

Washington State PTA Legislative Update February 10, 2008

Welcome to the 4th edition of the Grassroots Connection for the 2008 Legislative Session! Each Grassroots connection provides you with a brief recap of last week's events and a preview of the next week. As a reminder, Washington State PTA's top 5 legislative priorities are:

1. K-12 Education Funding
2. Math and Science Education
3. Quality Teaching
4. Student Support Services
5. Special Education Funding

Last week in Olympia

The role of policy committees is to determine whether or not the bill is a good idea. In order to survive, bills needed to pass out of either a House or the Senate policy committee by February 8th. Many survived this cut-off and have been moved along to the next stage. Below are a few definitions, then a sample list of the bills that have survived the cut-off. I have included the main sponsor after the bill # as you may want to discuss these bills with your legislator on Focus Day. I have also indicated which committee it is in right now, if this information was available.

SB = Senate Bill

HB = House Bill

SSB = Substitute Senate Bill, the bill was amended or changed from the original.

SHB = Substitute House Bill, the bill was amended or changed from the original.

Ways & Means – Senate fiscal committee

Appropriations – House fiscal committee

Education Funding

SB 6879 McAuliffe - Sets December 1, 2008 as the due date for the final report of the Basic Education Finance Task Force report. A recent addendum also adds that the task force shall specifically consider issues related to equalizing school employee salary allocations among school districts. Rules

Math and Science

SHB 2809 Sullivan - Provides by September 15, 2008, the professional educator standards board shall submit a report with recommendations for strengthening the state's corps of K-12 math and sciences teachers.

SHB 2598 Sullivan – Requires OSPI to develop a mathematics curriculum that is aligned with Washington's standards and that would be made available online. (The intent is for use mainly by teachers.)

Appropriations

Quality Teaching

HB 2775 Barlow – This would add an additional bonus for Nationally Board certified teachers who teach in high poverty areas. Appropriations

Student Support Services

SHB 2773 Barlow – Funds sufficient for school districts to provide an additional one-half full-time equivalent counselor or librarian at any school and at any grade level. Appropriations

Assessment System

SHB 3166 Sullivan – I will list just the first two components of this bill. Effective in 2009, SPI must redesign the reading, math and science WASL in all grades except high school by shortening test administration and reducing short answer and extended response questions. SPI must also develop end of course assessments for several math courses by 2009-10. See bill for complete details. Appropriations

SSB 6503 McDermott – This bill would approve the segmented math assessment as an alternative assessment to the WASL. Rules

Recess and PE

SSB 6042 Franklin – Requiring OSPI to survey elementary schools regarding the availability of recess, and report the results to the legislature. Rules

HB 1188 McCoy – Requiring schools to provide opportunities for students to engage in physical activity each school day.

World Language

SHB 2523 Hudgins – Creating the position of world language supervisor at OSPI. Rules

SSB 6466 Roach - Creating a task force to study teaching world languages in public schools. Current practices and recommendations for future. Ways & Means

Education Reform

SHB 2808 Sullivan – Providing additional opportunities to assist students who have completed other high school graduation requirements but have not passed the WASL. Appropriations

HB 2810 Sullivan – Enhancing resources and assistance in school districts with concentrations of English language learners. Appropriations

SSB 6673 McAuliffe – Creating extended learning opportunities and instructional support for English language learners, low-income students, and students with learning disabilities. Ways & Means

Foster Kids

HB 2679 Roberts – Creating programs to improve educational outcomes for students in foster care. Appropriations

Release of Student Information

HB 2026 Santos – Requiring school districts that allow military recruiters to have access to student records to allow the same access to representatives of the Job Corps, Peace Corp and AmeriCorps. The original version passed the House on Jan. 31, 2008. Now it will need to work its way through the Senate. (There is a Senate version which adds the requirement that school districts provide parents with a list of recruiters and offer parents the option of not providing information to any particular category.)

This week in Olympia

Any bill which will cost more than \$50,000 must next go to a fiscal committee. It is the role of the fiscal committee to look at all of the bills which have been passed out of policy committees and determine which ones are good use of public dollars and also are affordable given the current budget. Some were held last week and more will be held Monday and Tuesday this week. The bills are again heard in public hearing and public testimony is accepted. Only about one third of the bills will survive this process. These bills next move to the Rules committee, where they can be scheduled for House and Senate floor action. The deadline for fiscal committees is February 12. Wednesday, February 13 (WSPTA Focus Day!) starts the next round of consideration, as the House and Senate members move to chambers to make decisions on the bills sent from committees. February 19 is the cut-off for approval of bills from the house of origin.

Late this week the State's Revenue Forecast Council is expected to release its quarterly predictions. Legislative staff is predicting that the housing slowdown will have a negative impact on revenues, thereby reducing the previously announced projections for the 2007-2009 biennium. Many legislators are hoping to

keep large reserves available to provide a cushion for the next biennium. Budget exercises are being conducted by fiscal staff to measure the impact of reductions on the Governor's proposed supplemental budget, released in December. (<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2007-08/Pdf/Bills/House%20Bills/2687.pdf>). Any expenditure increases in the budget are expected to be very small.

WSPTA Focus Day is Wednesday, February 13

See the WSPTA website at www.wastatepta.org for complete details. Come join us at the Capitol in Olympia. You do not need to register or pay for this event. There are several committee meetings early in the morning. However, most of the action Besides what has been advertised, this is also House Education Day on the floor. The House will be voting on an initial set of education bills. Since this is the first group, these will not necessarily be the largest bills, which they tend to save for last. However, if you are at the Capitol, you may wish to view this process from the public viewing area or gallery. Also, thank your legislators if they vote for something you support!

This week's schedule:

There are long lists of bills scheduled for these sessions, which include both public hearings and executive sessions. These are often changed. I have pasted the most current link. For the most up-to-date agenda, go to www.leg.wa.gov Click on "Committee Meetings" and then the date that you are interested in. Then pick from the various committee options and click on "Agenda" to see the current posting.

Appropriations* - 02/11/08 9:00 am

Appropriations (H)	Agenda	2/11/2008 9:00 AM	2/10/2008
------------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	-----------



Full Committee
House Hearing Rm A
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Ways & Means* - 02/11/08 1:30 pm

Ways & Means (S)	Agenda	2/11/2008 1:30 PM	
--------------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	--



Full Committee
Senate Hearing Rm 4
J.A. Cherberg Building

Capital Budget* - 02/12/08 8:00 am

Capital Budget (H)	Agenda	2/12/2008 8:00 AM	
------------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	--



Full Committee
House Hearing Rm A
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Ways & Means* - 02/12/08 1:30 pm



Full Committee
Senate Hearing Rm 4
J.A. Cherberg Building
Olympia, WA

Ways & Means (S)	Agenda	2/12/2008 1:30 PM	
--------------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------	--

WSPTA Focus Day

Early Morning Sessions which are open to the public

Health Care & Wellness (H)	Agenda	2/13/2008 8:00 AM
Higher Education (H)	Agenda	2/13/2008 8:00 AM
Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness (H)	Agenda	2/13/2008 8:00 AM
Community & Economic Development & Trade (H)	Agenda	2/13/2008 8:00 AM
Labor, Commerce, Research & Development (S)	Agenda	2/13/2008 8:15 AM
Agriculture & Natural Resources (H)	Agenda	2/13/2008 9:00 AM

At 9AM, the Senate convenes for caucus and session.

At 10AM, the House convenes for caucus and session. These sessions are expected to last for the remainder of the day and are also the main focus of activity for the remainder of the week.

Education - 02/14/08 8:30 am

Full Committee
Jt. w/ Early Learning & Children's Services
House Hearing Rm B
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Work Session: "The Incredible Years" - Dr. Carolyn Webster-Stratton, University of Washington.