



This Week in Olympia

Washington Association of School Administrators

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Week 14

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**This is the 96th day of
the
Jan. 12 through April 26
2009 Regular Session
(9 to go).**

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Legislators literally burned the midnight oil this week as they met in committees and on the floor passing bills from the opposite house prior to Friday's cut-off and keeping the budgets moving.

BUDGETS

THIS WEEK IN REVIEW

Both the House and Senate Ways & Means Committees have passed their budgets PSHB 1244 and SSB 5600. Even though over a hundred amendments were considered and many were adopted, the budgets are still pretty far apart and a lot of work remains to be done if this legislature is going to pass an operating budget and adjourn sine die April 26th. Over the last thirty years the legislature has been called back after the regular session over a dozen times—most notably in 2003 when the first special session went into June. (See *History of Special Sessions*) The budget situation is dire. It isn't going to get any better—but not passing the budget now only increases the pressure and frustration at the local level because your budget decisions cannot be made without the funding information only the final budget can provide. (Note: SB 5487 has been signed by the governor. It provides that notice of nonrenewal or transfer of employees is extended to June 15 [instead of May 15] if the Omnibus Appropriations Act [the Operating Budget] has not passed the legislature by May 15. However, regardless of the passage of this bill, districts must comply with their employee contracts.)

Budget Documents

<http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/budget/detail/proposals.asp>

OSPI's Pivot Tables

<http://www.k12.wa.us/SAFS/09budprp.asp>

THIS WEEK IN REVIEW

(Cont'd)

[BASIC ED FINANCE BILL - ESHB 2261](#)

On Wednesday, the Senate passed ESHB 2261 by a vote of 26 to 23. The bill is intended to do something about fully funding all of basic education. The bill that passed is sixty-three pages long and returns to many of the original proposals endorsed by the sponsoring legislators who served on the basic education finance task force. The bill redefines basic education to include: increased instructional hours (from 1,000 to 1,080) according to an implementation schedule adopted by the legislature; twenty-four credits to graduate from high school—phased in; transportation using a new formula—phased in; all day kindergarten—phased in; highly capable; and early learning—phased in. Full implementation is to be in place by 2018. A prototypical funding model is proposed. A permanent Quality Education Council made up of 8 legislators and all of the state education agencies is established to provide oversight. Workgroups will do the actual work: Local Levies and LEA; Funding Formulas; Compensation; and, Early Learning. A K-12 data governance group is established. The details of tasks that must be investigated in order to identify how student learning will be improved before additional funding is provided—covers six pages. These data are intended to provide transparency. The SBE will continue its work to make schools and districts accountable through an index, progressive levels of support, targeted assistance, recognition and state intervention. The Professional Educators Standards Board will adopt performance standards for effective teaching and recommend other modifications for educator certification. Revenue is not addressed.

The debate which preceded the close vote was contentious. It was also interesting from the perspective that floor speeches were made by Democrats and Republicans both for and against it. Summarizing the nearly three hour debate: those in favor said that this bill is for the children of Washington State. They have waited too long for the legislature to redefine basic education and their futures depend on the passage of this bill. The phase-in components will allow OSPI, SBE, PESB, OFM, the Governor, the legislators and the working groups time to work out the details between now and 2018. The opponents said that this is Washington State's version of NCLB and a reenactment of 1209. Great goals, false promises—no money and no plan to get the money.

See *Final Draft* of HB 2261 [here](#).

See *Summary of the striker amendment* to HB 2261 [here](#).

[CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TODAY!](#)

While we ask you to keep in regular contact with your legislators, there are critical times when your voice should be heard. NOW is that TIME. It is predicted that the vote in the House on ESHB 2261 will be close and your input could make the difference. Use your home phone or email to let your Representatives know what you think. Call the legislative hotline, 1-800-562-6000, or call/email them directly. Session Guide www.wasa-oly.org If you think ESHB 2261 will help you provide a better basic education that will improve student learning, ask them to vote yes. If not, ask them to vote no. Also urge them to pass a fair and responsible K-12 budget before April 26th.

[SCHOOL FACILITIES](#)

On Tuesday, the House Capital Budget Committee passed HB 2334 - the Washington Works Act. Representative Hans Dunshee has proposed this measure to provide about \$3B for facilities safety, efficiency, and environmental expenditures for schools, higher education, and public buildings. A referendum would be sent to the

THIS WEEK IN REVIEW

(Cont'd)

people in November to approve the issuance of state bonds. Because concerns have been raised by the State Treasurer, leadership in the Senate and others, it appears unlikely to pass the full legislature. The Senate passed ESHB 1619 on Thursday. This bill extends the uses of the capital projects fund to include repairs that will extend the useful life of the facilities, major repairs, exterior painting, refurbishment or replacement of exterior windows, floor coverings in classrooms and common areas, plumbing systems, major equipment repair, major preventative maintenance. Routine annual preventative maintenance expenditures may not be supplanted. OSPI will develop accounting guidelines. The bill returns to the House for concurrence or rejection.

[OSPI BUDGET VIDEOCONFERENCE](#)

OSPI is planning to hold a K-20 videoconference on the K-12 Budgets on April 30 (if the budget has passed by then) at the ESDs from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. A limited number of sites will be available at school districts upon request. 360-725-6020

[BILLS](#)

Twenty-seven education related bills have passed both houses and have been signed by the Governor or delivered to her. These bills and the other bills still "alive" are listed below.

[NITB](#)

As the 2009 session draws to a close, a number of bills are being introduced (or resurrected). If a bill is "necessary to implement the budget" it is exempt from cut-off dates and can move forward even at this late date. The House Ways & Means Committee heard a number of these bills this week. On Tuesday, HB 2343 was heard. It implements a series of reductions to current programs. These program reductions were already included in the House proposed budget but this bill makes it clear that diagnostic assessment tools, classified staff training, professional development programs, career and tech student organizations, inflationary bonuses for NBC and mentorship activities are "subject to available funding." On Thursday, the committee heard HB 2363 which suspends the COLA for the 2009-2011 biennium and then reinstates it in 2011-2013 and 2013-2015 with a "catch-up" provision. HB 2346 states that I-728 removes the current specified amounts that districts were to receive and makes it so that any future funding for I-728 will be subject to the amounts (if any) that are placed in the operating budget.

[BILLS ON THE MOVE](#)

Click here to see *[Bills on the Move](#)*.

The House and Senate have passed the following bills relating to K-12 education. If the bills were amended in the opposite house—and many of them were—they must return to the house of origin for concurrence or rejection. If they were not amended they go to the Governor's desk. She must sign them in order for them to become law. (Click on the link above to find out more information about a specific bill. For information on Retirement and Health bills, see page 5.)

[Signed by the Governor:](#)

HB 1113 - School construction grants C 6 L 09
HB 1155 - Special education billing C 73 L 09
HB 1196 - Small works roster priorities C 74 L 09
HB 1197 - Alternative public works C 75 L 09
HB 1322 - Eliminating school scoliosis screening C 41 L 09
HB 1562 - Graduating without certificate C 17 L 09

**THIS WEEK
IN REVIEW**

(Cont'd)

HB 1878 - State school for the blind and deaf C 47 L 09
HB 1978 - Economic stimulus transp funding C 8 L 09
HB 2095 - Driver training schools C 101 L 09
SB 5487 - Employee contract nonrenewal C 57 L 09

Delivered to the Governor:

HB 1110 - Home-based instruction
HB 1156 - Alternative route program
HB 1319 - School district employee ethics
HB 1852 - Fingerprint record checks
SB 5303 - From PERS 2 to SERS 2
SB 5327 - Election provisions
SB 5551 - Elementary student recess periods
SB 5580 - School impact fees
SB 5676 - Middle school student tech edu
SB 5776 - Regarding student fees, charges, and assessment
SB 5881 - Truancy
SB 5980 - School plant funding
SR 8606 - Honoring home education families.

Passed Senate (must return to the House):

ESHB 1018 - Special election dates
SHB 1292 - 180-day school year waivers
2SHB 1355 - Opportunity internship program
ESHB 1619 - School capital projects
ESHB 1741 - School employees dismissal
SHB 1758 - High school diplomas and options
SHB 1776 - School district levies
HB 1793 - Alternative student transport
EHB 1824 - Concussion mgmt/youth sports
E2SHB 1879 - Deaf & hard of hearing
SHB 1943 - Early learning workforce
SHB 2003 - Professional educator standards board
2SHB 2119 - Dual credit opportunities
HB 2132 - Instruction in civics

Passed House (must return to Senate):

SSB 5229 - Legislative youth advisory council
ESSB 5263 - Electric shock devices in schools
SSB 5248 - Military children
ESSB 5414 - Assessments and curricula
ESSB 5601 - Speech-language pathology
2SSB 5676 Middle school student tech edu
SSB 5738 - OSPI review of compliance reports
ESSB 5889 - Education system flexibility
ESSB 5967 - Public community athletics
SSB 6016 - Students with dyslexia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CAPITAL BUDGET

JLOB C

4/20/09

8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

To be announced.

HOUSE WAYS & MEANS

JLOB A

4/20/09

8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

To be announced.

HOUSE EDUCATION

JLOB A

4/24/09

9:00 a.m.

Work Session: Interim Planning.

**COMMITTEE
HEARING SCHEDULE
Week of Apr 20 - 26**

NO SENATE MEETINGS SCHEDULED

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MON. - SUN.

HOUSE SESSION/CAUCUS

10:00 A.M.

**FLOOR ACTIVITY
SCHEDULE
Week of Apr 20 - 26**

SENATE

MON. - SAT.

SENATE SESSION/CAUCUS

9:00 A.M.

SUN.

SENATE SESSION/CAUCUS

NOON

MON. - SUN.

POSSIBLE SENATE SESSION/CAUCUS

6:00 P.M.

**RETIREMENT/HEALTH
BENEFITS**

2SSB 5491, the bill that directs the Health Care Authority (HCA) to study and develop a strategy for reducing the cost of providing health benefits for K-12 employees, is being held in House Rules by the House Speaker. The bill is referenced in the Senate budget, therefore it technically still alive. The Governor's Office is working with House leadership searching for a way to get action on the issue so the study can be accomplished during the legislative interim.

All five of the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) bills recommended referenced in last weeks report have passed both houses and are now in the Governor's Office.

On Wednesday evening during the passage of the Senate budget, an amendment was offered and passed to suspend the activities of the SCPP during the 2009-11 biennium. Opposition to this action is expected by House members.

The PEEB eligibility bills, SSB 5869 and 2SHB 2245 continue to be a concern to

RETIREMENT/HEALTH BENEFITS

Cont'd.

K-12 and state employee stakeholders. The major concern continues to involve the possible loss of the “substantially equivalent language regarding health benefit plans and eligibility criteria in effect on January 1, 1993.”

Senator Prentice introduced SB 6157 this week. This bill allows employee retirement members to be able to count toward their final DRS average final compensation lost compensation due to reduced work hours, voluntary leave without pay, or temporary furloughs during the 2009-11 biennium. Federal legislation in the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 gives assistance to individuals involuntarily terminated from September 1, 2008 to December 31, 2009. This assistance is in the form of premium assistance and additional election opportunities under COBRA. If eligible, the COBRA premium is reduced to 35%.

For additional information you can go to our association’s website and view an updated *Retirement/Health Benefit bill watch*.

AEA

AEA continues to have concerns about the Senate’s reduction in levy equalization. In the Senate budget passed out of Ways and Means on Wednesday, an amendment to rescind the \$284M reduction in levy equalization failed. AEA will continue to work with members of the budget conference committee to ensure that K-12 cuts will be fair and equitable.

WASBO was pleased that SB 5580 passed the House on Tuesday, and is on its way to the governor. This bill would extend the time from six to ten years that districts have to expend their revenues from impact fees for school construction projects.

WSNA is contacting key legislators to encourage them to continue funding the elimination of the K-12 reduced price breakfast co-pay and the K-3 reduced price lunch co-pay. So far, the programs remain funded in both House and Senate budgets.

WAMOA continues to watch the capital projects levy bills, SHB 1619 and SSB 5807, prior to today’s deadline for all bills to be out of the opposite house. These bills would add major renovation and equipment repair to work of potential capital levy proceeds.

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

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