

WOVE Legislative Update for Career and Technical Education

2024 Legislative Session | January 18, 2024

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The second week of the legislative session got off to a cold and celebratory start. While schools were off for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday and snowy conditions, the legislature was full steam ahead. During the legislative session there are no holiday breaks for days like MLK and Presidents Day as the 60 days are a running clock with no time-outs.

The House Education committee met three times this week and the Senate K-12 and Early Learning committee met three times as well as hearing a wide variety of bills. The WA-ACTE team participated in several of these and WA-ACTE Executive Director Tim Knue testified with Dave Gering of Core Plus on [HB 2236](#) in House Education committee on Tuesday evening. As the first couple weeks of session pass, we are beginning to see the priority bills and which ones will be left to die by the cutoff calendar. Please see the following bill highlights and bill summary list for legislation we are tracking this week.

Bill Highlights

[HB 2236 - Expanding and strengthening career and technical education core plus programs](#)

This week the CTE Core Plus bill was heard in House Education Committee. While the bill had strong support from CTE education partners and agencies, the AWB and AGC testified “Other” asking that the bill be held over to the next session. You can listen to the full bill testimony at this link from [TVW](#). We continue to work the bill with the prime sponsor and at this point we expect it to be voted out of committee next week. The sponsor is willing to accept amendments, though we have not been made aware of any at this time. So, stay tuned and if you care to share stories of how you see the passage of this bill helping your CTE programs, please share and we can add them to the support to move the bill to final passage and signature by the Governor.



[SB 5958 - Establishing the Washington career skills grant program](#)

The Washington College Grant (WCG) is the state's largest financial aid program and provides grants to low-income students to pursue postsecondary education. The WCG is an entitlement program administered by the Washington Student Achievement Council with guaranteed grants for students who qualify. This bill establishes the Washington career skills grant program to include noncredit-bearing programs that are ineligible for federal or state aid under the WCG. The bill is created for the purpose of incentivizing the creation of short-term and micro-credentialing opportunities and programs relevant to the retail sector. This bill has bipartisan support on the sponsor line.

[SB 5813 - Agriculture Literacy](#)

Senator Dozier of Walla Walla County introduced [SB 5813](#) - This bill requires school districts to offer instruction in agricultural literacy beginning no later than the 2025-26 school year. It also requires that instruction in agricultural literacy be offered to each student at least once before completing grade 12. Finally, the legislation directs the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to make curricular resources related to agricultural literacy available in a library of openly licensed courseware. This bill has bipartisan support and was heard in Senate K-12 committee on January 17.

[SB 1915 - Making financial education instruction a graduation prerequisite and a required component of public education](#)

On Monday, WA-ACTE signed on in support of [SB 1915](#), which directs school districts, charter schools, and state-tribal education compact schools to provide high school students with access to one-half credit of financial education instruction by the 2025-26 school year. It also requires public school students, beginning with the class of 2029, to earn one-half credit of financial education instruction as a graduation prerequisite. This bill had well over half of the House of Representatives as a co-sponsor on the bill with wide bipartisan support. Look for this bill to be voted out of committee on January 25.

[HB 2406 - Establishing a work group to assess the restrictions on the employment of 16- and 17-year-olds](#)

Representative April Connors of Kennewick introduced this bill that establishes a work group for Preparatory CTE students and may potentially allow 16- and 17-year-olds to use the certification or license (CNA, HCA) they earned to accumulate work hours. In short, the bill directs the Department of Labor and Industries to form a work group to review existing laws, rules, agency policies, and develop recommendations for changes in order to enhance the employability of 16- and 17-year-old students, with a particular focus on students who are participating in or who have completed a preparatory secondary Career and Technical Education program and want to begin working. This bill was introduced and read into House Education committee on January 17. [HB 2406](#) has a wide range of bipartisan support at this time. WA-ACTE will discuss this bill on our next legislative call scheduled for Monday January 22.

[Current Bill Status & Upcoming Events Report \(click for full report\)](#)

Education (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 1/25 @ 8:00am

- [HB 1915](#) - Exec Session - Making financial education instruction a graduation prerequisite and a required component of public education. (Support)
- [HB 2236](#) - Exec Session - Expanding and strengthening career and technical education core plus programs. (Support/High)

Support

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Priority
HB 1915 (SB 5819)	Financial education	Making financial education instruction a graduation prerequisite and a required component of public education.	H Education	Rude	
HB 2236	Tech. ed. core plus programs	Expanding and strengthening career and technical education core plus programs.	H Education	Shavers	High
HB 2406	16&17 y/o employ. work group	Establishing a work group to assess the restrictions on the employment of 16 and 17 year olds.	H Labor & Workplace	Connors	
SB 5813	Agricultural instruction	Mandating instruction on agricultural literacy for students in grades seven through 12.	S EL/K-12	Dozier	

[Celebrate CTE Month in February!](#)



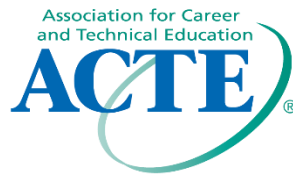
CELEBRATE TODAY,
OWN TOMORROW!

Career and Technical Education Month® is a public awareness campaign, hosted by ACTE and sponsored by National Association of Home Builders, that takes place each February to celebrate CTE, the accomplishments of CTE programs and the importance of CTE for all students of all ages. We encourage you to use the resources on the [CTE Month webpage](#) to help us generate positive awareness of CTE!

[CTE Month Proclamation](#)

2024 Session Cutoff Calendar

January 8, 2024	First Day of Session
January 31, 2024	Last day to read in committee reports (pass bills out of committee and read them into the record on the floor) in house of origin, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
February 5, 2024	Last day to read in committee reports (pass bills out of committee and read them into the record on the floor) from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees in house of origin.
February 13, 2024	Last day to consider (pass) bills in house of origin (5 p.m.).
February 21, 2024	Last day to read in committee reports (pass bills out of committee and read them into the record on the floor) from opposite house, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
February 26, 2024	Last day to read in opposite house committee reports (pass bills out of committee and read them into the record on the floor) from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
March 1, 2024*	Last day to consider (pass) opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session).
March 7, 2024	Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.
* After 5:00pm on the 54th day, only initiatives, alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, matters that affect state revenue, messages pertaining to amendments, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session may be considered.	



Federal Legislation:

- [ACTE Advocacy Webpage](#)
- [CTE Policy Watch Blog](#)
- [Take Action](#)
- [ACTE Policy Agenda](#)
- [Advocacy Resources](#)

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](#).