



This Week in Olympia

Washington Association of School Administrators

Barbara L. Mertens
Government Relations

www.wasa-oly.org
bmertens@wasa-oly.org

Week 11

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**This is the 75th day of
the
Jan. 12 through April 26
2009 Regular Session
(30 to go).**

In this Issue

- This Week in Review
 - Budgets
 - Federal Stimulus (American Recovery and Investment Act)
 - Bills
 - Education Finance Reform Bills
 - Work Session
- Committee Hearing Schedule Week of March 30-April 4
- Bills on the Move
- Retirement/Health Benefits
- AEA

THIS WEEK IN REVIEW

BUDGETS

The 2009-2011 Transportation Budget was released in the Senate this week. While only a small portion of this budget (school safety zones and traffic safety task forces) relates to K-12, it was finally a sign to us that the overall budget process was under way.

To the best of our knowledge budgets will be released next week as follows: (All times/dates are subject to change by the legislature.)

Operating Supplemental and 2009-11 Budgets

Senate: May be announced Monday, March 30. The public hearing will be on Tuesday, 3/31 at 1:30 p.m. in the Senate Ways and Means Committee, Senate Hearing Room 1, the Cherberg Building. The bill number is SB 5600.

House: May be announced at 10 a.m. Tuesday March 31 in O'Brien Hearing Room A. The House Ways and Means Committee has scheduled a public hearing on the budget, HB 1244, Tuesday at 3:30 p.m., and possible executive session Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

Capital Supplemental and 2009-11 Budgets

It is likely that the capital budget will be announced at the same time as the operating budget in both houses, but that's not absolutely certain. The Senate capital budget will be announced by the Senate Ways and Means Committee. The House Capital Budget Committee has a public hearing on Thursday April 2 at 1:30 p.m., and executive session Friday April 3 at 8 a.m. on both the capital budget HB 1216 and bond bill HB 1272.

THIS WEEK IN REVIEW

(Cont'd)

Transportation

House: There will probably be some public announcement prior to the 3:30 p.m. House Transportation Committee public hearing on Monday, March 30.

Senate: The Senate Transportation 2009-11 budget came out yesterday.

(The 2009 Supplemental Operating Budget (HB 1694) has already passed.)

We will send out a special TWIO with Budget details as soon as that is possible. OSPI is still planning to provide a K-20 on the Budgets and Stimulus Package on Tuesday, March 31 from 1:30 - 3:30. (Contact Tony Brownell at 360-725-6381 for set-up, Jackie Hansen at 360-725-6111 with questions about the K-20.)

There have been numerous headlines in newspapers around the state about potential layoffs school districts may have to make based on how deep the cuts are in the K-12 budget. We encourage you to forward these to your local legislators.

[FEDERAL STIMULUS \(AMERICAN RECOVERY and REINVESTMENT ACT\)](#)

OSPI has provided a link to a PDF/PowerPoint on the federal stimulus distributed by the Chief State School Officers. [View ARRA PDF/PPT here.](#)

BILLS

Policy committees have passed most of the bills that are going to keep moving. (Senate Education is still scheduled to take executive action on eleven bills Friday and Monday. March 30 is the *cut-off*.) If a bill has a fiscal note, it goes to one of the budget committees and must pass that committee by Monday, April 6. Go to [Bills on the Move](#) to see which bills are still alive. Bills must be out of the opposite house by April 17.

EDUCATION FINANCE REFORM BILLS

Agreement has not been reached between the House and Senate on what should or shouldn't be included in a compromise bill dealing with basic education and K-12 finance. [A comparison of the last two bills being considered can be seen here.](#) Governor Gregoire joined the debate on Thursday, sending a letter to Speaker Chopp and Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown outlining her concerns and recommendations. [View the Governor's letter here.](#) She supports the prototype school model for allocating funds, phasing in 24 credits for graduation, strengthening the roll of data for decision-making, and having the Professional Educator Standards Board continue its work on teacher preparation and certification. She asserts quite strongly that she will only support legislation in which "the legal definition of basic education does not change from what it is today to something else until there is the fiscal capacity to implement the change." She also supports establishing something like an education forecast council to make sure that all of the work done so far remains a part of an on-going process. If agreement can be reached among the House, Senate, and Governor's office, then a new bill will emerge. If not, the work on education finance reform will have to continue without legislation. Staff from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction has been actively involved in all of these discussions. Superintendent Dorn testified on Tuesday that he is committed to continuing this work. A prototype school model with numeric values was presented by OSPI to the Senate committee to provide an actual view from the beginning step to a fully phased-in model. [View the Prototype School Funding Model.](#)

**THIS WEEK
IN REVIEW**

(Cont'd)

WORK SESSION

The Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee has scheduled a special work session next Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. to hear a presentation by Supt. Greg Lynch, Central Kitsap School District, on a proposal to “increase student achievement by creating a more efficient method for OSPI and the SBE to implement legislative directions through a timely, productive and purposeful process.” His presentation, “Anatomy of Change,” ([see here](#)) has been presented to the WASA Board, Supt. Dorn, and the State Board of Education. See “[Supt. Lynch Goes to Olympia](#).” WASA not only endorses Greg’s plan, we strongly support his efforts. ([See White Paper](#).)

MONDAY, MARCH 30

SENATE EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

JAC ROOM 1

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

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. SHB 1292 - Authorizing waivers from the one hundred eighty-day school year requirement in order to allow four-day school weeks.
2. SHB 1319 - Prohibiting school district employees from using public assets for private gain.
3. HB 1675 - Changing the work experience provisions of the alternative route partnership grant program.
4. SHB 1758 - Expanding options for students to earn high school diplomas.
5. SHB 2147 - Closing the achievement gap in order to provide all students an excellent and equitable education.
6. ESHB 2261 - Concerning the state’s education system.

SENATE WAYS & MEANS

JAC ROOM 4

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

PUBLIC HEARING: To be announced.

POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION: Bills previously heard in committee.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

HOUSE EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

JLOB ROOM A

3/31/09 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

WORK SESSION: Education Appropriations sections of Proposed Substitute House Bill 1244 - Making 2009-11 operating appropriations.

1. Staff overview.
2. Public comment.

**COMMITTEE
HEARING SCHEDULE
Week of Mar 30 - Apr 4**

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HEARING SCHEDULE
Week of Mar 30 - Apr 4**

Cont'd

SENATE WAYS & MEANS

JAC ROOM 4

3/31/09 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. SB 5407 - Making 2009 supplemental operating appropriations
2. SB 5600 - Making 2009-2011 operating appropriations.
 - a. K-12 education.
 - b. Higher education.
 - c. Early learning.
 - d. Natural resources.
 - e. Judicial agencies.
 - f. General government agencies and issues:
 - Secretary of the State.
 - Attorney General.
 - State Auditor.
 - Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development; trade, tourism, and economic development.
 - State employee compensation and pensions.
 - All other general government agencies.

HOUSE CAPITAL BUDGET

JLOB ROOM C

3/31/09 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING: Bills referred to committee.

POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION: Bills previously heard in committee.

HOUSE WAYS & MEANS

JLOB ROOM A

3/31/09 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. HB 1244 - Making 2009-2011 operating appropriations. The hearing is on the proposed substitute bill by Representative Linville.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

SENATE EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

JAC ROOM 1

4/1/09 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

WORK SESSION: The Anatomy of Change - presentation by Superintendent of Central Kitsap School District, Greg Lynch.

HOUSE EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

JLOB ROOM A

4/1/09 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

POSSIBLE PUBLIC HEARING: Bills referred to committee.

POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION: Bills previously heard in committee.

**COMMITTEE
HEARING SCHEDULE
Week of Mar 30 - Apr 4**

Cont'd.

SENATE WAYS & MEANS

JAC ROOM 4

4/1/09 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

POSSIBLE PUBLIC HEARING: Bills referred to committee.

POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION: Bills previously heard in committee.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

HOUSE CAPITAL BUDGET

JLOB ROOM C

4/2/09 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. HB 1216 - Adopting a 2009-2011 capital budget.
2. HB 1272 - Concerning state general obligation bonds and related accounts.

HOUSE WAYS & MEANS

JLOB ROOM A

4/2/09 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. HB 1244 - Making 2009-2011 operating appropriations.

SENATE WAYS & MEANS

JAC ROOM 4

4/2/09 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING: To be announced.

POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION: Bills previously heard in committee.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

HOUSE CAPITAL BUDGET

JLOB ROOM C

4/3/09 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. HB 1216 - Adopting a 2009-2011 capital budget.
2. HB 1272 - Concerning state general obligation bonds and related accounts.
3. Other bills previously heard in committee.

HOUSE EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

JLOB ROOM A

4/3/09 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

POSSIBLE PUBLIC HEARING: Bills referred to committee.

POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION: Bills previously heard in committee.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

HOUSE WAYS & MEANS

JLOB ROOM A

4/2/09 9:00 a.m.

POSSIBLE PUBLIC HEARING: Bills referred to committee.

POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION: Bills previously heard in committee.

RETIREMENT/HEALTH BENEFITS

Again this week, there has been very little action pertaining to either retirement or health benefit issues. We have continued to communicate with various groups such as OSPI, the HCA, WASBO, WSSDA, and a few school districts concerning a possible amendment to 2SSB 5491. Such an amendment would allow the HCA to gather information from school districts regarding their present health benefit packages. 2SSB 5491 states, "The options investigated by the work group must include the centralized provision of health benefits for K-12 employees by the health care authority." We hope to see action on this bill next week.

The House Ways and Means Committee did act on three SPCP recommended Senate bills this week. These bills were SB 5303 (PERS to SERS Auto-Transfer), SB 5315 (Survivors of PERS 1 Inactives) and SB 5305 (DRS Technical Corrections).

Two other bills impacting retirement that were not reviewed by the SPCP were moved to the House Rules Committee this week. They were ESSB 5238 (Retiree Mailing by DRS) and E2SSB 5688 (Domestic Partners).

For additional information go to our association's website to view the latest "*Retirement/Health Benefits*" bill watch.

AEA

This week AEA testified in support of the following bills:

- 2SSB 5941 - establishing the comprehensive K-12 data system only to the extent that funds are available;
- SHB 2261/ESSB 6048 - establishing a base for the eventual funding of K-12 basic education (submitted written testimony in Senate Early Learning/K-12 education);
- 2SHB 2167 - elimination, suspension and amendment of selected unfunded mandates in Senate Early Learning/K-12 Education;
- SSB 5807 - allowing a two-six year capital levy to include major maintenance projects and major equipment repair.

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.

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

TVW

Barbara L. Mertens, Ed.D.
Assistant Executive Director
bmertens@wasa-oly.org



WASA 1-800-859-9272
www.wasa-oly.org