



# *This Week in Olympia*

## Washington Association of School Administrators

Barbara L. Mertens  
Government Relations

[www.wasa-oly.org](http://www.wasa-oly.org)  
[bmertens@wasa-oly.org](mailto:bmertens@wasa-oly.org)

## Week 3

**January 30, 2009**

**This is the 19th day of the  
Jan. 12 through April 26  
2009 Regular Session  
(86 to go).**

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- This Week in Review
- Hearing Schedule Week of Jan 26-30
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### HEARINGS

The big news this week was all of the attention given to the issue of restructuring and fully funding our K-12 finance system. The Basic Education Finance Task Force (BEFTF) bills, SB 5444 and HB 1410, ([Click here to read section by section analysis.](#)) were heard in both houses. Drove of people descended on Olympia to voice their support for increased funding for schools and a new way to get that funding to schools. In a concerted effort to keep the bills moving, testimony and a letter of support was sent to the committees by thirty-five superintendents in the Puget Sound ESD. ([Click here to read the letter.](#)) WASA, along with the other members of the Full Funding Coalition, expressed strong concerns ([Click to read.](#)) and offered to work with legislators on a compromise piece of legislation using both the coalition's bills, SB 5607 and HB 1817, and the BEFTF bills. Our coalition's Senate bill will be heard in Senate Education on Monday, February 2 at 1:30.

### BUDGET NEWS

House Ways and Means passed their proposed Supplemental Budget HB 1694 out of committee on Wednesday. The supplemental budget makes adjustments to the 2007-09 operating budget to account for workload variations and reductions to programs in this biennium which sets maintenance levels for the 2009-2011 biennial budget. The House's proposal reduces the total 2007-09 Operating Budget by \$640M. K-12 is reduced by \$21M. This covers about \$7.4M in agency and grants reductions, \$4.2M in pension "savings" and \$8.1 from I-728. '08-09 allocations are shifted to July-Aug 09. This will be an addition to actual reductions to I-728 that are in the Governor's proposed 2009-2011 occurring in 09-10. The levy equalization reductions in the Governor's supplemental budget are not included in the House supplemental budget.

### THIS WEEK IN REVIEW

#### WASA/WSSDA 2009 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The WASA/WSSDA 2009 Legislative Conference is scheduled for February 8-9 at the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia. Registration materials can be downloaded at <http://www.wasa-oly.org/Content/NavigationMenu/PROFESSIONALDEVELOPMENT/ConferencesSeminars/default.htm> Invite your legislators to join you at the reception Sunday evening from 6:00-7:30 in the Forest Ballroom.

## **THIS WEEK IN REVIEW**

**(Cont'd)**

### [WORK SESSIONS](#)

Education Appropriations continued its briefings on school funding. Chair Kathy Haigh has stated that she wants all of her committee members to be well informed about the current system of financing K-12 because the proposed changes—whether in the budgets or bills—will have a significant impact on school districts. The House Education Committee held a number of sessions focusing on career and tech education including one on Running Start for the Trades and the implementation of 2SSB 6377 passed last year. Bills on opportunity internships (HB 1355) and career and tech for middle schools (HB 1356) were heard. (Education Appropriations reviewed state funding for early learning programs.)

Senate Education spent Thursday reviewing the Department of Early Learning, Thrive by Five, Kindergarten Assessment, research on learning and brain sciences, and the K-3 demonstration project.

A joint committee hearing of House Education and Education Appropriations—also on Thursday—reviewed the current and future plans for educational data collection and use and dual enrollment programs Running Start and College in the High School.

### [BILLS OF INTEREST THIS WEEK](#)

To review a specific bill go to Bill Watch and click on the bill number.

HB 1075 - The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity was heard in House Education. Greg Lynch, Superintendent of Central Kitsap, who served on the interim task force which crafted a number of reasonable amendments to last years' bill, testified in favor of the bill, emphasizing the commitment of school districts to support military children and their families. Companion bill SB 5248 (See TWIO 1/23) passed out of Senate Education and was referred to Ways and Means.

HB 1347 - would authorize the SBE to grant waivers, for purposes of “economy and efficiency” to allow districts to operate school(s) on a four-day school week—maintaining the 1,000 instructional hours requirement. (WASA’s Legislation and Finance Committee will be discussing this on our 2/2 conference call.)

HB 1322 - repealing school scoliosis screening requirement. Another go at eliminating this unfunded mandate. It has been requested by the medical community and is supported by school groups.

HB 1385 and SB 5232 would clarify that a school employee is guilty of sexual misconduct with a minor in the first degree if the person has sexual intercourse with a registered student of the school who is between 16 and 20 years old, if the employee is at least 60 months older than the student. The bills are in response to recent court decisions about the nebulous term “minor” and are supported by the education associations.

### [COMING UP ...](#)

Next Wednesday (February 4) a series of bills proposing to change statewide assessment requirements for graduation will be heard in both education committees. (See Committee Schedules and Bill Watch in this issue.) WASA’s Legislation and Finance Committee will be reviewing these bills on Monday morning.

### [FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN](#)

On the federal level, the House passed H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 largely along party lines (224 to 188). The bill contains key investments for education.

**THIS WEEK  
IN REVIEW**

**(Cont'd)**

H.R. 1 would provide \$14 billion in funding for school infrastructure that would be made available to districts within 60 days after enactment. The economic stimulus bill would also provide increases of \$13 billion each for Title I grants for disadvantaged students and special education (IDEA Part B grants to states) over a two-year period (FY2009 and FY2010). The measure would also appropriate funding to schools through a state emergency stabilization fund that would include at least \$39 billion dedicated to elementary, secondary and higher education. The Senate is expected to consider its companion bill S.336 next week, with a goal of completing the legislation by President's Day. (Excerpted from NSBA Update January 28, 2009)

A district by district analysis of the PROPOSED funding can be found [here](#).

**GOVERNOR GREGOIRE'S ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROPOSALS**

Earlier this month the Governor unveiled her "Washington Jobs Now" package for capital construction. Among other things it will provide enough money to cover K-12 projects already in line for funding but mostly provides funding for a number of projects for higher education.

Yesterday she added a "Green Jobs and Climate Action" package "to create jobs, expand our green economy and make important progress toward energy independence."

The Governor and OSPI are working closely with officials in Washington, D.C. on the federal economic stimulus package referred to above. Our national association, AASA, is also monitoring the bill's progress and advocating for schools as the package moves through Congress.

**Monday, 2/2/09**

**HEARING SCHEDULE  
Week of Feb 2 - 6**

***SENATE EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION***

**JAC ROOM 1**

**1:30 - 3:30 p.m**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. SGA 9020 - Yang-su Cho, Member, State School for the Blind Board of Trustees.
2. SB 5379 - Equalizing school district salary allocations.
3. SB 5607 - Attaining a world class K-12 educational system.

***SENATE WAYS & MEANS***

**JAC ROOM 4**

**3:30 - 5:30 p.m**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. SB 5302 - Granting half-time service credit for half-time educational employment prior to January 1, 1987, in plans 2 and 3 of the school employees' retirement system and the public employees' retirement system.

**Tuesday, 2/3/09**

***HOUSE EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS***

**JLOB ROOM A**

**8:00 - 10:00 a.m**

**WORK SESSION:**

1. Completion of the briefing on state funding for K-12 public schools.
2. Public comment on the Governor's 2009-11 budget proposals for (a) Readiness to Learn, (b) Navigation 101, and (c) Reading Corps.

**HEARING SCHEDULE  
Week of Feb 2 - 6**

**(Cont'd)**

***HOUSE EDUCATION***

**JLOB ROOM C**

**10:00 a.m - Noon**

**WORK SESSION:** Gangs in Schools Task Force Report.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. HB 1156 - Creating a preference in the alternative route certification program for veterans and national guard members.
2. HB 1319 - Prohibiting school district employees from using public assets for private gain.
3. HJM 4002 - Requesting reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act to include health and fitness.

***HOUSE AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES***

**JLOB ROOM B**

**1:30 - 3:30 p.m**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. HB 1595 - Regarding the transfer of certain state forest lands.

***HOUSE EARLY LEARNING & CHILDREN'S SERVICES***

**JLOB ROOM E**

**1:30 - 3:30 p.m**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. HB 1373- Concerning children's mental health services.

***HOUSE HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS***

**JLOB ROOM A**

**1:30 - 3:30 p.m**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. HB 1282- Creating a school-based influenza vaccination pilot program.
2. HB 1703 - Concerning child immunization exemptions.

***HOUSE STATE GOVERNMENT & TRIBAL AFFAIRS***

**JLOB ROOM D**

**1:30 - 3:30 p.m**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. HB 1466 - Regarding student fees, charges, and assessments.
2. HB 1475 - Requiring state agency rule-making information to be posted on each state agency's web site.

***HOUSE WAYS & MEANS***

**JLOB ROOM A**

**3:30 - 5:30 p.m**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. HB 1541 - Granting half-time service credit for half-time educational employment prior to January 1, 1987, in plans 2 and 3 of the school employees' retirement system and the public employees' retirement system.

**HEARING SCHEDULE  
Week of Feb 2 - 6**

**(Cont'd)**

***HOUSE CAPITAL BUDGET***

**JLOB ROOM C**

**3:30 - 5:30 p.m**

**WORK SESSION:**

1. Joint Legislative School Construction Funding Task Force.
2. Department of Natural Resources Trust Land Management and Trust Land Transfer.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. HB 1618 - Concerning community and surplus schools.
2. HB 1619 - Concerning the use of capital projects funds by school districts.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

HB 1452 - Concerning economic stimulus.

**Wednesday, 2/4/09**

***SENATE EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION***

**JAC ROOM 1**

**8:00 - 10:00 a.m**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. SB 5414 - Implementing recommendations of the WASL legislative work group.
2. SB 5260 - Motivating students through incentives to pursue postsecondary education by eliminating statewide assessments as a high school graduation requirement.
3. SB 5459 - Creating multiple measures to meet high school graduation requirements.
4. SB 5498 - Changing the requirements for graduating without a certificate of academic achievement or a certificate of individual achievement.

***HOUSE EDUCATION***

**JLOB ROOM A**

**1:30 - 3:30 p.m**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. HB 1646 - Making adjustments pertaining to the high school Washington assessment of student learning in mathematics and science.
2. HB 1562 - Providing career and technical education opportunities for middle school students.
3. HB 1341 - Motivating students through incentives to pursue postsecondary education by eliminating statewide assessments as a high school graduation requirement.

***HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH***

**JLOB ROOM C**

**1:30 - 3:30 p.m**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. HB 1469 - Establishing the product stewardship recycling act for mercury-containing lights.

***SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT***

**JAC ROOM 3**

**3:30 - 5:30 p.m**

**WORK SESSION:**

1. Capital budget briefing by Senate Ways & Means staff.

**HEARING SCHEDULE  
Week of Feb 2 - 6**

**(Cont'd)**

**Thursday, 2/5/09**

***HOUSE HEALTH CARE & WELLNESS***

**JLOB ROOM A**

**8:00 - 10:00 a.m**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. HB 1155 - Concerning billing for medical services provided through special education programs.

***SENATE EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION***

**JAC ROOM 1**

**10:00 a.m - Noon**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. SB 5074 - Concerning scoliosis screening in schools.
2. SB 5112 - Eliminating the 180-day school year requirements while maintaining the one thousand instructional hour requirement.
3. SB 5551 - Regarding recess periods for elementary school students.

***HOUSE EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS***

**JLOB ROOM A**

**1:30 - 3:30 p.m**

**WORK SESSION:**

1. Presentation by Randy Dorn, Superintendent of Public Instruction.
2. Public comment on assessment systems.

***SENATE WAYS & MEANS***

**JAC ROOM 4**

**1:30 - 3:30 p.m**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. SB 5248 - Enacting the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children.
2. SB 5580 - Concerning school impact fees.

***HOUSE WAYS & MEANS***

**JLOB ROOM A**

**3:30 - 5:30 p.m**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. HB 1558 - Regarding enrollment calculations for certain K-12 programs.

**Friday, 2/6/09**

***HOUSE EDUCATION***

**JLOB ROOM D**

**8:00 - 10:00 a.m**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. HB 1632 - Regarding annual school reporting.
2. HB 1502 - Increasing the number of school nurses.
3. HB 1416 - Feeding hungry children through school breakfast and lunch programs and summer food service programs.
4. HB 1418 - Establishing a statewide dropout reengagement system.

## BILL WATCH

The Bill Watch tracks education related bills. A bill's journey to become a law changes as it is heard in committee and then either dies or moves to the floor of the House or Senate. If it passes there, it crosses over to the other side and goes through the same process. A bill must be signed by the Governor before it becomes a law. Information about each bill - including sponsors, bill digests, bill reports, amendments, actions, and history can be found by clicking on the link below. Click [HERE](#) to see the 2009 Session Cut-off Calendar.

## BILL WATCH

## RETIREMENT/HEALTH BENEFITS

We continue to schedule and meet with both senators and representatives that serve on the two fiscal committees, Senate Ways & Means and House Ways & Means. We have gathered legislator signatures on the last of the bills we expect to drop into the Code Reviser Office for introduction into this session.

Committee work sessions on pensions have been held in both fiscal committees. Legislators are leaning toward opposition to the Governor's method of cutting pension dollars. Her budget changes the Plan 2/3 pension funding method from the present aggregate funding method to the projected unit credit (PUC) method. The PUC tends to move costs to the future and could possibly allow Plans 2/3 to accrue an unfunded liability. This shift, which would be next to impossible to reverse, saves the state about \$400 million.

Legislators continue to explore ways of saving dollars within pensions. By postponing some of the payment on the Plan 1 unfunded liability and moving out the year 2024 payment end date for Plan 1, they could save a comparable amount to the \$400 million Governor's proposed cut. By using this method the legislators, hopefully, would eventually pay the money back into the pension system.

The House Ways & Means Committee will be holding hearings on ten of the eleven SCPP recommended bills on February 2nd and 3rd at 3:30 PM. We will be supporting all of these bills.

An updated [Retirement/Health Benefit bill watch](#) is available on our association's web site.

## AEA

AEA testified last Tuesday in House Education against HB 1292 which would give the school districts the opportunity to petition the State Board so they could hold school less than 180 days and operate a four-day school week. From WSNA's view, though there could be some cost savings regarding the purchase of food, serving meals four days a week would reduce food service employees' salaries and benefits, reduce local income for the food service program as well as federal reimbursement for reduced and free meals served, and finally, for many of our poverty students, they could go hungry that day.

AEA testified based on WAMOA and WASBO's input on both HB 1410 and SB 5444, a comprehensive system of public education programs, finance and accountability, before the Senate Early Learning/K-12 Education Committee on Wednesday morning, and the combined House Education/Education Appropriations Committees on Wednesday evening.

We favor the parts of the bill that identify the current financial shortfall in K-12 funding, provide needed transparency to the K-12 finance system for local citizens, implement the concept of a "prototype" school allocation model, increase support cost allocations, such as NERCs, and phase in the new system over a six-year period. We did express concerns about the implementation of the new program standards without any evidence of funding, which are clearly unfunded mandates. We also felt that students would be hard pressed to wait until the 2017-18 school year for complete implementation.

AEA will testify on Monday, Feb. 2 on SB 5607, attaining a world-class educational system.

## WASA'S 2009 SESSION GUIDE

WASA's 2009 Legislative Session Guide, which includes legislators' phone numbers and email addresses, has been mailed to all WASA members. A copy has been posted online. Click on [Session Guide](#) to view.

## KEEPING UP WITH THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

You can also contact legislators using the Legislative Hotline 1-800-562-6000 or by going to the legislature's website <http://www.leg.wa.gov>

Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/EDU/>

House Education  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/House/Committees/ED/>

Senate Ways and Means  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/WM/>

House Ways and Means  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/House/Committees/WAYS/>

House Education Appropriations  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/House/Committees/APPE/>

House Capital Budget  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/House/Committees/CB/>

TVW  
<http://www.tw.org/index.cfm?bhcp=1>

Barbara L. Mertens, Ed.D.  
Assistant Executive Director  
[bmertens@wasa-oly.org](mailto:bmertens@wasa-oly.org)



WASA 1-800-859-9272  
[www.wasa-oly.org](http://www.wasa-oly.org)  
Leg. Hotline: 1-800-562-6000