

Major Education Finance Reform Legislation, HB 2261, Passed During the 2009 Session – What does this mean and how can advocates stay connected with progress?

HB 2261 (Session Law) What is the significance of 2261 for WSPTA?

This complex bill addresses the 2008 WSPTA Top Priority Issue called Basic Education Funding. To see the 2008 WSPTA issue position statement, go to

http://www.wastatepta.org/advocacy/association_position/0809_Leg_Short_Term.pdf

Summary of HB 2261

2261 redefines Basic Education to include the following: increased instructional hours, from the current 1,000 to 1,080 for grades 7-12; the opportunity to complete 24 credits for high school graduation; all-day kindergarten; highly capable programs; a new transportation funding formula. These new pieces will not be added all at once, but will be phased in according to an implementation schedule to be developed by the Quality Council, with a completion date of 2018.

The bill also implements a prototypical schools funding model. The model will create “core” allocations using easy to understand categories with enhancements for certain staffing categories, including highly capable, career/technology, and AP/IB programs.

2261 also calls for the formation of an oversight council and work groups to carry out what has been described above, along with many other provisions of the bill. Some state agencies have also been given specific assignments. Listed below are descriptions of the work groups, tasks to be completed, due dates for initial reports and website information, if available.

The Quality Education Council (QEC) was created as an on-going oversight entity. Their initial responsibility is to develop recommendations for the complete phase in of 2261 by Sept. 1, 2018. An initial report is due to the legislature and the Governor by January 1, 2010. For information about this group including meeting dates, agendas and materials, go to www.k12.wa.us/QEC/meetings.aspx

The K-12 Funding Formula Technical Working Group has been formed by the WA State Office of Financial Management (OFM) and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop recommendations regarding the funding formulas, an implementation schedule and funding sources for implementation. Their recommendations are due December 1, 2009. See their webpage on the OFM website at www.ofm.wa.gov/k12funding/

The K-12 Data Governance Group has been established within OSPI, to assist in the design and implementation of a data improvement system for financial, student, and educator data. A preliminary status report from OSPI to the Legislature is due November 15, 2009. A final report, including a proposed phase-in plan and preliminary cost estimates for implementation of a comprehensive data improvement system, is due September 1, 2010. See webpage below for meeting schedules and materials.
<http://www.k12.wa.us/K12DataGovernance/default.aspx>

The State Board of Education Accountability System

In 2005, the Washington State legislature directed SBE to create a statewide system of accountability with the goal of uniform educational excellence across the state. 2261 underscored this directive and specified that the new system identify and support schools that show persistent lack of progress towards meeting achievement goals. The proposal and timeline for implementation is due to the education committees of the legislature by

December 1, 2009. The State Board of Education has created an advisory sub-committee to work on this issue. For more information go to <http://www.sbe.wa.gov/spa.htm>

The Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) has been directed to work with stakeholders to adopt performance standards for effective teaching and continuous student improvement calibrated for each level of certification. Other tasks are also specified in the bill language. This is an integral part of PESB work; they have not created a separated subcommittee. For meeting dates and materials, see the PESB website. <http://www.pesb.wa.gov/default.asp>

Early Learning Advisory Council

Although Governor Gregoire vetoed language in 2261 that would have established an early learning work group, she has asked OSPI to work with the Department of Early Learning and stakeholders to develop a proposal by December 1, 2009 to phase in a program of early learning for all children. See the webpage below for information about meetings and materials. <http://www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/elac/Default.aspx>

The Early Learning Advisory Council offers two ways for the public to participate, in addition to attending meetings. To learn more about becoming a “key communicator” or to schedule a public forum to discuss their proposal go to <http://www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/elac/elp.aspx>

Achievement Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee

<http://www.k12.wa.us/AchievementGap/Members.aspx>

Legislation to address the achievement gap was passed separately. 2SSB 5973 ([Session Law](#)) reforms are aimed at helping all kids achieve their potential. This bill creates an achievement gap oversight and accountability committee to follow up on the work of the achievement gap studies that were released earlier this year and will annually recommend strategies for closing the gaps. OSPI is also charged with increasing the categories of disaggregation to assist groups with progress monitoring. The Professional Educator Standards Board is charged with identifying model standards for cultural competency. As soon as there is a webpage established for this committee, I will update this document.

Supplemental School Funding (Levy) Work Group

2261 ([Session Law](#) p. 38-39) has tasked the Office of Financial Management to establish this group beginning in July, 2010, with the assistance of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. They are to develop options for a new system of supplemental school funding through local school levies and local effort assistance. They shall report to the legislature by December 1, 2011.

Teacher Compensation Work Group

2261 ([Session Law](#) p. 57-59) calls for a technical working group to address teacher compensation issues to be convened by the Office of Financial Management beginning in July, 2011. The overall purpose, which is described further in the legislation, is to recommend details of an enhanced salary allocation model that aligns state expectations for educator development and certification with the compensations system. They will also make recommendations for an implementation schedule. The initial report to the legislature is due by December 1, 2012. The date for this work was pushed out due to the need for the Professional Educator Standards Board to complete its work regarding teacher certification.

Questions? Contact Kim Howard, Government Relations, at the WSPTA office at 253-565-2153 or on my cell phone at 360-951-0174. khoward@wastatepta.org