



## Washington State PTA Legislative Update February 2, 2008

Welcome to the 3rd 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

### This week in Olympia

As expected this week sessions were packed with public hearings and executive session action. Here is some of the movement that occurred. Since I recently sent an update on WASL-related bills, I will not repeat that information.

### **Education Funding**

Thank you very much to Kelly Munn, who came to Olympia on Thursday to testify for WSPTA on a stakeholder panel to the Senate Committee on Early Learning and K-12 Education with regard to the State Board of Education's mandate from the legislature to develop a statewide education accountability system. This was a very difficult assignment. We prefaced our comments by speaking to the need for the Basic Education Funding Task Force to do its job by redefining the funding formulas and then for the state to hold itself accountable for funding the new formulas. We will post our testimony to the website this week.

### **Math and Science**

There are several bills we are following:

**SB 6503** - approving the segmented mathematics assessment as an alternative assessment, has moved to Rules in an amended version which extends the date of implementation to 2011-12

**HB 2598** - which would provide for the development of an online math curriculum also moved out of committee on Friday

**HB 2909** - recognizes the math teacher shortage and asks for a report from the Professional Educator Standards Board to include recommendations for strengthening the state's math corps. (This would also fit under our quality teaching issue!) This moved to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

**SB 6534** – describing legislative intent with regard to the new math standards, has moved to Rules

### **Quality Teaching**

A couple of small bills did pass out of committee related to this topic on Friday.

**HB 2775** – Would give an additional bonus for national board certification to teachers teaching in high poverty schools

**HB 2870** – Would add summer institute offerings for instructional assistants

## **Student Support Services**

**HB 2773** – which would increase funding for school librarians and counselors passed out of committee on Friday

**SB 6380** – which would increase funding for school librarians and school library supplies only is scheduled for executive session at a hearing in Senate Committee on Early Learning & K12 on Monday at 1:30.

## **Special Education**

**SB 6313** – which asks that schools annually recognize disability history month, (there is lots of flexibility here) was passed out to Rules.

A few other bills of interest that passed out of House Education on Friday include:

**HB 2808** – Providing additional opportunities to assist students who have not completed all graduation requirements.

**HB 2871** – Enhancing Washington State history and government course requirements for high school graduation.

**HB 2811** – Creating the health student grant program

**HB 2722** - Of note, at Friday's House Ed hearing a bill was heard with regard to creating an advisory committee (in partnership with the Center for Improvement of Student Learning at OSPI) to address the achievement gap for African American students. Many prominent African Americans from this state testified to show their commitment to helping their community increase achievement levels. We can support this type of effort even though it is not in our top priorities, because one of the goals on our long term platform is to reduce the achievement gap.

## **Next week in Olympia**

Next week committees will continue to hold public hearings, but much of the time will be spent in executive session in order to amend and pass bills on before the final cut-off on February 8. Budget bills and bills considered necessary to implement the budget are exempt from this cut-off date. If you plan to come to Olympia, please re-check the schedule before you make the drive. Hearings can be changed or cancelled during this very busy time.

If you wish to check on and/or follow the status of a bill, write down the bill #, then go to the legislature's website ([www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)), click on the "Bill Information" tab on the left hand side and then on the "Daily Status Report". This will tell you which committee the bill is in. Go to the "Key" link to discover the meaning of other symbols on this report. This report also links to the bill itself and fiscal notes.

**House Education** will hold public sessions on Monday and Tuesday. In the House, Monday will be the final day of public hearings on new bills, plus executive session and Tuesday will be executive session only. Of course this is subject to change.

**Education - 2/4/08 6PM**

**House Full Committee**

House Hearing Rm B

John L. O'Brien Building

Olympia, WA

REVISED 2/1/2008 6:00 PM

**Public Hearing:**

1. [HB 3299](#) - Regarding mathematics graduation requirements.
2. [HB 3113](#) - Regarding state and local requirements for high school graduation.
3. [HB 3082](#) - Creating the sustainable environment culminating project grant program.
4. [HB 3212](#) - Monitoring and addressing achievement of groups of students.

**Possible Executive Session:**

1. [HB 2635](#) - Regarding school district boundaries and organization.
2. [HB 3129](#) - Regarding online learning programs for high school students to earn college credit.
3. [HB 2709](#) - Authorizing school districts to establish a price preference to purchase locally grown food.
4. [HB 2832](#) - Recodifying the basic education act.
5. [HB 3166](#) - Concerning the design of the state assessment system and the WASL.
6. [HB 2679](#) - Creating programs to improve educational outcomes for students in foster care.
7. [HB 2722](#) - Creating an advisory committee to address the achievement gap for African-American students.
8. Other bills previously heard in committee.

**Education - 02/05/08 1:30 pm**

**Full Committee**

House Hearing Rm B  
John L. O'Brien Building  
Olympia, WA

This will be an executive session only. The agenda of bills which will be addressed is not available yet. To find daily agendas go to [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov), then look to the left for the link to "Agendas, Calendars and Schedules".

**Senate Committee on Early Learning and K-12 Education** will hold hearings on Monday, Wednesday and Thurs.

**Early Learning & K-12 Education\* - 02/04/08 1:30 pm**



**Full Committee**

Senate Hearing Rm 1  
J.A. Cherberg Building  
Olympia, WA

REVISED 2/1/2008 1:30 PM

**Public Hearing:**

1. [SB 6426](#) - Enacting the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.
2. [SB 6466](#) - Creating a task force to study teaching Spanish and Chinese in public schools.
3. [SB 6369](#) - Regarding the Washington community learning center program.
4. [SB 6611](#) - Enhancing Washington state history and government course requirements for high school graduation.
5. [SB 6726](#) - Granting the professional educator standards board ongoing authority to establish professional-level certification assessments and performance standards.
6. [SB 6879](#) - Regarding the joint task force on basic education finance.
7. [SB 6890](#) - Delaying for one year the requirement to collect teacher and student identifier data and submit the data to the OSPI.

**Executive Session:** [SB 6380](#) - Enhancing school library programs.

The Senate Committee on Early Learning and K-12 Education is also holding hearings on Wednesday, February 6 from 8AM-10AM and a final hearing before the first cut-off on Thursday February 7 from 10AM-1PM. I encourage you to check the legislative website for the most current agendas for these days, as they are likely to change between now and then.

Finally, this will be a big week for Appropriations meetings. Appropriations committees hold public hearings as well and give us another opportunity to speak to our priorities. Here is the preliminary agenda for the first meeting below.

### Appropriations Subcommittee on Education\* - 02/05/08 8:00 am

**Full Committee**

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

REVISED 1/31/2008 3:51 PM

**Public Hearing:**

1. [SHB 2523](#) - (if referred to committee) Creating the position of world language supervisor in the office of the superintendent of public instruction.
2. [HB 2591](#) - (if referred to committee) Regarding the acquisition and dissemination of data pertaining to institutions of higher education. (if referred to committee)
3. [SHB 2597](#) - Requiring the department of early learning and the office of the superintendent of public instruction to develop a kindergarten entry assessment.
4. [HB 2809](#) - (if referred to committee) Regarding mathematics and science teachers.
5. [HB 2933](#) - Creating a work group to assess prior learning at institutions of higher education.
6. [HCR 4408](#) - (if referred to committee) Requesting approval of the statewide strategic master plan for higher education. (if referred to committee)

**Executive Session:** Bills previously heard in committee.

Other Appropriations Subcommittee on Education meetings are scheduled for February 5 at 8PM and February 7 at 8AM.

The House Appropriations Committee will also meet on Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:30 in JLOB HHR 5. Again, you will need to check the website Monday afternoon for a complete agenda on this meeting.

This is a short session and activity is moving in a fast and furious manner. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments.