



# ***This Week in Olympia***

## **Washington Association of School Administrators**

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## **Week 10**

**March 20, 2009**

**This is the 68th day of  
the  
Jan. 12 through April 26  
2009 Regular Session  
(37 to go).**

### **In this Issue**

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### **THIS WEEK IN REVIEW**

#### **ECONOMIC FORECAST/BUDGETS**

The Economic and Revenue Forecast Council's March report was delivered to the governor and the legislature on Thursday. Projected revenue for the remainder of this biennium combined with the 2009-2011 budget period is down \$552M compared to the February estimate—bringing the deficit to almost \$9B. Governor Gregoire responded to the bad news by saying, "Unfortunately, even with billions of dollars heading our way from the federal recovery package, Washington still faces the largest budget gap in state history."

We've heard that both the Senate and the House budgets will be out before next Thursday. The budgets have been described as "ugly." One senator said that the budgets will reflect a bare bones approach to balancing the budget that will hurt everyone. There is speculation that this approach will hopefully result in a public outcry and a better understanding that the crisis cannot be averted without a revenue package—that means a tax increase referendum to the people.

We will provide information on the K-12 budget as soon as possible after its release.

#### **HEARINGS AND WORK SESSIONS**

The education committees held public hearings on bills from the opposite house this week. Bills dealing with dropouts, graduation requirements, online learning, dual credits, the achievement gap, flexible school year calendars, and school district flexibility continue to make their way through the legislature. The House held two work sessions—one on the Baldrige "Excellence in Education" system used in the Wenatchee and Richland Schools. The other focused on the education finance reform bill (ESB 6048) that was sent to them by the Senate. The House passed its own education finance bill last week

**THIS WEEK  
IN REVIEW**

(Cont'd)

**COMMITTEE  
HEARING SCHEDULE  
Week of March 23 - 27**

(ESHB 2261). [A comparison chart of the two bills can be found here](#). Legislators working on the finance bills say that they are still committed to doing something this session to reform the K-12 finance system and provide a road map of where the legislature needs to go from here.

**MONDAY, MARCH 23**

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

JAC ROOM 1

3/23/09 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. SHB 1110 - Prohibiting advertising and marketing to students receiving home-based instruction and their parents.
2. HB 1288 - Exempting the annual parental declaration of intent to home school from the public disclosure act.
3. HB 1075 - Enacting the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children.
4. SHB 1347 - Regarding financial education.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** HB 1852 - Modifying provisions relating to record checks using fingerprints.

***HOUSE JUDICIARY***

JLOB ROOM A

3/23/09 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. ESSB 5967 - Prohibiting unfair practices in public community athletics programs by prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex.

***HOUSE CAPITAL BUDGET***

JLOB ROOM C

3/23/09 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. ESSB 5807 - Concerning the use of capital projects funds by school districts.

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

**TUESDAY, MARCH 24**

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

JLOB ROOM D

3/24/09 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. SSB 5229 - Regarding the legislative youth advisory council.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Senate bills previously heard in committee.

**COMMITTEE  
HEARING SCHEDULE  
Week of March 23 - 27**

**Cont'd.**

**HOUSE EDUCATION**

JLOB ROOM A

3/24/09 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. SSB 5248 - Enacting the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children.
2. E2SSB 5941 - Regarding a comprehensive education data improvement system.
3. SSB 6016 - Regarding educator training to enhance skills of students with dyslexia.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

1. SSB 5551 - Regarding recess periods for elementary school students.
2. SSB 5738 - Requiring the office of the superintendent of public instruction to review annual school district compliance reports.
3. SSB 5881 - Changing provisions involving truancy.
4. Other Senate bills previously heard in committee.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25**

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

JAC ROOM 1

3/25/09 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. ESHB 2261 - Concerning the state's education system.
2. ESB 6048 - Concerning the state's education system.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**HOUSE EDUCATION**

JLOB ROOM A

3/25/09 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Senate bills previously heard in committee.

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

JAC ROOM 1

3/25/09 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**POSSIBLE PUBLIC HEARING:**

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 26**

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

JLOB ROOM E

3/26/09 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. ESB 5617 - Changing early learning advisory council provisions.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Senate bills previously heard in committee.

**COMMITTEE  
HEARING SCHEDULE  
Week of March 23 - 27**

**Cont'd**

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

JAC ROOM 1

3/26/09 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:** House bills previously heard in committee.

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

JAC ROOM 1

3/26/09 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.

**WORK SESSION:** Clark County Schools Student Threat Assessment Program.

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

JAC ROOM 1

3/26/09 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. 2SHB 2113 - Regarding placements of students in residential habilitation centers.
2. 2SHB 2119 - Expanding dual credit opportunities.
3. 2SHB 2167 - Providing flexibility in the education system.
4. E2SHB 1879 - Providing for the delivery of educational services to children who are deaf and hard of hearing.
5. ESHB 1889 - Regarding paraeducator tutor certification.
6. SHB 2003 - Changing professional educator standards board provisions.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:** House bills previously heard in committee.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 27**

**HOUSE EDUCATION**

JLOB ROOM A

3/27/09 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Senate bills previously heard in committee.

**HOUSE CAPITAL BUDGET**

JLOB ROOM C

3/24/09 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

3/25/09 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

3/28/09 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

**COMMITTEE  
HEARING SCHEDULE  
Week of March 23 - 28**

**Bills to be announced.**

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

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

**HOUSE EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS**

JLOB ROOM A

3/24/09 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

3/26/09 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

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

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

**COMMITTEE  
HEARING SCHEDULE  
Week of March 23 - 28**

**Bills to be announced.**

**Cont'd.**

**HOUSE WAYS & MEANS**

JLOB ROOM A

3/23/09 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

3/24/09 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

3/25/09 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

3/28/09 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

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

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

**SENATE WAYS & MEANS**

JAC ROOM 4

3/23/09 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

3/24/09 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

3/25/09 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

3/26/09 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** To be announced.

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

**BILLS ON THE MOVE**

[CLICK HERE TO SEE BILLS ON THE MOVE \(WEEK 10\)](#)

**CUT-OFF CALENDAR**

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

**RETIREMENT/HEALTH  
BENEFITS**

There has been very little action in the legislature this week pertaining to either pensions or health benefits. The Senate Ways and Means Committee did pass one of the six House version SCPP recommended bills that continue to be alive. That bill was HB 1551, Military Death Benefits. Three more of the SCPP recommended bills are alive in the House Ways and Means Committee, however have not yet received action.

We continue to put much of our emphasis this week on possible amendments to 2SSB 5491, which is awaiting a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee. Contacts have been made with legislators, local school districts, the Health Care Authority (HCA), WSSDA, WASBO, OSPI, PSE, and fiscal and caucus staff in representing both WASA and AWSP on this issue of moving K-12/ESD employees into the HCA .Public Employee Benefits Board (PEBB) health plans. 2SSB 5491 in it's present form merely calls for a work group to be formed during the legislative interim to make recommendation and forward proposed legislation for the 2010 legislative session on this issue.

You can view [additional information on the status of all retirement and health benefit bills](#) on our association's web site.

## AEA

This week AEA facilitated a meeting with OSPI, WASBO, and WAMOA representatives to discuss OSPI's new Asset Preservation Program (APP) on March 17. The APP, within approximately two months, would replace the Two Percent Rule. The purpose of the APP is to ensure that school buildings built since 1994 are adequately maintained for at least 30 years. Failure to do so could result in a decrease of eligible state matching funds on future projects.

WASBO provided technical assistance to WASA and WSSDA re: possible amendments to 2SSB 5491 - convening a work group to develop a strategy to reduce the cost of providing health benefits in cooperation with the Health Care Authority.

AEA testified in support of the following bills this week:

- SSB 5580 - extending the time from six to ten years that school districts have to spend revenue from impact fees on school construction projects (in House Local Government and Housing);
- SB 5980 - renaming state matching funds in school construction projects (in House Capital Budget);
- ESSB 6048 - implementing a new program of basic education (in House Education Appropriations work session, also comparing this bill to its companion bill, SHB 2261); and
- ESSB 5880, SSB 5899, SSB 5890 - removing unfunded mandates.

On behalf of WSNA, AEA presented a possible amendment to ESSB 5880 which would allow the school nutrition policies of 2005 to remain in statute due to a similar federal mandate, and the school nutrition and wellness goals of 2007 to remain in statute as districts have programs and practices in place to implement these goals. These provisions are not unfunded mandates from the districts' point of view.

## 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.

TVW

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