomes” by the sponsor of the bill, Sen. Hill, would implement a number of the recommendations from the Workgroup. In testimony, WASA agreed that paraeducators are an important piece of the education puzzle and stated additional training and education for them would be positive; however, we stopped short of supporting the bill because of several real concerns. We mentioned three specific concerns:

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- **Timing**—We stated our concerns that the bill has an aggressive and very condensed implementation schedule—even though the Workgroup specifically recommended a five year implementation schedule. The Workgroup noted that “given the current reality that many school districts are stretched to capacity implementing new K–12 reform initiatives under restricted budgets with limited personnel, the implementation of new employment standards and certification requirements for paraeducators must be staged over a practical length of time.” Yes, indeed.
- **Fiscal**—We noted two concerns related to funding. First, the Workgroup recommended and the bill would require: teachers to be trained on how to direct a paraeducator; and principals to be trained on how to supervise and evaluate paraeducators. There is NO discussion in the bill about how that professional development would be funded. Second, it is logical to assume that if paraeducators are required to receive extra education and training and receive specific endorsements, they will seek additional pay. In supportive testimony, the representative from the Public School Employees of Washington, noted that additional pay might be the end result, but that was a local school district decision as part of collective bargaining. He argued against any state “interference” in the process. We argued that we support local control; however, if 295 school districts are expected to negotiate some 1,800 individual contracts with no additional funding from the state, implementation of the bill’s requirements will be impossible.
- **Paraeducator Board**—The bill requires the establishment of a new Paraeducator Board and delineates the required members. Although administrators were represented on the Workgroup, no central office administrators are contemplated in the membership of the new Board. We argued it would be appropriate for a district administrator to be involved.

Ironically, at the same time many stakeholders were testifying (mostly with great concerns) on this bill in the Senate, across the campus the House Education Committee was holding a work session to be briefed on the [Paraeducator Workgroup report](#). They are scheduled to hear the House companion bill, [HB 1293](#), next week.

## AEA

By Mitch Denning

AEA testified on Tuesday in House Capital Budget on [HB 1115](#), Gov. Inslee’s 2015–17 Capital Budget. We support the Small Repair and Healthiest Next Generation Grant program, as WAMOA and WASBO have strongly supported the Small Repair Grant program from 2005 through 2013 because it has helped many districts with small health and safety repairs for which they had no funding.

However, we did express concerns about the underfunding of area cost allowance and student square footage allocations in Gov. Inslee’s Capital Budget. In addition, we urged the committee to consider additional funding for needed classrooms as the Legislature approves additional staffing for all-day kindergarten and K–3 class size reduction. The Governor’s \$10 million for all-day kindergarten capacity grants is far short of the need districts have for additional K–3 classrooms.

All three of our groups are preparing to meet on three separate days next week with key legislators regarding (1) underfunding of K–12 basic education salaries currently paid for out of the local levy (WASBO); (2) capital budget issues (WAMOA); and (3) school nutrition funding and school breakfast programs (WSNA). In next week’s *TWIO*, we will summarize the results of these meetings.

## Pensions/Health Benefits

By Fred Yancey – The Nexus Group

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The following is a partial list of bills that could affect current and future retirees. The sponsors are listed so in the event you are communicating with any of them, please let them know of your interest.

**First, a last reminder:** Last Session, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed legislation that eliminated the annual option a member of Plan 3 has had to change his/her contribution rate. If you're a TRS Plan 3 member, you have one last opportunity in January 2015 to change your contribution rate. If you decide to do so, please complete the TRS Plan 3 Contribution Rate Change form. Once you have filled out the form, submit it to your employer between January 1 and January 31. After that, TRS Plan 3 members would only be able to change their rate when they change employers, as is the case currently with PERS and SERS Plan 3 members.

This change was made because the Internal Revenue Service has provisionally qualified the state of Washington's TRS Plan 3 with an important condition—that the annual rate change option be removed.

**HB 1109** – Authorizing membership in the teachers' retirement system for certificated employees of the superintendent of public instruction.

Sponsors: Representatives Reykdal, Wilcox, Bergquist

**HB 1163** – Concerning paid vacation leave.

*(This bill would compel an employer to grant two hours of vacation leave for every 40 hours an employee worked. As written, it explicitly exempts school districts. This bill is scheduled to be heard before the House Committee on Labor on Jan. 29, at 8 a.m.)*

Sponsors: Representatives Tarleton, Walkinshaw, Moeller, Ortiz-Self, Gregerson, Pollet, S. Hunt, Appleton, Ormsby, Goodman

**HB 1273** – Implementing family and medical leave insurance.

*(This bill, as written, establishes a family and medical insurance program in partnership with the Employment Security Department. It would be funded by charging an employer 2/10th of one percent of an employee's wage. This charge would rise to 4/10th of one percent in 2018. Those collected dollars would fund the program. Of course, this overlooks the additional cost to a district of a substitute if needed. This bill is scheduled for a public hearing before the House Committee on Labor on Jan. 29, at 8 a.m.)*

Sponsors: Representatives Robinson, Sells, Farrell, Hudgins, Kagi, Wylie, Sawyer, Walkinshaw, Moscoso, Ryu, Ormsby, Riccelli, Jinkins, Senn, McBride, Gregerson, Fitzgibbon, Moeller, Reykdal, S. Hunt, Stanford, Bergquist, Santos, Pollet, Fey, Tarleton

**HB 1542 (SB 5473)** – Providing retirement benefits at earlier ages in the Plans 2 and 3 of the public employees' retirement system, the teachers' retirement system, and the school employees' retirement system.

*("Rule of 85" When your minimum age of 55 and years of experience total 85, you could retire with full benefits.)*

Sponsors: Representatives S. Hunt, Moscoso, Reykdal, Sells, Pollet, Dunshee

**HB 1615 (SB 5545)** – Concerning postretirement employment.

*(Allows certificated and classified retirees who used 2008 ERF's (Age 62 and 30 years of experience) to retire early with full benefits to return to work as substitutes, contract and/or project employees.)*

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Sponsors: Representatives Appleton, Santos, Pollet, Moscoso, Reykdal, Sells, S. Hunt, Dunshee, Ormsby, Bergquist, Ortiz-Self, Fitzgibbon

**SB 5473 (HB 1542)** – Providing retirement benefits at earlier ages in the plans 2 and 3 of the public employees' retirement system, the teachers' retirement system, and the school employees' retirement system.

*(Rule of 85. Companion bill to HB 1542 cited above.)*

Sponsors: Senators Chase, Hasegawa, McAuliffe, Rolfes, Conway

**SB 5148** – Allowing members who retire early under alternate early retirement provisions as set forth in RCW 41.32.765(3) and 41.32.875(3) to work as substitute teachers and continue receiving retirement benefits at the same time.

*(The title says it all. "Beginning July 1, 2015, employment with an employer for the purposes of this subsection shall not include employment as a substitute teacher as defined in RCW 41.32.010.)*

*The definition of 'teacher' as cited in the bill is "Substitute teacher" means:*

- a. A teacher who is hired by an employer to work as a temporary teacher, except for teachers who are annual contract employees of an employer and are guaranteed a minimum number of hours; or*
- b. Teachers who either (i) work in ineligible positions for more than one employer or (ii) work in an ineligible position or positions together with an eligible position.*

Sponsors: Senators Parlette, Dammeier, Chase, Conway, McAuliffe, O'Ban

**SB 5435** – Expanding participation in the Washington state deferred compensation program.

Sponsors: Senators Bailey, Schoesler

*(Beginning no later than January 1, 2017, all subdivisions of the state that participate in one or more the state retirement systems listed in RCS 41.50.030 must offer the state deferred compensation program as an option to all employees....)*

*(Beginning no later than January 1, 2016, all persons newly employed by the state who are eligible to participate in a deferred compensation plan shall be enrolled in the state deferred compensation plan **unless the employee affirmatively elects to waive participation in the plan**. Persons who participate in the plan without having selected a deferral amount or investment option **shall contribute three percent** of taxable compensation to their plan account which shall be invested in a default option selected by the state investment board in consultation with the director....)*

**SB 5545 (HB 1615)** – Concerning postretirement employment.

*(ERF certificated and classified employees may return to part-time work. Companion bill HB 1615 cited above.)*

Sponsors: Senators McAuliffe, Chase, Liias, Conway

# 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

#### 1:30–3:25 a.m.

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

#### 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://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/committeelisting.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 12, 2015

First Day of Session.

### February 20, 2015

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

### February 27, 2015

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

### March 11, 2015

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

### April 1, 2015

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

### April 7, 2015

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

### April 15, 2015\*

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).

### April 26, 2015

Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

\*After the 94th 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. A more comprehensive bill watch list is located on the [WASA website](#).

Bill #	Title	Status	Sponsor
<a href="#">HB 1001</a>	Education, funding first	H Appropriations	MacEwen
<a href="#">HB 1003</a>	Schools, disaster recovery	H Education	Hawkins
<a href="#">HB 1028</a>	Court security	H Judiciary	Appleton
<a href="#">HB 1031</a>	College in the high school	H Education	Johnson
<a href="#">HB 1036</a>	Domestic partnerships & PERS	H Appropriations	Moeller
<a href="#">HB 1050</a>	Annual leave payments	H State Government	Hunt
<a href="#">HB 1051</a>	Supreme court elections	H Judiciary	DeBolt
<a href="#">HB 1058</a>	Lobbyists, electronic filing	H State Government	Moeller
<a href="#">HB 1072</a>	Prevailing wage surveys	H Labor	Manweller
<a href="#">HB 1073</a>	Prevailing rate of wage	H Labor	Manweller
<a href="#">HB 1074</a>	Prevailing wage survey data	H Labor	Manweller
<a href="#">HB 1075</a>	Prevailing wages, paying of	H Labor	Manweller
<a href="#">HB 1081</a>	College in the high school	H Education	Sullivan
<a href="#">HB 1086</a>	Public record commercial use	H State Government	Moeller
<a href="#">HB 1087</a>	Traffic safety cameras	H Transportation	Takko
<a href="#">HB 1101</a>	Conservation districts	H Local Government	Wilcox
<a href="#">HB 1105</a>	Operating sup budget 2015	H Appropriations	Hunter
<a href="#">HB 1106</a>	Operating budget 2015–2017	H Appropriations	Hunter
<a href="#">HB 1109</a>	OSPI certificated employees/TRS	H Appropriations	Reykdal
<a href="#">HB 1115</a>	Capital budget 2015–2017	H Cap Budget	Dunshee
<a href="#">HB 1116</a>	Capital sup budget 2015	H Cap Budget	Dunshee
<a href="#">HB 1120</a>	School bus driver immunity	H Judiciary	Wilcox
<a href="#">HB 1121</a>	Financial education partnership	H Education	Parker
<a href="#">HB 1142</a>	Parking fees/H.S. students	H Education	Wilcox
<a href="#">HB 1149</a>	Students/military families	H Education	Muri
<a href="#">HB 1154</a>	Affordable college grant program	H Higher Education	Bergquist
<a href="#">HB 1164</a>	Student nutrition/grant program	H Cap Budget	Riccelli
<a href="#">HB 1166</a>	State general obligation bonds, accts	H Cap Budget	Dunshee

HB 1168	Retiree return-to-work/PERS	H Appropriations	Ormsby
HB 1189	City, district public records	H Local Government	Hunt
HB 1230	Interest arbitration	H Labor	Sells
HB 1236	College bound scholarship	H Higher Education	Ortiz-Self
HB 1239	Tax exemption accountability	H Finance	Pollet
HB 1240	Student restraint, isolation	H Education	Pollet
HB 1242	Educational employee strikes	H Labor	Muri
HB 1243	Truancy of students	H Judiciary	Muri
HB 1254	Prevailing wages/pilot project	H Labor	Manweller
HB 1273	Family & medical leave insurance	H Labor	Robinson
HB 1293	Paraeducators	H Education	Bergquist
HB 1295	Breakfast after the bell	H Education	Hudgins
HB 1297	Trans sup budget 2013–2015	H Transportation	Clibborn
HB 1299	Trans budget 2015–2017	H Transportation	Clibborn
HB 1300	Transportation revenue	H Transportation	Clibborn
HB 1331	School library & tech programs	H Education	Muri
HB 1335	Rec. marijuana businesses	H Commerce & Gaming	Condotta
HB 1345	Professional learning	H Education	Lytton
HB 1349	Exempted info/public records	H State Government	Hunt
HB 1354	Employee anti-retaliation	H Labor	Ryu
HB 1355	Minimum hourly wage increase	H Labor	Farrell
HB 1356	Sick & safe employment leave	H Labor	Jinkins
HB 1363	H.S. certificates/graduation	H Education	Hunt
HB 1379	Feb, April special elections	H State Government	Shea
HB 1385	Revenue growth for education	H Appropriations	Magendanz
HB 1386	School employees/reductions	H Education	Magendanz
HB 1408	Family engagement coordinator	H Education	Ortiz-Self
HB 1413	Rec. marijuana businesses	H Commerce & Gaming	Moscoco
HB 1420	School siting and aid	H Local Government	Wilcox
HB 1433	Firearms in school zones	H Judiciary	Scott
HB 1436	Homeless youth	H Early Learning/Human Svc	Kagi
HB 1444	Property tax relief	H Finance	Hunt
HB 1445	Computer science/world languages	H Higher Education	Reykdal

HB 1455	Prevailing wage/local governments	H Labor	Pike
HB 1477	Quarterly revenue forecasts	H Finance	MacEwen
HB 1483	Investment income B&O deduct.	H Finance	Pollet
HB 1484	Capital gains excise tax	H Finance	Jinkins
HB 1491	Early care & education system	H Early Learning/Human Svc	Kagi
HB 1492	Technology literacy	H Education	Magendanz
HB 1495	Student user privacy	H Education	Reykdal
HB 1497	School district's board	H Education	Pettigrew
HB 1511	Tribal history, culture, etc.	H Comm. Dev, Housing	Ortiz-Self
HB 1528	Epinephrine autoinjectors	H HC/Wellness	Robinson
HB 1538	Education employee COLABORs	H Appropriations	Sells
HB 1541	Educational opportunity gap	H Education	Santos
HB 1542	PERS, TRS, SERS/earlier ages	H Appropriations	Hunt
HB 1546	Dual credit education opportunities	H Education	Reykdal
HB 1562	Allergen info in public schools	H Education	Sullivan
SB 5045	Union security provisions	S Commerce and Labor	Angel
SSB 5063	Revenue growth for education	S Rules 2	Hill
SB 5064	Quarterly revenue forecasts	S Rules 2	Hill
SB 5065	Homeless students	S EL/K-12	Frocket
SB 5076	Operating sup budget 2015	S Ways & Means	Hill
SB 5077	Operating budget 2015-2017	S Ways & Means	Hill
SB 5080	Dual credit educ. options	S EL/K-12	Dammeier
SSB 5081	State government expenditures	S Rules 2	Miloscia
SB 5082	Career & tech education/elem. school	S EL/K-12	McAuliffe
SB 5083	Sudden cardiac arrest	S EL/K-12	McAuliffe
SB 5086	Dual credit education opportunities	S EL/K-12	Litzow
SB 5093	Nuclear energy education program	S Energy, Environment	Brown
SB 5095	State gen obligation bonds, accts	S Ways & Means	Honeyford
SB 5096	Capital sup budget 2015	S Ways & Means	Honeyford
SB 5097	Capital budget 2015-2017	S Ways & Means	Honeyford
SB 5102	Rural schools/urban services	S GovernmentOp&StSec	Padden
SB 5110	School siting outside UGAs	S GovernmentOp&StSec	Brown
SB 5120	School district dissolutions	S EL/K-12	Parlette

SB 5148	TRS early retire/substitutes	S Ways & Means	Parlette
SB 5160	Native early childcare & education	S EL/K-12	McCoy
SB 5163	Students/military families	S EL/K-12	Hobbs
SB 5179	Paraeducators	S EL/K-12	Hill
SB 5190	Public art and buildings	S Ways & Means	Benton
SB 5202	Financial education partnership	S EL/K-12	Mullet
SB 5211	Retiree return-to-work/PERS	S Ways & Means	Bailey
SB 5229	Technology literacy	S EL/K-12	Litzow
SB 5252	School safety, security centers	S EL/K-12	Dammeier
SB 5285	Minimum hourly wage increase	S Commerce and Labor	Jayapal
SB 5286	Higher education support	S Higher Ed	Baumgartner
SB 5291	Epinephrine autoinjectors	S Health Care	Mullet
SB 5294	School library & tech programs	S EL/K-12	McAuliffe
SB 5303	Washington AIM program	S EL/K-12	Litzow
SB 5306	Sick & safe employment leave	S Commerce and Labor	Habib
SB 5312	Educator retooling/program	S EL/K-12	Litzow
SB 5316	Identifiable student info	S EL/K-12	Dammeier
SB 5327	H.S. certificates/graduation	S EL/K-12	McCoy
SB 5329	Public employee bargaining	S Commerce and Labor	Braun
SB 5334	Basic education/local levies	S EL/K-12	Mullet
SB 5351	Education T.O.	S EL/K-12	Litzow
SB 5352	Education T.O.	S EL/K-12	Litzow
SB 5358	Transportation revenue	S Transportation	Liias
SB 5359	Trans sup budget 2013-2015	S Transportation	Hobbs
SB 5360	Trans budget 2015-2017	S Transportation	Liias
SB 5361	Transportation projects/bonds	S Transportation	Liias
SB 5384	Income to meet basic needs	S Commerce and Labor	Miloscia
SB 5390	Investment pools/state & county	S GovernmentOp&StSec	Dansel
SB 5391	Teacher cert. degree programs	S EL/K-12	Litzow
SB 5392	Quality education council	S EL/K-12	Litzow
SB 5393	Schools/exemplary performance	S EL/K-12	Litzow
SB 5396	Children/guardians, family	S GovernmentOp&StSec	Roach
SB 5404	Homeless youth	S HumSer/MenHlth	O'Ban

SB 5415	Prof. educator learning days	S EL/K-12	McAuliffe
SB 5419	Student user privacy	S EL/K-12	Litzow
SB 5433	Tribal history, culture, etc.	S EL/K-12	Litzow
SB 5435	State deferred comp program	S Ways & Means	Bailey
SB 5437	Breakfast after the bell	S EL/K-12	Litzow
SB 5452	Early care & education system	S EL/K-12	Litzow
SB 5459	Family & medical leave insurance	S Commerce and Labor	Keiser
SB 5469	Education employee COLA	S Ways & Means	Hasegawa
SB 5473	PERS, TRS, SERS/earlier ages	S Ways & Means	Chase
SB 5478	Education reform/facilities	S Ways & Means	Dammeier
SB 5492	Tax exemption accountability	S Ways & Means	Frocket
SB 5495	Educator professional growth	S GovernmentOp&StSec	Litzow
SB 5496	Teacher certification	S EL/K-12	Litzow
SB 5497	Prof. educator standards board	S EL/K-12	Litzow
SB 5500	Firearms at schools/officers	S Labor & Justice	Roach
SB 5506	Sexual health education/abuse, etc.	S EL/K-12	McAuliffe
SB 5517	Sexual harassment prevention	S EL/K-12	Kohl-Welles
SJM 8006	Sexual abuse/children, peers	S EL/K-12	Kohl-Welles
SJR 8200	2/3 vote for tax increases	S GovernmentOp&StSec	Roach
SJR 8201	Initiative measures	S Ways & Means	Fain
SJR 8202	Income tax	S Ways & Means	Chase
SR 8601	Adopting senate rules	S Adopted	Schoesler

