

## **WOVE Legislative Update for Career and Technical Education**

**2021 Legislative Session | January 12, 2021**

WOVE...Representing the Career and Technical Education field through advocacy activities, which promotes the value of CTE and the policies that are needed to support CTE practitioners, advance the field, and improve student learning. To subscribe to the *WOVE Legislative Update* or to view past issues, please [click here](#).

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Thank you for your subscription to the weekly WOVE Legislative Newsletter, which we believe to be the most comprehensive collection of legislative information for Career and Technical Education (CTE) along with education information in general. While the focus of this newsletter for the legislative session is done through the lens of Career and Technical Education (CTE) and how any and all pending legislation will either promote CTE or not, you will find a great deal of information on all education-related bills.

So, let's get started.

### **Where have we been...(briefly)**

**2017** - Governor Inslee in his State of the State said, *"We are going to stop telling our children that a four-year degree is the only path to success. It's time we recognize the dreams of those who want to build beautiful boats as a welder, or assemble aircraft as a machinist, or help cure diseases as a global health specialist."*

This came after his trip with a state delegation of business, political, and education leaders to Switzerland seeking to understand their system thus beginning Career Connected Learning work in Washington along with establishing Career Connect Washington (CCW), bringing a greatly welcomed focus on the value of Career and Technical Education (CTE) and all CTE does for student success in the economy and society. Since then, there has been a great deal of work done to improve workforce development in and out of state.

**2019** - There were several grants and funding for education and Career Connect Washington to continue the work started in 2017.

**2020** - During this supplemental budget year, we were able to successfully increase funding for the statewide supervision of CTSOs from \$100K to \$800K. Then the pandemic set in and in preparation for a severe downturn in the economy the Governor vetoed much of the new funding in the supplemental budget, where we lost the new \$700K for CTSOs.

**The 2021 legislative session:** As our country wrestles with the events of the past days, weeks, months, and year, we have been working with the help of the Washington ACTE Legislative Committee to prepare for a 2021 Legislative Session that - no matter what happens - will likely be like no other before it.

The upcoming legislative session began on January 11 and will run for 105 consecutive days that will produce, along with policy bills, the final passage of the Operating, Capital, and Transportation biennial budgets.

Legislative [COVID-19 Session Operations Plan](#) released on December 11. Here are some of the details:

- House facilities will remain closed to the public.
- Floor sessions and committee meetings will be held remotely.
- Each caucus (Republican and Democratic) may designate up to 15 members to work remotely from their assigned office on the Capitol Campus.
- Staff must telework during the 2021 legislative session.

This will create a challenge for everyone including members, staff, and the public. As we all learned through distance learning in K12 we must find ways for people to participate in the legislative process. A few bills have already been [prefiled](#) and [House committees](#) have been restructured, and so some policies may be assigned to “different” committees as a result.

**Who is Who:**

The leadership of both chambers did not change much after the November election. However, there are many new individuals in the two chambers. Use this [link](#) to find your (based on where you live) members of the legislature.

**Career and Technical Education (CTE) Focused Items:**

We continue to focus on our priorities that have been developed and approved by the Washington ACTE Executive Board and found in our [2021 Legislative Focus](#).

For the first week of session, we have not identified CTE-related bills. What we know at the moment is there are several bills to address the challenges of delivering K12 education during a worldwide pandemic. For those that align with our established areas of focus we welcome and will support. As a part of our work when we identify bills that diminish our areas of focus, we will work to improve to a point of support. Short of that we will work to suppress if needed.

We will be working this session to return the funding for CTSOs that was provided in the supplemental budget passed by both chambers.

**Engaging in the Process:**

WOVE subscribers are encouraged to join our weekly Open Legislative Committee zoom on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. If you would like to join us please let Tim Knue know directly at [tim@wa-acte.org](mailto:tim@wa-acte.org) to receive the calendar/email information. These meetings are a great way to be aware of what is happening on a weekly basis and to help you engage with your local legislative members in achieving our legislative goals.

Testifying on any bill this session will be virtually and during our weekly meetings we will be sharing how that process will take place. We will be posting education committee meeting times and dates for the upcoming week in the WOVE for your information. If we can help in any way with this, please let me know. We welcome any and all help in our efforts.

**The “On the Hill” Process (virtually):**

WA-ACTE has a team of two “working” the hill as our lobbyists for the upcoming session(s).

This greatly expands our advocacy efforts and provides us with an increased ability to work with our partners, state agencies, legislative members, their staff, and many stakeholders to achieve our overall goals.

**A word of caution for working in this process:**

The WOVE Legislative Newsletter is for your information, education, and outreach.

Here are some simple guidelines in how you should properly use this information going forward. In a “virtual” world where many are working from home with school/public provided equipment it will be very important to pay attention to what is allowed when and how as we deal with this new process of advocacy.

- You may pass this information along to your home email and/or share with your administration.
- As a public employee using public resources (time, equipment, and servers) you may not engage in what can be considered “lobbying.” This means you should not, during the school/contract day, use school phones, computers, equipment, school email, and any use of public servers with your personal email to make direct contact to lobby any legislative member. This includes their staff or

any member of the public that you are directing to vote in a certain way or take on any lobbying action. Lobbying is generally described as a direct ask for action in the political and/or legislative process at any level (local/state/nation).

So, if you choose to be personally or professionally involved in the political process you need to do so on your own time, outside the contract day, with your own resources and personally owned equipment.

**WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE | BILL STATUS REPORT**

*Click the link below for the current report listing all bills we are currently tracking and their current status:*

[\*\*BILL STATUS & UPCOMING EVENTS REPORT\*\*](#)

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