



# *This Week in Olympia*

## Washington Association of School Administrators

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## *No Special Session*

**MAY 8, 2009**

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### **THIS WEEK IN OLYMPIA**

#### **NO SPECIAL SESSION**

The governor announced yesterday that she would not call a special session of the legislature. Her *letter* to members of the House and Senate—as it pertains to K–12 education states:

“I write to inform you that I will not be calling a special session of the 61st Legislature.

I have stated consistently that I would not call a special session until I was confident there was agreement among both chambers on the topics to be considered and how these issues would be resolved. There is no such agreement.

Therefore, we will not be able to consider the following issues at this time:

- School levy policy. Many school districts are facing significant budget cuts. I was hopeful that some of the reductions could have been offset with my proposal to allow districts to collect funds that had been approved by the voters but exceeded the levy lid.
- Levy equalization funding. The budget assumed a \$60 million reduction in these funds but the law was not changed to implement those reductions.

...

Since these issues cannot be resolved immediately, I intend to take the following actions:

- Continue making full levy equalization payments, even though the budget reduced the funding by \$60 million. This is required by statute, and it is the right thing to do to help struggling school districts, since policy changes to allow for greater levy collections will not take place. The Legislature will need to address the budget shortfall in the 2010 legislative session.

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Based on the budget projections, I will do what I can to avoid drastic, across the board reductions, but it may call for legislative action. I appreciate all of your hard work during the 2009 legislative session. I believe you passed a responsible budget for these very tough times. I look forward to working with you during the interim and into the 2010 session.”

## [BUDGET PREPARATIONS](#)

There are a number of tools available for your use as you prepare your budgets based on the actions taken by the legislature. Check here to access the Omnibus Appropriations Act (the 2009-2011 State Operating Budget), *ESHB 1244*. Section 501 (pages 123-165) pertains to K-12.

OSPI:

[Legislative Wrap-Up \(April 30 K-20 Videoconference\)](#)

[Summary of Education Bills](#)

[Conference Final Budget](#)

[Pivot Tables](#)

[2009 Budget Rate Sheet](#)

[Federal Stimulus](#)

F-203 <http://eds.ospi.k12.wa.us>. This tool is currently being updated. It should be ready around May 15.

ESD 113 Simulated F-203:

[Excel Sheets](#)

[Training Video](#) (Under Video Conferencing go to Download Video Conference Events - Click on "Fiscal and School Financial Services 4-17-09")

Notes from NWESD: Many of you are working madly on your budgets and are wanting OSPI's F-203 up right away. ESD 113 has developed an Excel model that simulates the F-203 and goes way beyond the F-203 to assist in projecting all revenues and allows projected expenditure inputs to drive a cash flow tool. The tool is quite detailed and is very powerful. If you decide to use it you need to take the time to view the video of the training that John Molohon did for the districts in his region.

The tool may be found on the ESD 113 website. Select the 0910 F203X Model Conference April 28 excel sheet and download it to your computer. You may be asked for a user name and password, if you do hit cancel and then the file will open. The same thing may happen when you try to save the file.

The training can also be found on ESD 113's site. Select Download Video Conference Events and then download the "Fiscal & School Financial Services 4-17-09 recording" (NOT the F203 Training as that is an OSPI presentation for ESDs). The recording is about 2 hours long. Downloading and saving the presentation allows you to play it back at a faster speed if you desire. There is some dead time as the recording starts before the training actually begins and it is left recording during a break so you can speed up the listening time if you record before listening.

Opening both the tool and the training so you can see both at the same time or switch between the two will be helpful as the resolution of the computer screen in the video is not great.

I have listened to the presentation but I have not actually used the document yet. John has extensive knowledge on how the OSPI formulas work and he has done

his best to make the model match OSPI's calculations but he does not guarantee that it will. If you need help please first listen to the training, second contact your ESD to see if they can answer your questions, then as a final effort contact John Molohon at the number he gives in the training. Please respect that John is very busy serving his own districts and that answers to your questions will not take priority over serving his districts. John is very generous in sharing this tool and we want to make sure that he will continue to be willing to share.

If this tool is more than you want, OSPI's current F-203X option is available and soon the new EDS F-203X option will be available.

If you use the tool and like it be sure to send John your thanks.

### [WASA's 2009 SESSION REPORT](#)

Our overview of the 2009 session, including details of the budget and bills that passed, is a "work in progress" and will be available on WASA's website [www.wasa-oly.org](http://www.wasa-oly.org) sometime next week.

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