



2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP

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SUMMARY

Successes

2025 Budget Summaries ([SB 5167](#) OP; [SB 5195](#) CAP)

Policy Bills – Top 5

Policy Bills – Program Changes

Parent & Students Rights, Complaints for Willful Misconduct

Failed to Pass – House and Senate

2025 Elections

What to do in the Interim



SUCCESSES — CELEBRATE THE WINS

Coalition of the largest education associations on the Big 3

At least 24 testifying in public hearings

Focus Day — meetings and rally on the steps with WEA and others

Multiple letters/communications sent together

No new unfunded mandates

No new graduation requirements

Advocacy in Action — more alerts this session than any other!

2025-27 OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS — BIG 3

Topic/Proviso	Amount	Details
Special Education (E2SSB 5263)	\$335 million	
Cap	\$81.7 million	Removes 16% cap on student enrollment
Multiplier	\$192.9 million	Increases the excess per student cost multiplier to 1.16
Safety net	\$35 million	Lowers the threshold to fund high-cost students
Inclusionary practices	\$12.8 million	20 pilot schools – Centers of Excellence
Isolation and restraint	\$4 million	Continues six demonstration sites, 16 pilot sites
Quarterly payments	\$11.8 million	Requires quarterly payments to districts with fewer than 1,000 students, starting 2026-27; districts with 60% free/reduced price meals or multilingual students
Materials, Supplies & Operating Costs (ESSB 5192) (Current level: \$1,533.02, \$204.03)	\$78.89 million	\$1,614.28 all grades, \$214.84 grades 9-12 – SY25-26 \$1,656.25 all grades, \$220.43 grades 9-12 – SY26-27
Transportation (SB 5187 / HB 1579)	\$0	No movement, no special passengers grant program.

2025-27 OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS — POLICY

Topic/Proviso	Amount	Details
One-time per student 2024-25	\$51.75 million	Equates to \$50/per student to all school districts, June
Levy Equalization (LEA increase)	\$136.9 million	\$31.6 million FY26; \$105.3 million FY27 \$150/student in CY26; \$250/student in CY27
Community Eligibility Program	\$17.9 million	Supports districts participating in the CEP for meals not reimbursed at the federal free or reduced rates
School District Financial Health	\$2.7 million	\$2 million is for a district that was removed from their risk pool due to district financial trouble.
And ... savings		
Transition to Kindergarten Enrollment	(\$74.6 million)	Freezes TTK at the 2024-25 school year enrollment levels.
LEA Inflationary Rate “adjustment”	(\$6.38 million)	HB 2049 changes only the rate of inflation for LEA from Seattle CPI to the Implicit Price Deflator.
Alternative Learning Education (ALE) Local Effort Assistance (LEA) Reduction	(\$17.04 million)	HB 2050 reduces LEA for ALE students in districts with 33% of students enrolled in ALE.
Pass-through Funding & Grant Programs	(\$138 million)	Various single budget provisos, programs, support eliminated
Federal Forest Apportionment Adjustment	(\$12.4 million)	Reduces school district apportionment by the federal level.

OTHER ADDS/SAVINGS – 2025-27 OPERATING BUDGET

Policy-level Additions	Amount	Description
Charter School “LEA”	\$7.7 million	Provides \$1,500/charter school student
Mastery-based Learning	\$2 million	Continues the MBL demonstration and pilot program
Dual Language	\$1.5 million	Cut by \$4.65M from dual language programs
9 th Grade Success program	\$1.5 million	Stand for Children program - contracts with districts
IT Academy	\$1.5 million	Cut by \$3M for public/private partnership
Homeless students	\$1.2 million	Cut by \$5M for Chapter 157, Laws of 2016
Holocaust & Genocide education	\$500,000	Cut by \$1.5M
Science on Wheels	\$500,000	Cut by \$1.5M (Pacific Science Center)
Latino Students	\$200,000	NEW
Muslim/Arab Community Orgs	\$200,000	NEW
Aviation Academy	\$179,000	NEW
CTE Careers Work Group	\$176,000	NEW – related to HB 1414

AND ... CUTS TO NON-BASIC ED PROVISOS

Policy-level Losses	Amount	Description
Career-connected Learning	\$11.2 million	Eliminates funding for CCL
Postsecondary support and prep	\$25.0 million	Various programs to support pursuing pathways after HS
Low-achieving Schools	\$28.7 million	Eliminates funding to support Required Action Districts
Dual credit support at high schools	\$9.8 million	Removes grant funding to support courses & exam fees
Outdoor learning	\$40 million	The outdoor education experiences for students is gone
STEM supports	\$15.2 million	Various grants for STEM-related programs for students
Foster Youth support	\$14 million	Work with Treehouse to increase graduation rates
CTE grants	\$6.2 million	Supported First Robotics and related programs
Core Plus grants	\$5.2 million	Maritime, construction, aerospace & manufacturing
Tutoring	\$4 million	One-on-one tutoring programs are eliminated
Truancy	\$3 million	Various support for truancy-related, absenteeism
Civics Education	\$1.35 million	Various civics grant programs
ASB fees	\$1.7 million	Reduced ASB fees for low-income students

2025-27 CAPITAL BUDGET - HIGHLIGHTS

Topic/Proviso	Amount	Details
School Construction Assistance Program	\$429.57 million	Funding provided to match district-passed bonds.
Small District Modernization Grants	\$175.45 million	Grants for districts with fewer than 1,000 students, up to \$6 million each construction grant; also \$530K in planning grants. Sec. 5008 (5) – can't be used as match to SCAP.
Seismic safety	\$151 million	3 school districts, 4 projects
Indoor Air Quality	\$17.5 million	\$7.84 million for districts with more than 3,000 students; \$9.56 million for districts with 3,000 or fewer students.
School District Health & Safety	\$31 million	\$11 million in emergency repair; \$15 million in urgent repair; \$5 million for ADA compliance.
Healthy Kids Grants & Lead in Pipes	\$13 million	\$12 million for grants; \$1 million for lead in pipes.
Career Launch (CTE equipment grants) – up to \$200,000 per single district	\$4 million	To purchase and install CTE equipment that expands career-connected learning and work-integrated learning opportunities.
School Security & Preparedness Infrastructure Grants – up to \$500,000 per district per biennium.	\$6 million	For grants to increase the physical security of K-12 public school facilities and campuses. See SB 5003 (didn't pass) for eligible activities.

#1: CLOSING FUNDING GAPS: SPECIAL EDUCATION (E2SSB 5263)

- Removes the 16% cap, beginning in the 2025-26 school year.
- Collapses the two multipliers to one and increases the excess cost rate to 1.16.
- Keeps two safety net thresholds:
 - Down from 2 to 1.8 times the average per-pupil expenditure for districts with fewer than 1,000 FTE students or districts that have at least 60% of identified students as eligible for English Language Learner programs or free or reduced-price meals
 - Stays at 2 for any district that doesn't meet above criteria.
 - AND quarterly payments for districts with fewer than 1,000 students.
- Requires OSPI to maintain a statewide online system for Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).
- Grants for up to 20 pilot schools to support school-wide Centers of Excellence for inclusionary practices. Selected schools are funded at a multiplier of 1.5 for all students eligible for and receiving special education. (Section 4)
- Allows OSPI to reserve 0.006 of the funding generated by the cap lift and multiplier for technical assistance, monitoring districts and data for disproportionality, developing the online IEP system, professional development, and other statewide activities.

#1: CLOSING FUNDING GAPS - MSOC (SB 5192, BUDGET)

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	<i>Inflation Increase for 2025-26</i>	<i>Policy Addition for 2025-26</i>
All grades	\$1,533.02	\$1,614.28	\$1,656.25	\$45.99	\$35.27
Grades 9-12	\$204.03	\$214.84		\$6.12	\$4.69
Skill Centers/CTE	\$1,757.39	\$1,810.11	\$1,857.17		

Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, the inflationary factor will be the Implicit Price Deflator for the previous calendar year as of the beginning of the school year, using the official current base, compiled by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce.

#3

ADDRESSING FUNDING, INCLUSION, AND SUPPORT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

E2SSB 5263 (section 4) has inclusionary practices and Centers of Excellence

SSB 5253 expands special education services to students up to age 22.

ESSB 5167 – 2025-27 operating budget includes funding to continue the six demonstration sites and up to 16 new sites for limiting and reducing isolation and restraint.

#4: PREVENTING AND REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE AND SUICIDE

E2SHB 1163 updates permit and training requirements related to the purchase, transfer and possession of firearms.

ESHB 1395 –
(fingerprint background check on applicants)

#5 EXPANDING SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION FUNDING OPTIONS

- [ESSB 5004](#) updates emergency response systems in public schools, including panic or alert buttons, live video or audio streams, locking doors, two-way interactive communication.
 - \$6 million in capital budget grants, up to \$500,000 per district per biennium.
 - Districts that have a system that complies with applicable State Building Code requirements for Group E occupancies for emergency response systems developed as part of a Safe School Plan under RCW 28A.320.125 or under the items described in the bill.
- [SSB 5195](#) (2025-27 capital budget) continues to provide funding for distressed schools and one-time support for three small, debt-capacity limited school districts that had already applied for SCAP funding.

ESHB 2049 — LEVY LIFT

Increases the maximum per-pupil limit used for school enrichment levies gradually, over several years, up to \$5,035 in the 2031 calendar year.

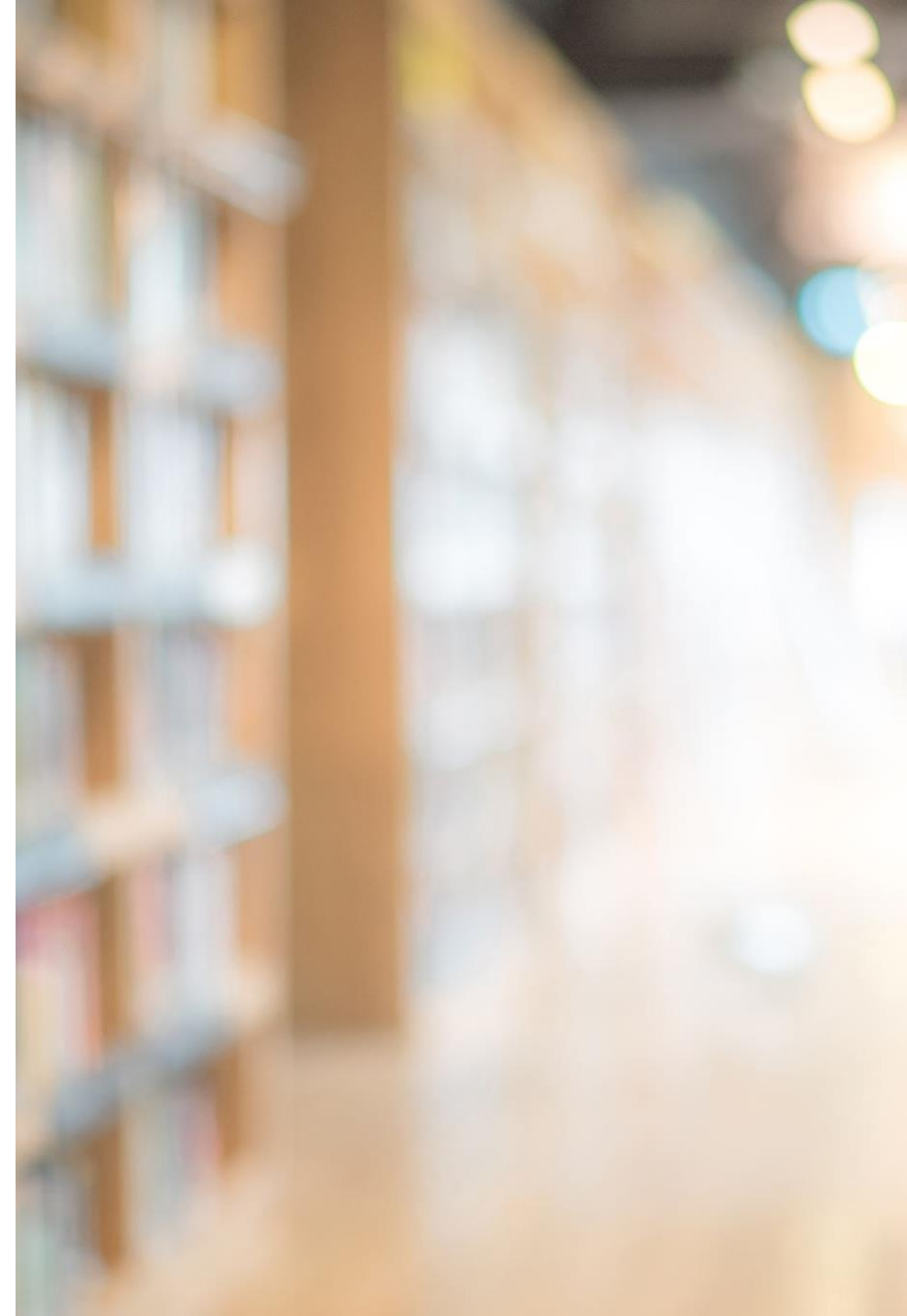
- In 2017, the legislature limited school enrichment levies to \$2,500 per-pupil or \$2.50 per \$1,000 assessed value, whichever was less.
- The per-pupil amount has increased by inflation, so that it currently sits at \$3,149.69 in calendar year 2024 for all districts except Seattle; Seattle Public Schools has been allowed to collect at \$3,000 per-pupil. Adjusted for inflation, their amount is \$3,779.63 in calendar year 2024.
- With the law change, beginning in calendar year 2026 most districts will be able to collect about \$3,600 and Seattle Public Schools will be able to collect about \$4,300.

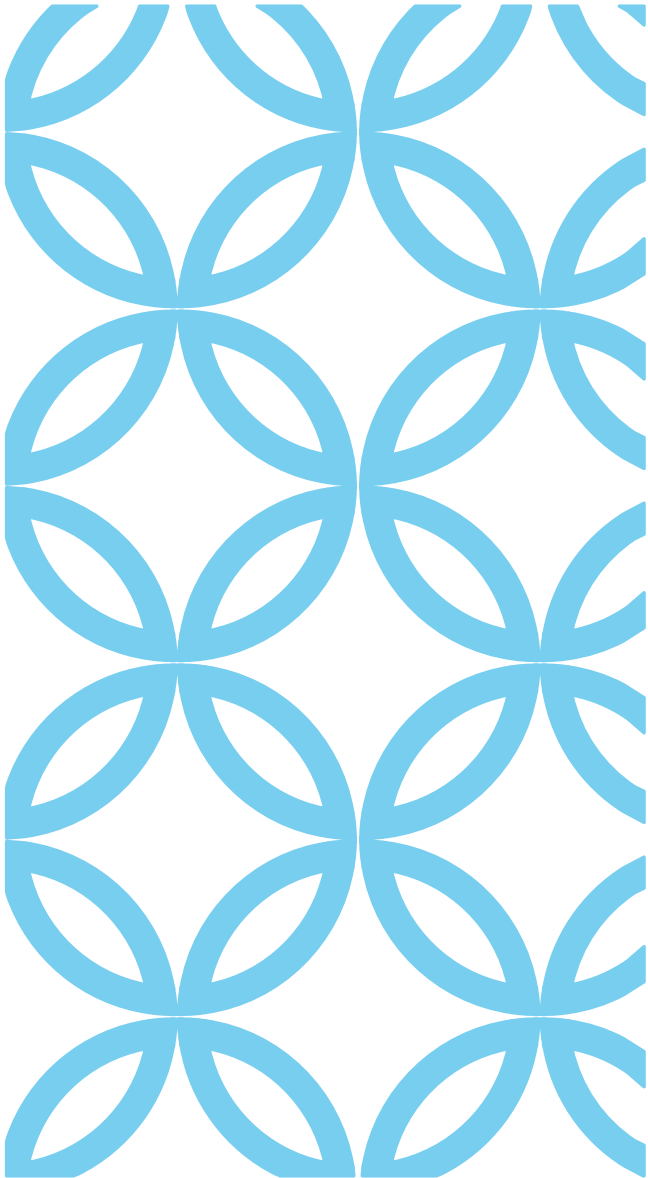
The bill also changes the inflation for Local Effort Assistance from the Seattle Consumer Price Index (CPI) to the Implicit Price Deflator, which the per-pupil inflation remains at Seattle CPI.

Finally, the bill requires OSPI to convene a K-12 funding equity workgroup to analyze options for revising K-12 funding formulas.

POLICY BILLS: PROGRAM CHANGES

- [2SHB 1273](#) – access to dual credit programs for CTE courses.
- [EHB 1393](#) – providing for cultural expression at commencement ceremonies.
- [ESHB 1651](#) – authorizing teacher residency and apprenticeship programs.
- [SB 5189](#) – supporting the implementation of competency-based education.
- [2SSB 5358](#) – authorizing funding to support CTE in 6th grade.
- [SB 5641](#) – encouraging instruction in awareness of blood donation in public schools.





- Requires district, charter school, tribal compact school policies and procedures to prioritize the protection of students' safety, access, to a discrimination-free academic environment, access to the program of basic education, and privacy.
- Makes some changes to notification and other rights for parents and legal guardians.
- Directs OSPI to establish a process for receiving and investigating complaints alleging willful noncompliance with certain state laws and permits OSPI to impose resulting penalties.
- Modifies the list of protected classes for nondiscrimination provisions.
- Establishes a statement of student rights.
- Prohibits retaliation of public school employees supporting students in the exercise of their legal rights and performing work in accordance with certain requirements.

ESHB 1296 — PARENTS, STUDENTS, COMPLAINTS

FAILED TO PASS — HOUSE

(BILLS CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#))

- HB 1032 and HJR 4201 would have authorized a vote on simple majority for bonds.
- HB 1122/SB 5346 would have required school districts to adopt cell phone bans by the 2026-27 school year.
- HB 1404/SB 5352 would have required all school districts to provide school meals at no cost to students.
- HB 1450 would have changed the program of Transition to Kindergarten.
- HB 1795/SB 5654 would have made changes to restraint and isolation of students.
- HB 1796/SB 5095 would have allowed school districts to contract indebtedness for school construction.
- HB 1894/SB 5770 would have required school districts to implement tribal history, culture and sovereignty into social studies curriculum by the 2026-27 school year.

FAILED TO PASS — SENATE

(BILLS CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#))

SB 5186 and SJR 8200 would have authorized a vote on simple majority for bonds. Also had a deal around impact fees.

- SB 5187/HB 1579 would have directed OSPI to update the STARS student transportation funding formula.
- SB 5327 would have aligned updating learning standards for financial education and computer science with the State Board of Education process. (HB 1285 would have required financial education as a graduation requirement for the class of 2031.)
- SB 5574 would have required instruction on Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander history in public schools, beginning in the 2029-30 school year.

2025 ELECTIONS — MORE CHALLENGES

5th legislative district: open seat due to sudden death of Senator Bill Ramos.

- Rep. Victoria Hunt, Democrat
- Chad Magendanz, Republican

26th legislative district: challenged

- Sen. Deborah Krishnadasan, Democrat
- Rep. Michelle Caldier, Republican

33rd legislative district:

- Sen. Tina Orwall, Democrat, no challenger
- Rep. Edwin Obras, Democrat. Two challengers - Democrat and a Republican.

34th legislative district:

- Sen. Emily Alvarado, Democrat, no challenger
- Rep. Brianna Thomas, Democrat, no challenger

41st legislative district:

- Rep. Janice Zahn, Democrat. Two challengers – Democrat and a Republican

48th legislative district:

- Sen. Vandana Slatter, Democrat, challenged by Rep. Amy Walen, Democrat
- Rep. Osman Salahuddin, Democrat. Two challengers – Democrat and a Republican

WHAT TO DO IN THE INTERIM

- Consider submitting an issue for the Legislative Assembly.
 - Final submissions are due June 1st
 - Can use last year as a guide, but may have something new to add too
- Work with your school district to get data:
 - Focus on funding gaps, e.g., % of levies used to support basic education activities: special education, transportation, additional staffing, MSOC.
 - Ask them to show you how much the state funds for staff, for example, and how many staff are in that role. Ask them to help show trend data, e.g., increases to utilities, insurance, technology, curriculum, etc.
- Meet with your legislators.
 - They have much more time in the interim to meet
 - Thank them for what they did (take the WSPTA Scorecard, when available, with you)
 - Show them data from your school district and ask for their help to close critical funding gaps.
- Work with your PTAs to serve as a resource to your community and help educate on issues.
- Get out the vote!

QUESTIONS?

