

WOVE Legislative Update for Career and Technical Education

2024 Legislative Session | March 21, 2024

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We have reached the “bill signing” phase of session, which means the gavel has dropped and the legislators have gone home. Governor Inslee has spent and will spend the coming weeks working through adopted bills as his staff determines whether to sign, veto, partial veto, or effect by the “90-day” rule. Once the session has ended, an adopted piece of legislation will become law regardless of if the Governor signed it or not after 90 days. This is the Washington State “90-day rule.”

This legislative biennium saw thousands of bills considered and hundreds passed; none more important than the three budgets that fund all aspects of our state government. If you’re a curious person who likes to see how the sausage is made, the fiscal site of the state legislature lets you break down the budget by agency, category, line item, and you can word search as well. Please visit this page and begin to navigate their easy-to-use tabs [House Operating Proposals \(wa.gov\)](#)

Budget Highlights – Education

General Education Funding

Lawmakers increased funding for MSOC by \$21 more per student, totaling \$1,504.44 per student for the 2023-2024 school year. The following school year will see a total of \$1,533.02 per student. That’s equivalent to about an additional \$43.6 million.

Special Education

Both the House and Senate supported raising the amount school districts get from the state to pay for special education. With this new budget allocation districts will be subsidized for special education programs covering 17.5% of their student bodies. That’s up from 15%. The increase will cost the state \$185 million over the next few years.

As a reminder, in 2023, the Legislature increased this funding cap from 13.5% to 15%. This equates to a roughly 30% increase in special education funding over the last two sessions.

Classified Staff allocation

[SB 5882](#) increases the staff allocation for paraeducators in the prototypical school funding model, freeing dollars that schools can use to increase staffing, prevent layoffs, or increase salaries for classified staff. The policy is funded with \$72 million in the 2024 supplemental operating [budget](#) to support an estimated \$3 per hour wage increase for classified staff. This increase amounts to an 11 percent wage increase on average.

School Construction

The capital budget includes \$306 million for school construction assistance. The money for schools is spread across four areas: the School Construction Assistance Program, rural/small districts, CTE facilities, and HVAC.

The budget increased taxpayer support for the School Construction Assistance Program from \$271.61 to \$375 per square foot. The change amounts to an increase of about \$79 million and is the largest increase in state history over one budget cycle.

The increase in school construction funding comes [after Washington's Supreme Court ruled](#) last year the legislature is not responsible for 100% of school construction costs, calling it a "shared responsibility between the district and the state."

Skills Centers/CTE

Of the total allocation, \$68 million will go to skill centers and other CTE facilities.

Bill Highlights

ESSB 5949

- Small District and Tribal Compact Schools Modernization
- 2023-25 High Need Schools
- CTE Projects

ESHB 2494: Increasing state funding for operating costs in schools.

E2SHB 1956: Fentanyl and other substance use prevention education.

2SSB 5882: Increasing prototypical school staffing model.

SHB 2180: Increasing the special education enrollment cap.

ESSB 5950 (Operating Budget)

- Pupil Transportation and Buses
- Student Meals (Community Eligibility Program)

WOVE Detail Report

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Position</u>
<u>HB 1146</u> Dual credit program notice Notifying high school students and their families about available dual credit programs and any available financial assistance.	C 44 L 24	Paul		
<u>E4SHB 1239</u> Educator ethics & complaints Establishing a simple and uniform system for complaints related to, and instituting a code of educator ethics for, conduct within or involving public elementary and secondary schools.	Del to Gov	Santos		

<u>E2SHB 1368</u> (SB 5431)	Zero emission school buses	Del to Gov	Senn		
	Requiring and funding the purchase of zero emission school buses.				
<u>SHB 1915</u> (SB 5819)	Financial education	H Rules 3C	Rude		Support
	Making financial education instruction a graduation prerequisite and a required component of public education.				
<u>SHB 2104</u> (ESSB 5950)	Operating budget, supp.	H Rules R	Ormsby		
	Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.				
<u>HB 2110</u>	High school graduation	C 66 L 24	Nance		
	Reorganizing statutory requirements governing high school graduation.				
<u>SHB 2180</u> (SB 6014)	Special education cap	Del to Gov	Callan		
	Increasing the special education enrollment funding cap.				
<u>ESHB 2236</u>	Tech. ed. core plus programs	Del to Gov	Shavers	High	Support
	Expanding and strengthening career and technical education core plus programs.				
<u>ESHB 2331</u> (SB 6208)	Public school materials	Del to Gov	Stonier		
	Modifying requirements for public school instructional and supplemental instructional materials.				
<u>ESHB 2441</u>	College in the HS fees	Del to Gov	Corry		
	Establishing a pilot program eliminating college in the high school fees for private not-for-profit four-year institutions.				
<u>ESHB 2494</u>	School operating costs	Del to Gov	Bergquist		
	Increasing state funding for operating costs in schools.				
<u>SB 5180</u>	Out-of-state teachers	Del to Gov	Hunt		
	Adopting the interstate teacher mobility compact.				
<u>ESB 5344</u>	School modernization loans	S Rules 3	Schoesler		
	Establishing a public school revolving fund. (REVISED FOR ENGROSSED: Establishing a school modernization loan program.)				

[ESB 5462](#) **Inclusive learning standards** Del to Gov Lias
Promoting inclusive learning standards and instructional materials in public schools.

[SB 5647](#) **School safety/temp employees** C 21 L 24 Torres
Providing temporary employees necessary information about school safety policies and procedures.

[E2SSB 5670](#) **Running start/rising juniors** Del to Gov Hawkins
Permitting 10th grade students to participate in running start in online settings. (REVISED FOR ENGROSSED: Providing summer running start for rising juniors.)

[SB 5789](#) **School projects/sales tax** S Rules 3 Mullet
Concerning the sales and use tax for school construction assistance program capital projects.

[E2SSB 5849](#) **Computer science/graduation** S Rules 3 Wellman
Concerning a computer science competency graduation requirement.

[ESSB 5850](#)
(HB 2146) **Chronically absent students** S Rules 3 Braun
Supporting students who are chronically absent and at risk for not graduating high school.

[SB 5852](#)
(HB 1973) **Special education safety net** C 127 L 24 Braun
Concerning special education safety net awards.

[2SSB 5882](#)
(SHB 1960) **Prototypical school staffing** Del to Gov Stanford
Increasing prototypical school staffing to better meet student needs.

[SB 5883](#)
(HB 2121) **Special education hearings** C 29 L 24 Trudeau
Concerning the burden of proof for special education due process hearings.

[SSB 6053](#)
(HB 2443) **Education data sharing** Del to Gov Holy
Improving equitable access to postsecondary education.

**Retired health
subsidy/PEBB**

Del to Gov Robinson

SB 6094

Aligning statutory language concerning the retired state employee and retired or disabled school employee health insurance subsidy with the historical interpretation and implementation of the relevant subsidy language in the operating budget.

**ESSB
6264**

**Competency-based
education**

S Rules 3 Wellman

Supporting the implementation of competency-based education.



Federal Legislation:

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

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