

Comparison of Special Education Funding Bills

	HB 1267 (Couture)	HB 1310 (Pollet) OSPI request	HB 1357 (Stonier)	SB 5263 (Pedersen)	SB 5307 (Wellman) OSPI request	Preference/Likes
Removes cap	Immediately for school districts with fewer than 2,500 FTE students, school districts that received safety net awards under RCW 28A.150.392(2)(f) in the prior school year, and school districts where at least 10% of enrollment is identified as having a military parent.	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Prefer removing cap
Phases out cap	2024-25 SY: 16%; 2025-26 SY: 16.5%; 2026-27 and 2027-28 SY: 17%; 2028-29 SY: none	Eliminated immediately	No	Eliminated immediately		Prefer removing cap
Increases multiplier	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Prefer multiplier increase

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Multiplier structure	N/A	≥80% in general education classroom: base allocation per FTE student x 1.5289 x	≥80% in general education classroom: base allocation per FTE student x 1.18 x	Removes two-tier structure and replaces with single multiplier of 1.589.	≥80% in general education classroom: base allocation per FTE student x 1.5289 x	Prefer single multiplier
Current %: 1.12 x 1.06 x		<80%: base allocation per FTE student x 1.447	<80%: base allocation per FTE student x 1.09		<80%: base allocation per FTE student x 1.447	JLARC study says it doesn't make that much of a financial difference and other levers should be used.
Pre-K (3-5)	N/A	District's base allocation per FTE student x 1.6381	No change	District's base allocation per FTE student x 1.6381	District's base allocation per FTE student x 1.6381	Good
Current %: 1.2 x						
Lowers safety net	No	Yes. 1.5 x the average per-pupil expenditure, beginning in the 2025-2026 SY using certain criteria.	No	Yes. 1.5 x the average per-pupil expenditure, beginning in the 2025-26 SY with NO criteria described.	Yes. 1.5 x the average per-pupil expenditure, beginning in the 2025-2026 SY using certain criteria.	Prefer lowering to 1.5x – approx. \$27,000 Like a criteria of if the student received safety net the previous SY and nothing has changed.
Removes two safety net thresholds	No	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes – no need for separate
Distribution of safety net payments		Must distribute on a quarterly basis under criteria.		Remains the same	Must distribute on a quarterly basis under criteria.	Like quarterly basis

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Includes Inclusionary Practices \$\$\$	No	No	Yes Would create a pilot grant program to support Centers of Excellence for inclusionary practices for up to 25 districts. The grant equivalent is equal to 1.5 for all eligible SpEd students over a four-year period. Describes the criteria for receiving the award (Section 2).	No	No	Would prefer a significant professional development budget proviso for OSPI to distribute and the provision of training of all staff, on a regular basis, in inclusionary practices. Grant program means paperwork for potentially little gain.
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Adds accountability or tracking	OSPI must determine whether school districts and charter schools are overidentifying students as eligible for special education or overproviding special education	Report would include reviewing data from districts to ensure no disproportionate identification of students.	No	No	Report would include reviewing data from districts to ensure no disproportionate identification of students.
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services to what is required by the student's IEP; can issue a finding which can lead to state auditor action.

OSPI admin fee	No	OSPI may reserve amounts up to .005 of the funding generated under the multiplier for professional development, technical assistance, and monitoring for disproportionate identification.	No	No	OSPI may reserve amounts up to .005 of the funding generated under the multiplier for professional development, technical assistance, and monitoring for disproportionate identification.
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Increases Infants & Toddlers %	No	No	Multiplier increased from 1.15 to 1.2.	No	No
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Report due		Dec. 1, 2025. The 2025 and 2026 reports must include information about enrollment percent changes, including impact to the safety net.	By Dec. 1, 2026, and annually, OSPI must report on the pilot grant program, including list of recipients, additional funding provided, effectiveness of grant funds to	No	Dec. 1, 2025. The 2025 and 2026 reports must include information about enrollment percent changes, including impact to the safety net.	No preference
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						improve student outcomes.
Rulemaking	No	No	No	No		
Back-end finance changes	N/A	Yes – Section 4	N/A	No	Yes – Section 4	
Effective date	July 27, 2025	Sept. 1, 2025	July 25, 2025	Sept. 1, 2025	Sept. 1, 2025	