



# *This Week in Olympia*

## Washington Association of School Administrators

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## Week 9

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**March 13, 2009**

**This is the 61st day of  
the  
Jan. 12 through April 26  
2009 Regular Session  
(44 to go).**

### THE WEEK IN REVIEW

#### THIS WEEK IN REVIEW

Legislators spent the week in caucus and on the floor debating and taking action on hundreds of bills. Of these, about a hundred were related to K-12. Most of the bills for which brief summaries were provided in last week's TWIO are still alive in one form or another. (Last week's TWIO) These bills have now been assigned to committees in the opposite house and hearings on them will begin next week.

### K-12 FINANCE BILLS

WASA is carefully monitoring the "new" bills aimed at reforming the K-12 finance system. ESB 6048 is the Senate's version and ESHB 2261 is the House's version of working out a compromise between the two competing bills that were first introduced. Legislators on the Basic Education Task Force, the League of Education Voters, WSPTA, and others supported one approach. Another approach was supported by stakeholders in the Full Funding Coalition. WASA will be actively involved in work on the new bills which are considered "works in progress." We will be advocating for a final bill that:

1. Aligns the definition of basic education with Supreme Court decisions and the education goals, learning requirements, and grade level expectations adopted by the Legislature in 1993 and amended subsequent years. As Judge Doran said in his 1977 decision, the legislature is obligated to review the funding of basic education as the system evolves and changes.
2. Provides a new allocation model using a prototype schools approach. The prototypes would contain detailed specification of the programs, staffing, and resources sufficient to enable all students to meet state and federal

## THIS WEEK IN REVIEW

(Cont'd)

goals and to offer a program of education consistent with state and federal mandates, rules, and regulations. The 2011-12 maintenance level budget should be the baseline for prototype school funding. Policy level budgets would enhance the maintenance level prototype in the 2011-13 biennium. An on-going oversight group would recommend necessary increases.

3. Establishes an on-going, nonpartisan group to oversee the K-12 finance system, and to make recommendations to the legislature to ensure that the definition of Basic Education is up-to-date and education funding is ample. The new "K-12 Education Finance Council" would be modeled after the structure of the state's Economic and Revenue Forecast Council. It would have eleven members: four legislators, one from each of the four major political caucuses; a representative of the governor; a representative of the superintendent of public instruction; and five education finance experts appointed by SPI. The Council would hire an executive director.
4. Provides for a new revenue stream for K-12 education and creates a Full Funding of Basic Education Account for deposit of the new revenues.

[Click here to see a comparison](#) between the Senate's new bill, ESB 6048, and the "old" bill sponsored by the legislative Task Force, SB 5444. The House's new version (ESHB 2261) was still being "worked on" prior to final passage so it hasn't been added to the chart at this point.

### [BILLS THAT PASSED THEIR HOUSE OF ORIGIN](#)

A good deal of attention is being focused on graduation requirements, increasing graduation rates, closing achievement gaps, keeping kids in schools, and reengaging kids who have dropped out. HB 1562 removes the requirement that a student must continue to take the Math WASL each year. ESSB 5414 makes adjustments within the assessment system including changing the date for math EOCs to 2015. 2SSB 5676 is aimed at strengthening middle school tech programs. 2SSB 5973 continues the work of an interim group on "Closing the Achievement Gap." Two bills, SHB 1418 and SB 5449 create reengagement programs for dropouts. SHB 1418 does this through specific requirements within interlocal agreements overseen by ESDs and provided by school districts, communities and tech colleges, and community-based organizations. In SB 5441, the SBE sets annual goals for reengagement and graduation rates and makes recommendations on focused assistance and incentives. SHB 1758 allows students earning associate degrees or tech program certification to receive a diploma. 2SHB 2119 establishes agency reporting requirements for Running Start Students, develops guidelines for advising students and families on the impact of local credit programs for financial aid, adopts rules on College in the High School, and allows colleges to charge fees to Running Start students. SB 5378 requires digital learning programs to be accredited or on an OSPI approved list. SB 5410 establishes criteria for multidistrict online courses and providers that enter into contracts with school districts and/or the Digital Learning Commons.

School district levies will be impacted by ESHB 1018 and HB 1776. The first one eliminates the March special election to provide enough time so that levy election processes won't overlap and adds a "safety net" election in May if a levy doesn't pass in February or April. SHB 1776 removes a 2012 sunset clause, making permanent the provision for including projected I-728 and I-732 funding levels in the levy base. It also allows for an additional levy in the middle of a levy period if the levy base is expanded by state or federal legislation.

To review all bills that have passed, go to [Bills on the Move \(Week 9\)](#). Click on the bill number. When the page opens, go to the section at the bottom that says "Available Documents" and open the last bill under bill documents or bill reports to review the bill in its current form.

## THIS WEEK IN REVIEW

(Cont'd)

### FEDERAL STIMULUS UPDATE

The American Economic Recovery & Reinvestment Act has three funding “pots” for schools.

1. Funds flowing through established federal formulas, Title I, IDEA, Title II, McKinney Vento Homeless Act, Impact Aid
2. Funds flowing through the State Stabilization Fund, controlled by the governors and existing state funding formulas
  - one exception is \$5 billion for competitive grant in school improvement through the Secretary of Education’s ‘Race to the Top’ funds
3. Tax Credit Bonds for new construction and Qualified Zone Academy bonds for renovation and modernization

Staff in our national associations, federal, state and governors’ offices are working overtime to keep us all informed about the details of these “pots” as they become available. Because new information comes almost daily, we are providing you with links to help you keep up. We are participating in weekly conference calls with AASA staff.

Washington State’s stimulus website: <http://www.recovery.wa.gov>

American Association of School Administrators (AASA) - Hosts Webinar Updates for AASA members: <http://aasa.org/conferences/content.cfm?ItemNumber=11318>.

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) - Providing Q & A regarding issues of AARA implementation.

<http://www.k12.wa.us/Communications/StimulusPackage/default.aspx>

\*The Special Education Office at OSPI sent a memo on Wednesday to all special education directors with information specific to the IDEA stimulus package. OSPI will be distributing over \$400M in IDEA allocations to districts over the next seven months including stimulus funds and IDEA regular allocations—the first stimulus allocation by April 30, the regular IDEA allocation in July and the second stimulus allocation by October 31. The intent of the unprecedented increase in federal funding is to retain and hire special education staff and demonstrate that the outcomes for special education students and their families can be improved as a direct result. This transparency and accountability requirement will be included in every part of the stimulus package. OSPI will provide preliminary allocation tables and reporting requirements through the iGrant process as soon as this information is made available from the federal Office of Special Education Programs later this month. Current information can be found in the fact sheet for IDEA on the Dept. of Education website.

U.S. Department of Education - <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html>.

Federal website dedicated to the ARRA - <http://www.recovery.gov/>

### PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR MARCH 10 LEVY & BOND ELECTIONS

#### VIEW PRELIMINARY ELECTION RESULTS

Twenty-three of twenty-four school Maintenance & Operations levies passed. (Seven passed with a simple majority.) Of the fourteen bonds on the ballot, 7 passed. (One is still too close to call with 59.09%; a supermajority 60% is required to pass bonds.) Five capital projects were also on the ballot. Three passed (two with a simple majority).

### NEXT WEEK

Legislators return to work sessions, committee hearings, and executive sessions next

**THIS WEEK  
IN REVIEW**

**(Cont'd)**

week. The Economic Expenditure and Revenue Forecast Council issues its March report on Thursday, the 19th. The following week we should begin to see the first details of the 2009-2011 Operating Budget rolled out.

OSPI will hold two K-20 teleconferences to provide current information on the State Operating Budget and updates on the federal stimulus package. They will be held on March 27th and March 31st from 1:30 - 3:30. Call Tony Brownell at 360-725-6381 to arrange a hook-up for the teleconference.

**TOWN HALL MEETINGS**

Many legislators will be back in their districts during the next two weeks. It's your chance to meet and talk to them. Watch for announcements in your local press or visit [Town Hall meetings](#) on the League of Education Voters' website.

For some interesting points you might want to discuss with them, read "[School District Finance Crisis - 2009](#)" on WASA's website.

**MONDAY, MARCH 16**

***SENATE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS***

**JAC ROOM 1**

3/16/09 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** HB 1596 - Protecting a woman's right to breastfeed in a place of public resort, accommodation, assemblage, or amusement.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

ESHB 1018 - Modifying when a special election may be held.

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

**JAC ROOM 1**

3/16/09 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. SJM 8015 - Petitioning the President and Secretary of Education to commence proceedings to engage the nation with an awakening dialogue about our education system.
2. SHB 1758 - Expanding options for students to earn high school diplomas.
3. HB 2132 - Regarding instruction in civics.
4. SHB 1943 - Requiring recommendations for preparation and professional development for the early learning and school-age program workforce.
5. SHB 1418 - Establishing a statewide dropout reengagement system.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** HB 1562 - Changing the requirements for graduating without a certificate of academic achievement or a certificate of individual achievement.

***HOUSE CAPITAL BUDGET***

**JLOB ROOM C**

3/16/09 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Bills referred to committee.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Bills previously heard in committee.

**COMMITTEE  
HEARING SCHEDULE  
Week of March 16 - 20**

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**HOUSE WAYS & MEANS**

JLOB ROOM A

3/16/09 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**WORK SESSION:** Proposals that affect consideration of budgets and bills with fiscal impacts.

1. HB 1458 - Addressing fiscal notes.
2. HB 1654 - Establishing a period of public and legislative review of appropriations legislation.
3. HB 1655 - Requiring a balanced legislative budget.
4. HB 1657 - HJR 4203 Prioritizing basic education expenditures within the state appropriations process.
5. HB 1902 - Improving budget transparency by consolidating accounts into the state general fund.
6. HB 2228 - Concerning sustainable operating budgets.
7. HJR 4207 - Requiring extraordinary revenue growth to be transferred to the budget stabilization account.

**SENATE WAYS & MEANS**

JAC ROOM 4

3/16/09 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** To be announced.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 17**

**HOUSE EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS**

JLOB ROOM A

3/17/09 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.

**WORK SESSION:** Performance excellence in public schools.

**HOUSE EDUCATION**

JLOB ROOM A

3/17/09 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. SB 5378 - Regarding accreditation of digital learning programs.
2. SSB 5410 - Regarding online learning.
3. ESSB 5414 - Regarding statewide assessments and curricula.
4. SB 5487 - Changing the notification date for nonrenewal of a certificated employee's contract.
5. ESB 5714 - Providing conditional funding for teachers to pursue national board for professional teaching standards certification.

**HOUSE CAPITAL BUDGET**

JLOB ROOM C

3/17/09 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Bills referred to committee.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Bills previously heard in committee.

**COMMITTEE  
HEARING SCHEDULE  
Week of March 16 - 20**

***HOUSE WAYS & MEANS***

JLOB ROOM A

3/17/09 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Bills referred to committee.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Bills previously heard in committee.

***SENATE WAYS & MEANS***

JAC ROOM 4

3/17/09 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** To be announced.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18**

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

JAC ROOM 1

3/18/09 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. 2SHB 1762 - Increasing parental and community involvement in public education.
2. SHB 2147 - Closing the achievement gap in order to provide all students an excellent and equitable education.
3. EHB 1824 - Requiring the adoption of policies for the management of concussion and head injury in youth sports.
4. HB 1322 - Repealing scoliosis screening in schools.
5. SHB 1292 - Authorizing waivers from the one hundred eighty-day school requirement in order to allow four-day school weeks.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

***HOUSE EDUCATION***

JLOB ROOM A

3/18/09 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. ESSB 5763 - Requiring the adoption of policies for the management of concussion and head injury in youth sports.
2. ESSB 5828 - Authorizing certain school districts and educational service districts to designate a district treasurer. (If measure is referred to committee.)
3. ESSB 5449 - Regarding establishing and meeting graduation and reengagement goals.
4. SB 5498 - Changing the requirements for graduating without a certificate of academic achievement or a certificate of individual achievement.
5. 2SSB 5676 - Providing for career and technical education opportunities for middle school students.

***SENATE WAYS & MEANS***

JAC ROOM 4

3/18/09 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** To be announced.

**COMMITTEE  
HEARING SCHEDULE  
Week of March 16 - 20**

***HOUSE CAPITAL BUDGET***

JLOB ROOM C

3/18/09 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Bills referred to committee.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Bills previously heard in committee.

***HOUSE WAYS & MEANS***

JLOB ROOM A

3/18/09 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Bills referred to committee.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Bills previously heard in committee.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19**

***HOUSE EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS***

JLOB ROOM A

3/19/09 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.

**POSSIBLE PUBLIC HEARING:** Bills referred to committee.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Bills previously heard in committee.

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

JAC ROOM 1

3/19/09 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. HB 1852 - Modifying provisions relating to record checks using fingerprints.
2. SHB 1319 - Prohibiting school district employees from using public assets for private gain.
3. HB 1156 - Creating a preference in the alternative route certification program for veterans and national guard members.
4. HB 1675 - Changing the work experience provisions of the alternative route partnership grant program.
5. ESHB 1741 - Expanding the list of crimes that require dismissal or certificate revocation for school employees.

***SENATE WAYS & MEANS***

JAC ROOM 4

3/19/09 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** To be announced.

***HOUSE CAPITAL BUDGET***

JLOB ROOM C

3/19/09 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Bills referred to committee.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Bills previously heard in committee.

**COMMITTEE  
HEARING SCHEDULE  
Week of March 16 - 20**

**HOUSE WAYS & MEANS**

JLOB ROOM A

3/19/09 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Bills referred to committee.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Bills previously heard in committee.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 20**

**HOUSE EDUCATION**

JLOB ROOM A

3/20/09 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. SSB 5802 - Changing professional educator standards board provisions. (If measure is referred to committee.)
2. ESSB 5880 - Providing flexibility in the education system. (If referred to committee.)
3. ESSB 5889 - Providing flexibility in the education system. (If referred to committee.)
4. ESSB 5890 - Providing flexibility in the education system. (If referred to committee.)
5. 2SSB 5973 - Closing the achievement gap in K-12 schools.

**CUT-OFF CALENDAR**

*Click [HERE](#) to see the 2009 Session Cut-off Calendar.*

**RETIREMENT/HEALTH  
BENEFITS**

On Monday, March 4th 2SSB 5491 was brought up on the Senate floor and acted upon. This is the bill, in its original form, that would move all K-12 employees into the HCA Public Employee Benefit Board health plans. In the Senate Ways and Means Committee, the bill was changed into a work group that would report to the governor and then to the legislature by January 1, 2010 with proposed legislation to reduce the cost of providing health benefits to K-12 employees. On Monday, Senator Brandland attempted to offer a floor amendment in the form of a striker that would essentially bring the bill back to its original form. This floor amendment had mixed testimony; however, it failed. The Senate then passed 2SSB 5491 (the work group bill). Next Thursday morning, March 19th, this bill will have a hearing in the House Health and Wellness Committee.

SHB 1940, Representative Bailey's bill on bringing K-12 into the PEBB, was held in Rules Committee all week and thus died.

Almost all the Select Committee on Pension Policy recommended bills have passed their house of origin and we expect abbreviated hearings and action on these bills possibly as early as next week.

Additional information regarding both pension and health benefits can be found on our association's web site under [Retirement/Health Benefit Bill Watch](#).

## AEA

AEA has had an interesting week watching the House and Senate debate certain bills that we have supported during the session so far. Bills which passed out of their original house the end of last week and this week include the following:

1. SHB 2261 and SSB 6048, the basic education foundation bills;
2. SB 5714, National Board Professional Teacher Certification stipend advance;
3. SB 5487, changing the date of non-renewal notification to June 15;
4. SSB 5738, annual compliance reports;
5. SHB 1776, school district levies;
6. ESSB 5828, school district treasurer;
7. ESSB 5880, 2SHB 2167, SSB 5889, SSB 5890, elimination of unfunded mandates;
8. 2SSB 5941, school data governance group;
9. SB 5580, school impact fees;
10. HB 2142, SB 5890, school construction formula; and
11. SSB 5807, capital projects levy.

Now AEA looks forward to urging the opposite house to continue moving these bills forward prior to the next cutoff date.

## KEEPING UP WITH THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

You can contact legislators using the Legislative Hotline 1-800-562-6000, by going to the legislature's website: <http://www.leg.wa.gov> or by using WASA's Session Guide at [www.wasa-oly.org](http://www.wasa-oly.org).

The legislature's website also provides you with calendars and session schedules, bill information, committee membership and legislator websites.

### Cut-off Dates

### TVW

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WASA 1-800-859-9272  
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