

# *WOVE Legislative Update for Career and Technical Education*

2025 Legislative Session | December 20, 2024

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Happy Holidays! On Monday, January 13, 2025, the Legislature will convene the 69th Biennial Session. This will be the first biennium with a new governor at the helm in a dozen years. Governor Jay Inslee will complete his third consecutive term as governor next month and with that means a lot of changes to “business as usual” at the capital as Governor-Elect Ferguson moves into the corner office.

Legislators will introduce and debate many policy bills, covering a vast range of issues. But, the major focus will be to pass three separate two-year budgets. A balanced Operating Budget within projected revenue is the only thing the Legislature is required to complete and must be done for the state to function. Crafting a state budget is always complex. State revenues continue to increase; however, growth is beginning to slow. Inflationary metrics are beginning to cool as well, which will be a welcome indicator from school districts. As of this writing, the state budget writers are facing down an estimated \$12 billion budget shortfall, which will be closed by a combination of cost cutting measures and new revenue sources from around the state.

Superintendent Reykdal presented an education budget package in October requesting approximately \$3 billion in new additional funding as well as increased staff for OSPI. Governor Inslee submitted a budget proposal to the Legislature in December that severely reduced those requests. The governor’s budget ([linked here](#)) is just the first budget in the process and is typically used as a template to craft their various proposals. Governor-Elect Ferguson will submit a budget summary document to the legislature before he delivers his state-of-the-state on January 15, which will outline his spending and cost-cutting priorities. But, at the end of the day it’s the 147 elected lawmakers that have to send a balanced budget to his desk.

We do not anticipate any reductions in K-12 funding and, as an association, will be seeking ways to increase and protect our dollars so schools can spend them the way the legislators intend. There will be policy work around sixth grade CTE enhancement funding that WA-ACTE is already engaged with OSPI on. We have bill draft language ready to go and have already worked it with several key education-minded legislators.

Our legislative team will also be keeping our eye out for challenging policy that we deem to be problematic for our goals. When these bill are introduced we tend to attempt to “dull the edges” or participate in the process to be cooperative partners. Many of these bills will be delivered to you in the weekly *WOVE* subscription as well as action items, budget updates, and more.

As always, legislators need to hear “your CTE story” and understand what you need to serve students in your district. If you do not let them know and advocate for your students, your programs, and CTE overall, who will? Find out who your school and hometown legislators are by searching [in this link](#). Once you have your legislator identified you can contact them via email or phone call using this easy to use [member roster tool](#).

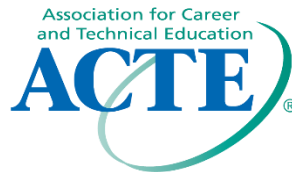
WA-ACTE will continue to support your efforts by providing resources and assistance when and where we can, this includes:

- Weekly updates through the *WOVE Newsletter* (Subscription Required), this being the first of the session and shared with all current members and past subscribers. FURTHER UPDATES will only be sent to 2025 WOVE subscribers, so don't miss out on the latest when it happens during legislative session. “Membership has its privileges!”
  - [Subscribe with check or purchase order](#). [Subscribe with credit card](#).
- [2025 Legislative Focus](#)
- CTSO Civic Engagement Day January 28
- Weekly Zoom Huddles during session on Tuesday afternoons.

We look forward to another legislative session and we hope you join us along the way. Stay up-to-date on what’s happening with education policy and funding by reading your weekly *WOVE* and please reach out to us with anything you want to see in the newsletter going forward.



**[Celebrate CTE Month!](#) 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 these [resources](#) to help us generate positive awareness of CTE!**



**Federal Legislation:**

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

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***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](#).***