



This Week in Olympia

Washington Association of School Administrators

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Week 15

April 24, 2009

**This is the 103rd day of
the
Jan. 12 through April 26
2009 Regular Session
(2 to go).**

In this Issue

- This Week in Review
- 2009-11 "Conference" Budget Unveiled (Details)
- Basic Ed Finance Bill - ESHB 2261
- Bills on the Move
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LAST TWIO FOR THE 2009 SESSION

TWIO is sent out each Friday during the regular session of the Washington State Legislature. Since the legislature is SCHEDULED to adjourn sine die Sunday, April 26, this will be the last regular edition of TWIO for this session. Senate leadership held a press conference on Thursday, April 23, saying that a final budget has been negotiated and they hope to get it passed by sine die—but there is no guarantee that will happen. When the legislature does adjourn (whether it is April 26 or after a special session if one is called) we will send out a notice via TWIO to let you know. In the meantime, we will be working on WASA's end of the session 2009 Legislative Report—with all of the details for both budgets and bills and will post it on our website as soon as possible after the legislature adjourns.

2009-2011 "CONFERENCE OPERATING BUDGET

The striking amendment to SHB 1244, the "conference" budget, was unveiled today, Friday, April 24th. It is important to note that while leadership has agreed to this budget, it still must be passed by both houses and signed by the governor before it becomes the final budget. In other words, it can still be amended or the governor may veto individual sections. However, it is likely that the final budget will be very close to the one described here. [A comparison chart showing differences between the Senate's proposed budget and the conference budget can be viewed here.](#) [A three-way comparison chart of the total proposed state budget can be found here.](#)

NOTE: There are still a number of unanswered questions about the use of the federal stimulus funds. OSPI and the Governor's Office are in communication with the Dept. of Education to determine which, if any, waiver applications may be necessary from both the state and local districts.

All 2009-11 Budget Proposals can be seen online at:
<http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/budget/detail/2009/ho0911p.asp>

OSPI's Pivot Tables (As soon as possible updated pivot tables will be made available. Check the link periodically.)
<http://www.k12.wa.us/SAFS/09budprp.asp>

THIS WEEK IN REVIEW

OSPI BUDGET VIDEOCONFERENCE

OSPI is planning to hold a K-20 videoconference on the K-12 Budgets at the ESDs on April 30 from 2:30 - 4:30. A limited number of sites will be available at school districts upon request. 360-725-6020

**THIS WEEK
IN REVIEW**

(Cont'd)

K-12 Details of the Proposed 2009-2011 "Conference" Operating Budget

(Prepared by the House Office of Program Research and Fiscal Committees and Senate Ways and Means staff.)

Remember: These are proposed changes (reductions and additions) to the programs funded in the 2007-2009 K-12 Operating Budget and are still subject to final action by the legislature and the governor.

Compensation Adjustments

1. Health Benefit Changes - Funding for employee health benefits is increased by 3% each year, to \$745 per employee per month in FY 2010 and \$768 in FY 2011. Subject to statutory limitations, the Public Employees' Benefits Board (PEBB) may make adjustments to employee premium contributions, point of service payments, or plan design in order to provide benefits within available funding. (General Fund-State, various other funds) \$44.208M

2. Remove Learning Improvement Day - Funding for one of the learning improvement days allocated through the general apportionment formulas is discontinued. -\$35.684M

3. Adjust K-4 Allocation - Funding is provided for compensation adjustments for the increased number of certificated instructional staff units associated with removing certain conditions on K-4 certificated instructional staff allocations. \$65,000

4. Pension Rate Adjustments - Funding for employer contributions to state retirement systems is reduced to reflect changes to actuarial assumptions and methods used for many of the Washington State Retirement Systems. (various funds) -\$13.678M

5. Suspend Initiative 732 COLA - Costs associated with the implementation of Initiative 732 are shown at maintenance-level; however, these annual cost-of-living adjustments are suspended for the 2009-11 Biennium and therefore eliminated at policy level. The reduction amount differs at policy level because the COLA rates interact with other policies implemented in the final budget (General Fund-State, General Fund-Federal). -\$350.221M

General Apportionment

Adjust K-4 Allocation - Funding is provided to remove certain conditions on certificated instructional staff allocations for kindergarten through grade 4. Under current requirements, districts must staff up to 53.2 certificated instructional staff per 1,000 students in grades K-4 to keep the full certificated instructional staff allocation. This requirement is eliminated for the majority of school districts (districts with fewer than 25 percent of their students enrolled in online learning programs) and the funding level reflects the estimated biennial amount retained by the state currently due to this requirement. \$692,000

Student Achievement Program

1. Reduce Student Achievement Program - Funding for the Student Achievement Program is reduced. Funding levels reflect per student allocations of \$131 per student in the 2009-10 school year (71.4% reduction), and \$99 per student in the 2010-11 school year (78.6% reduction). Funding levels also reflect \$8 million in deferred Student Achievement Program payments from the 2009 supplemental budget. -\$600M

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2. Fiscal Stabilization Grant - Funding is provided from the federal fiscal stabilization fund to support the Student Achievement Program. The funding is made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Learning Assistance Program (LAP)

1. Title I Federal Recovery - American recovery and reinvestment act of 2009 (ARRA) Title I, Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged, Part A funds will be distributed to school districts by formula in accordance with ARRA requirements. \$129.925M

2. Fed Recovery Title I School Improve - Under the American recovery and reinvestment act of 2009 (ARRA), Washington state will receive funding for school improvement. The total is made up of a required 4 percent set-aside from the Title I, Part A recovery funds for school improvement, as well as \$43.6 million in additional school improvement funds. A minimum of \$8.1 million of the ARRA school improvement funds will be used to enhance the state's focused assistance program. \$48.981M

Levy Equalization/Levy Lids

1. Reduce Levy Equalization by approximately 15% in calendar years 2010 and 2011 on a prorated basis. Levy lids are temporarily increased by 4% with no lid to be greater than 35%. -\$60.292M

[View District by District Chart Here.](#)

2. Fiscal Stabilization Grant - Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding is used to offset General Fund-State costs.

Special Education

Federal Recovery Special Ed (IDEA) - Federal funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 are provided from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B. These recovery funds will be distributed to school districts in each fiscal year, by formula, in accordance with guidelines of ARRA. \$221.357M

OSPI & Statewide Programs

1. Federal Recovery Ed Technology - The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 provides funds for education technology. This amount represents 95 percent of the estimated allocation to Washington State for distribution to school districts. \$8.278M

2. Apportionment and Financial Systems - Funding is provided to complete the replacement of the school apportionment and financial software systems utilized by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for allocating school funding to school districts. This is the final year of a multi-year implementation process. \$839,000

3. Cispus - Funding for the Cispus Environmental Learning Center is discontinued. The Center provides facilities for outdoor environmental and science education for elementary school students. -\$62,000

4. Staff Recognition Award - Funding for recognition awards for classified staff working in Washington schools is discontinued. -\$84,000

5. Administrative Reduction - Savings are realized from administrative reductions at the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. -\$2.006M

6. Washington Achievers Scholar - Funding for the Washington Achiever Scholars program is reduced by 25 percent. The program provides mentorship to low-income high school students through the high school to college transition in cooperation with the College Success Foundation. -\$500,000

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7. Alternate Routes - Funding for alternate route programs for prospective teachers is reduced by approximately 20 percent. The program is administered by the Professional Educator Standards Board and is designed to recruit teachers in shortage areas. -\$1.716M

8. Building Bridges Grants - Funding for the Building Bridges program is reduced by approximately 75 percent. The program awards grants to local school-community partnerships to address drop-out prevention, intervention, and retrieval issues. -\$3.650M

9. School Safety Plans - Funding for school safety planning is eliminated. The funding supported planning grants to districts to develop comprehensive school safety plans and conduct safety drills. -\$1.6M

10. Anti-bias Training - Funding for anti-bias training and cultural competency training programs is eliminated. The program has funded pilot programs in Federal Way, Renton, Nooksak Valley, and Burlington Edison. -\$650,000

11. Dyslexia Pilot Project - Funding for a dyslexia pilot program is reduced by approximately 50 percent. The pilot programs provide professional development on best practices regarding reading achievement for dyslexic students. Remaining funds will be used to implement the findings from the pilots. -\$298,000

12. Non-violence Leadership Training - Funding for the Institute for Community Leadership to do nonviolence training in Washington schools is reduced by approximately 80 percent. The program provides anti-violence workshops and trainings in school districts. -\$442,000

13. LEAP Bilingual Pilot - Funding for the LEAP Bilingual Pilot program is reduced by 50 percent. The program helps recruit bilingual high school students to the teaching profession. -\$150,000

14. Civil Liberties Education - Funding for a civil liberties education program is discontinued. The program creates educational materials, videos, and curriculum guides building awareness of World War II and Japanese internment issues. -\$292,000

15. Legislative Youth Advisory Council - Funding for the Legislative Youth Advisory Council is discontinued. The program facilitates youth involvement in the legislative process. -\$228,000

16. Youth Suicide Prevention - Funding for youth suicide prevention programs is reduced by approximately 30 percent. The program creates curriculum and tools to raise awareness concerning the causes of youth suicide. -\$60,000

17. Classified Staff Training - Funding for training programs at the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction summer institutes focused on classified staff serving in instructional aid positions is discontinued. -\$200,000

18. WWII Oral History Project - Funding for the World War II oral history project coordinated by Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the WWII memorial education foundation is reduced by approximately 67 percent. The remaining funding amount is \$50,000 for the 2009-11 biennium. The primary outcome of the project is a series of documentaries about the impact of World War II on the daily lives of Americans. -\$100,000

19. Compana Quetzal - Funding for Compana Quetzal is reduced by 33 percent. The remaining funding amount is \$100,000 for the 2009-11 biennium. Compana Quetzal is a Seattle-based community-based organization providing a variety of support

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programs focused on the Latino/a community, including early childhood programs, secondary to post-secondary transition guidance, and parent leadership. -\$50,000

20. Mentoring Advanced Placement - Funding for mentoring advanced placement programs in southwest Washington is discontinued. The program identifies individuals in industry to mentor minority students in and through advance placement programs in their high schools, with an emphasis on AP math and science classes. -\$140,000

21. Financial Literacy - Funding is provided to implement Substitute House Bill 1347 (financial education). The funding will support the work of the Financial Education Public-Private Partnership supporting financial education instruction in public schools. \$50,000

22. Internet Safety - Funding supporting the development of pamphlets on Internet safety to be distributed through schools is discontinued. -\$80,000

23. Civics Education - Funding supporting civics education is discontinued. The funding supported grants to assist districts in curriculum alignment, and lesson planning. -\$72,000

24. Incarcerated Family Programs - Funding for the Children of Incarcerated Parents program is discontinued. The program facilitates contact time between incarcerated parents and their children. -\$62,000

25. College Bound Scholarship Coord. - Funding for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to generate flyers and other promotional materials for the College Bound Scholarship program is discontinued. -\$54,000

26. Discontinued Studies - Funding for a study of labor market supply for math and science teachers by the Professional Educator Standards Board is discontinued. Additionally, \$6,000 in funding for administrative activities by Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction associated with the implementation of Chapter 265, Laws of 2007 (ESSB 5297 - regarding providing medically and scientifically accurate sexual health education in schools) is discontinued. -\$148,000

27. Military Compact - Funding is provided to implement House Bill 1075 (military children). The funding primarily supports the per-student fee that member states pay to the military compact. \$89,000

28. PESB/OSPI Reorganization - Funding is provided to implement Substitute House Bill 2003 (professional educator standards board). The fiscal impact has two components: 1) projected savings are based on cost reductions associated with reducing the membership of the Professional Educator Standards Board from 20 members to 12 members (-\$44,000), and 2) a cost of \$220,000 to support the work of the Professional Educator Standards Board in assuming new responsibilities for educator certification. The net cost is \$176,000 for 2009-11. \$176,000

29. Project Citizen - Funding is provided for Project Citizen, a program sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Center for Civic Education to promote participation in government by middle school students. \$50,000

30. Student Achievement Gap - Funding is provided for the implementation of SB5973, creating the Achievement Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee,

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which will synthesize findings from a series of achievement gap studies conducted during the 2007-09 biennium into an implementation plan. \$102,000

31. Comprehensive Ed Data System - Funding is provided for the improvement of data systems capacity and data coordination at the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. \$2.955M

32. State Education System - Funding is provided for further development of options for alternative school finance formulae. \$1.868M

33. Online Learning - Funding is provided for the implementation of SSB 5410, regarding online learning. \$1.4M

34. Employee Health Insurance - Funding for employee health benefits is increased by 3% each year, to \$745 per employee per month in FY 2010 and \$768 in FY 2011. Subject to statutory limitations and the requirements of any applicable collective bargaining agreements, the Public Employees' Benefits Board (PEBB) may make adjustments to employee premium contributions, point of service payments, or plan design in order to provide benefits within available funding. (General Fund-State, various other funds) \$327,000

35. Actuarial Method Changes-State - Funding for employer contributions to state retirement systems is reduced to reflect changes to actuarial assumptions and methods used for many of the Washington State Retirement Systems. More detailed information about this item is provided in Agency 713 - State Employee Compensation Adjust31. Comprehensive Ed Data System - Funding is provided for the improvement of data systems capacity and data coordination at the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. \$2.955M

Education Reform

1. After School Math Programs - Funding for grants to support math instruction in after school programs is discontinued. Currently, five community-based organizations receive grants for after school programs in the King County area (Education Legacy Trust Account-State). -\$400,000

2. Diagnostic Testing - Funding for allocations to districts to support diagnostic assessment tools is reduced by \$500,000. -\$500,000

3. Reading Diagnostic Assessments - Funding for the development of reading models and identification of aligned diagnostic assessment tools is discontinued. -\$250,000

4. Focused Assistance to Schools - State funding for the focused assistance program is reduced by 25 percent. The focused assistance program provides technical assistance to schools and school districts struggling to meet adequate yearly progress benchmarks established by the federal government. -\$2M

5. Principal Assessment/Mentorships - Funding for the Principal Support Program is discontinued. The program provides assistance, assessment, and mentoring to principals in their first three years of service. -\$976,000

6. Second Grade Reading Assessment - Funding for second grade reading assessments is discontinued. The funding supports training for teachers in administering a second grade oral reading assessment designed to gauge early literacy levels. -\$140,000

7. Leadership Academy - Funding for the Washington Leadership Academy is reduced by 20 percent. The remaining funding is \$1.6 million for the 2009-11 bienni-

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um. The Academy supports professional development and training for school administrators. -\$400,000

8. Math/Science Standards Review - Funding for math and science standards review is discontinued. The funding supported the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction's process for evaluating mathematics, science, and reading instructional materials for degree of alignment with state standards. -\$1.03M

9. LASER - Funding for the LASER program (Leadership & Assistance for Science Education Reform) supported by the Pacific Science Center is reduced. The LASER program is a statewide project to implement hands-on science curriculum through 10 regional school district alliances. -\$5M

10. Bremerton Lighthouse Program - Funding for the Bremerton Lighthouse Program is eliminated. Funding supported technical assistance activities of the Bremerton School District in supporting other school districts implementing new full-day kindergarten programs. -\$130,000

11. Robotics - Funding for the FIRST Robotics program is discontinued. The program funds robotics programs and competitions in high schools throughout the state. Proviso language is added to the education reform budget making these programs an allowable use of funding provided for chapter 170, Laws of 2008, relating to secondary career and technical education grants. -\$300,000

12. Accountability Institutes - Funding for summer accountability institutes is discontinued. The funding supported conference style professional development retreats and seminars covering a broad range of issues such as curriculum planning, assessment issues, and research. -\$1M

13. Paraprofessional Training - Funding for paraprofessionals training programs is eliminated. The funding supported regional coordination of instructional aid training opportunities in each region, include in-service training, conferences, and on-line training. -\$1.096M

14. ELL Pilot Project - Funding for an English language learner pilot project is discontinued. The funding supported the participation of select districts in piloting curriculum and professional development models in collaboration with a college, university, or other technical assistance provider. -\$1.368M

15. Administrator Internships - Funding for administrator internships is reduced by 25 percent. The funding supported the Washington State Educational Leadership Intern Program, which provided partial release time for district employees to participate programs designed to mentor future school administrators. -\$350,000

16. Pacific Science Center - Funding for educational programs at the Pacific Science Center is reduced. Funding for the LASER program at the Pacific Science Center remains at a reduced amount, and is described in a separate item. -\$2.448M

17. 21st Century After School Programs - Funding for the 21st Century After School Program is discontinued. The funding supported programs supplementing standard instruction with extended day and extended year instructional activities. -\$3M

18. Math Helping Corps - Funding for the Math Helping Corps is discontinued. The funding supported the work of teams of coaches providing technical assistance to schools struggling in math. -\$3.528M

19. Library Services - Funding for the school library services allocation is discontinued. The allocation supported per student allocations to school districts for library-related materials and expenses. -\$8M

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(Cont'd)

20. Professional Development Changes - Funding for professional development in the areas of math and science is discontinued. Funding supported additional learning improvement days for middle and high school math and science teachers to receive professional development on new math and science curriculum standards and best practices. The remaining amount in the budget for this item reflects the remaining costs for the last two months of the 2008-09 school year (July and August), which fall in FY 2010 (Education Legacy Trust Account-State). -\$39.736M
21. Segmented Math - Funding for a segmented math assessment tool is discontinued. The assessment tool separated math content areas into individual tests so that not all areas were tested in one sitting. -\$2.828M
22. Local Farms & Healthy Kids - Funding for the Washington Grown Fresh Fruits and Vegetables program at OSPI is reduced by 50 percent. The program provided funding to schools to purchase Washington-grown fresh and fresh-frozen fruits and vegetables to offer to children as snacks. -\$600,000
23. Ctr for Improv of Student Learning - Funding for the Center for Improving Student Learning is reduced. -\$216,000
24. Halt K-3 Demonstration Projects - Funding is eliminated for three schools to serve as demonstration projects for a variety of reform initiatives, including full-day kindergarten and class-size ratio of 18:1 from kindergarten through third grade. -\$2.062M
25. Assessments and Curricula - Funding is provided for ESSB 5414, which implements certain recommendations of the WASL work group. \$70,000
26. Conditional Funding Natnl Bd Bonus - Funding is provided to advance a portion of the financial bonus available to National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certified teachers. The purpose of this advance is to defray some of the up front costs associated with undertaking the NBPTS application process. The advance is repaid upon receipt of the first bonus. \$3M
27. Graduation without a Certificate - A savings is assumed from the implementation of HB 1562, which removes the requirement that high school students must continue to take the mathematics Washington Assessment of Student Learning, or another appropriate assessment, each year in order to graduate without a Certificate of Academic Achievement. -\$1.072M
28. Math & Science Instructional Coach - Funding for the math and science instructional coach program is reduced by 50 percent. -\$3.855M
29. Natl Bd Prog at Current Bonus Level - The National Board bonus amounts allocated to districts are adjusted to reflect lower pension costs, and do not reflect an inflationary increase for the 2009-11 biennium. -\$4.621M
30. Career & Tech Ed for Middle School - Funding is provided to support career and technical education programs in middle schools, as described in 2SSB 5676. \$1.458M
31. WASL Changes - Funding for the assessment system is reduced to reflect projected savings from reducing the length of the tests, including reducing the number of open-ended response items, and make other changes described in ESSB 5414. -\$8.454M
32. I- 732 COLA - Initiative 732 salary increases are suspended for these programs for the 2009-11 biennium, therefore, programs that receive inflationary increases linked to the Initiative 732 salary adjustments will not receive those adjustments in the 2009-11 biennium (General Fund-State, Education Legacy Trust Account-State). -\$2.552M

THIS WEEK IN REVIEW

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Educational Service Districts

Administrative Reduction - in the educational service districts. -\$1.216M

Pupil Transportation

1. Four Day Week Pilot - Funding is provided to implement Substitute House Bill 1292 (180-day school year waiver). The amount reflects the projected savings to the state resulting from a five school district pilot of a four-day school week calendar. Savings are anticipated primarily in transportation and food service formula allocations. -\$154,000
2. Choice Transportation - Funding for the Choice transportation program is removed. This program provided transportation services to low-income students who transfer to "choice" programs solely for educational reasons, and has been under utilized in recent years. -\$10,000

School Food Services

Federal Recovery Food Equipment - Federal funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 are provided for equipment assistance to school food authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Local SFAs may apply to the office of the superintendent of public instruction to receive grants in accordance with provisions of the ARRA. As stipulated in the ARRA, priority will be given to SFAs for equipment for schools in which at least 50 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals. \$1.588M

EDUCATION FINANCE REFORM BILL PASSES

ESHB 2261, the bill that is the result of the work of the 2007-09 Basic Education Finance Task Force, is on the governor's desk after passing the Senate 26-23 and the House 67-31 earlier this week. Described by those supporting it as a first step to address the pressing issue of redefining basic education (to include early learning for at-risk children, 1080 instructional hours, 24 credits to graduate from high school, all-day kindergarten, highly capable, and a new transportation formula) the legislation does not provide funding or a revenue plan to fully fund the new definition. Four workgroups are established: Funding Formulas; Local Levies and LEA Funding, and; Compensation and Early Learning. Another group—K-12 Data Governance—will determine what data are necessary to determine if districts are using their funding to improve student learning before new funding is appropriated. The SBE will continue its work on an accountability system which must include an accountability index, identification and recognition of districts with exemplary performance as well as progressive interventions for "challenged" schools and districts. Academic audits and binding corrective action plans approved by the SBE and monitored by OSPI will be required if a district is not making adequate progress. A Quality Education Council made up of legislators, OSPI, SBE, PESB and the Dept. of Early Learning will provide oversight. A prototypical funding model for schools will be implemented. The new system for basic ed is to be phased-in and fully implemented by 2018. [View the bill here.](#)

[BILLS ON THE MOVE](#)

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

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 11.)

Signed by the Governor:

HB 1110 - Home-based instruction
HB 1113 - School construction grants C 6 L 09
HB 1155 - Special education billing C 73 L 09
HB 1156 - Alternative route program
HB 1196 - Small works roster priorities C 74 L 09
HB 1197 - Alternative public works C 75 L 09
HB 1288 - Home school declaration
HB 1322 - Eliminating school scoliosis screening C 41 L 09
HB 1562 - Graduating without certificate C 17 L 09
HB 1675 - Alternative route program
HB 1852 - Fingerprint record checks
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 5327 - Election provisions C 107 L 09
SB 5487 - Employee contract nonrenewal C 57 L 09
SB 5980 - School plant funding C 129 L 09

Delivered to the Governor:

HB 1319 - School distr employee ethics
HB 1385 - School empl sexual misconduct
HB 1741 - School employees dismissal
HB 1793 - Alternative student transport
HB 1824 - Concussion mgmt/youth sports
HB 1879 - Deaf & hard of hearing
HB 1943 - Early learning workforce
HB 2003 - Professional educator standards board
HB 2119 - Dual credit opportunities
HB 2261 - State's education system
SB 5229 - Legislative youth adv council
SB 5248 - Military children
SB 5303 - From PERS 2 to SERS 2
SB 5410 - Online learning
SB 5414 - Assessments and curricula
SB 5551 - Elementary student recess periods
SB 5580 - School impact fees
SB 5601 - Speech-language pathology
SB 5676 - Middle school student tech edu
SB 5738 - OSPI review of compliance reports
SB 5776 - Regarding student fees, charges, and assessment
SB 5881 - Truancy
SB 5973 - Student achievement gap
SR 8606 - Honoring home education families.

**BILLS ON THE MOVE
(Cont'd)**

Passed Senate (must return to the House):

- ESHB 1018 - Special election dates
- SHB 1292 - 180-day school year waivers
- 2SHB 1355 - Opportunity internship prog
- ESHB 1619 - School capital projects
- SHB 1758 - High school diplomas and options
- SHB 1776 - School district levies
- HB 2132 - Instruction in civics

Passed House (must return to Senate):

- ESSB 5263 - Electric shock devices in schools
- ESSB 5889 - Education system flexibility
- ESSB 5967 - Public community athletics
- SSB 6016 - Students with dyslexia

**RETIREMENT/HEALTH
BENEFITS**

The House budget, HB 1244, contains a number of issues that our association supported. Along with the five SCPP recommended bills that have now gone to the Governor's Office for signature (HB 1548 - Interrupted Military Service, HB 1551 - Military Death Benefits, SB 5303 - PERS to SERS Auto-Transfer, SB 5315 - Survivors of PERS 1 Inactives, and SB 5305 - DRS Technical Corrections HB1244, the budget, includes \$51,000 to the Washington State Institute for Public Policy to study the disability benefits provided to TRS, PERS, and SERS Plan 2 and 3 members. This was originally in HB 1549/SB 5306.

The budget also includes the study of health benefits similar to 2SSB 5491, only the study is conducted or contracted by the State Actuary and the due date for the results of the study is pushed out to December 15, 2010. The study encompasses all employers connected with the DRS. The study is to conduct a comparison of the actuarial value of health benefits provided to employees and the cost of those benefits to employees and employers. Employers shall provide data similar to what was requested in 2SSB 5491. It appears that the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCPP) is still intact in this budget.

Employee health benefits are changed from the 2008-09 allocation of \$732 to \$745 in 2009-10 and then to \$768 in 2010-11. The remittance or carve-out moves from \$60.40 to \$59.59 in 2009-10 and then to \$64.90 in 2010-11. The retiree subsidy is set at \$1821.89 for both years of the biennium.

| Employer/Employee | TRS | PERS | SERS |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Employer Rate | 5.98% | 5.13% | 5.27% |
| Employee Rate | 3.36% | 3.89% | 3.14% |

*These rates do not include the 0.16 DRS administrative cost.

**The employer rates are for Plans 1, 2 and 3. The employee rates are for Plan 2.

Changes include reduction of the assumed rate of salary growth from 4.25% to 4%; delay of the adoption of new mortality tables until the 2011-13 fiscal biennium; suspension of contribution rate minimums for the 2009-11 fiscal biennium; and the phased adoption of a new funding method for the Plan 1 unfunded liabilities. This will be found in SB 6161, speaking to pension actuarial funding.

The budget also addresses SB 6167, which deals with allowing members during

RETIREMENT/HEALTH BENEFITS

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2009-11 to get credit for forgone compensation due to voluntary leave without pay, or temporary furloughs, or reduced work hours. This credit would go toward the member's final average compensation calculation.

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

AEA

AEA is pleased that the following bills we supported and provided input for during the session have passed both houses and have been delivered to the Governor:

SB 5487 - Date of Non-Renewal Notification - Signed by the Governor 4/10; in case the legislature has not adopted a budget by May 15, the non-renewal date for certain staff is changed from May 15 to June 15;

SSB 5738 - Annual Compliance Reports - Delivered to the Governor 4/23; OSPI would review data system reports and decide which should be eliminated, and federal & state reporting could be combined to avoid duplication;

HB 1113 - School Construction Grant Assistance - Signed by the Governor 2/18; \$1.33M in state general obligation bonds for 2009-11, and \$130M in bonds for the second 2009 supplemental budget are authorized to keep on schedule the school construction projects receiving state matching funds;

SSB 5580 - School Impact Fees - Delivered to the Governor 4/21; school districts would now have ten years rather than six years to spend revenues gained from impact fees on their school construction projects;

SB 5980 - School Construction Formula - Signed by the Governor 4/17; the state matching funds are renamed "funding assistance" in school construction projects to make the names more transparent.

KEEPING UP WITH THE LEGISLATURE

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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WASA 1-800-859-9272
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