



January 21, 2018

The biggest news of the past week was the passage of the 2017-19 capital budget on January 18th. The logjam was broken when a compromise was reached among all four caucuses to overturn a Supreme Court October 2016 decision, informally called “Hirst.” For the first time in the Legislature’s history, the two-year construction budget and bond authorization didn’t pass by the start of the fiscal year, July 1, 2017, leaving nearly \$1 billion in school construction assistance program funding and hundreds of other projects and programs in limbo.

Governor Inslee has five days to sign bills while the Legislature is in session. He is expected to sign both [SB 6090 \(the capital budget\)](#) and the bond bill later in the week. Some elements of the capital budget include:

- \$932.5 million in School Construction Assistance Program (Section 5006);
- \$15 million in Early Learning Facilities grants, including a few selected projects (Section 1017);
- \$11.2 million for Small Rural School Modernization grants (for districts under 1,000 FTE students) (Section 5009);
- \$10 million for STEM classrooms to upgrade facilities and lab spaces to comply with the 3rd science credit (Section 5005);
- \$3.25 million for Healthy Kids grants (Section 5002);
- \$3.0 million for Urgent Repair grants (back under OSPI, Section 5001); and
- \$850,000 for CTE Equipment grants (Section 5008).

Section 7026 of the two-year construction budget creates a Joint Legislative Task Force on Improving State Funding for School Construction. The task force is comprised of eight legislators, at least three of whom must be from east of the Cascades, and two school district representatives, one from each side of the mountains. The section details the work to be accomplished, which will be in open meetings. A report is due Oct. 1, 2018.

Lawmakers are expected to wait until the conclusion of the Joint Legislative Task Force report before making changes to the existing school construction programs. This includes changes to the student space allocation, construction match reflecting more actual costs, and a second round of the K-3 Classroom Grant program.

Status of Legislative Priorities (all bills may be accessed [here](#))

- Social and Emotional Learning:
 - HB 1377 – student mental health coordinators
 - HB 2496/SB 6141 – suicide prevention
 - SB 5766 – adding transgender students to the anti-bullying and harassment statutes and training (Passed the Senate 30-18, now goes to the House)
 - HB 2558 – improving school climate
 - HB 2779/SB 6485 – extending the work of the Children’s Mental Health work group

- Amply Funding Basic Education
 - The Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee is holding a hearing Monday, Jan. 22 on four bills related to “fixing” last session’s EHB 2242.
 - SB 6362 was introduced at the request of OSPI, and would mainly technical changes;
 - SB 6397 was introduced at the request of WEA, and would make policy and technical changes;
 - SB 6394 would remove the 50% threshold for the high-poverty LAP, would drive out the money based on the school’s poverty level, and would establish a four-year rolling average;
 - SB 6483 would change the regionalization percentages for Federal Way, Bethel and Franklin Pierce school districts, and addresses K-3 classroom compliance, LAP flexibility, and special education funding.
 - i. Companion bills to the ones heard Monday have been sent the House Appropriations Committee and have yet to be scheduled.
 - In addition to these bills, four others have been introduced to deal with regionalization (SB 6494/HB 2810); special education (SB 6524); highly capable students (SB 6508); and salary allocations to comply with the Supreme Court’s order for compliance with Sept. 1, 2018 (SB 6525).
- Closing the Opportunity Gap
 - Several bills have been introduced that specifically focus in on outcomes for foster youth, homeless youth, and tribal youth; and for expanding the ECEAP.
- Standards for Paraeducators
 - HB 2698/SB 6388 would extend compliance dates for paraeducators hired by September 1, 2018 to September 1, 2019 and would appropriate \$500,000 in Fiscal Year 2019 and in Fiscal Year 2020 to support training.
 - Both bills are up for public hearings this week in the Senate and House education committees.
- Breakfast after the Bell
 - E2SHB 1508 passed the House floor on Wednesday.
 - SB 6003 is the Senate’s Breakfast after the Bell bill. It passed the Senate on Jan. 19 by a vote of 40-8 (1 excused)

Look for bills and committee hearings that relate to WSPTA’s “Also Supported Positions” adopted at Legislative Assembly and WSPTA resolutions on the Bill Tracking List.

WSPTA’s Week in Review

WSPTA was represented at two public hearings this past week, including Heather Lindberg speaking in favor of removing the requirement to pass a state assessment to graduate and on school climate; Amy Ulrich speaking in favor of the school meals bill, including expansion of the bill to encompass the position adopted October 2017; and Aileen Hammar testifying in favor of the dyslexia legislation, encouraging lawmakers to expand it to conform with the WSPTA resolution adopted in October 2016.

The Week Ahead (Schedule subject to change)

Interested in testifying? Please contact WSPTA Legislative Director Nancy Chamberlain (ptalegdir@wastatepta.org)

Monday, January 22

1:30 p.m., Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education, SHR 1

- SB 6362 - Public Hearing - Modifying basic education provisions.
- SB 6397 - Public Hearing - Concerning public schools.
- SB 6394 - Public Hearing - Concerning additional poverty-based learning assistance program allocation.
- SB 6483 - Public Hearing - Revising education funding reform provisions to enhance uniformity, flexibility, and special education funding.

1:30 p.m., House Education, HHR A

- HB 2685 - Public Hearing - Promoting pre-apprenticeship opportunities for high school students.
- HB 2686 - Public Hearing - Concerning high school and beyond plans.

Tuesday, January 23

8 a.m., Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development, SHR 2

- SB 6274 - Exec Session - Helping foster and homeless youth complete apprenticeships.
- SB 6262 - Exec Session - Establishing pilot programs to plan for the needs of certain college students experiencing homelessness.
- SB 6261 - Public Hearing - Modifying eligibility for state need grants.
- SB 5568 - Public Hearing - Freezing tuition at institutions of higher education.

8 a.m., House Higher Education, HHR D

- HB 1651 - Public Hearing - Supporting students' success by increasing retention and graduation rates with evidence-based programs.
- HB 2252 - Exec Session - Concerning policies for granting academic credit at institutions of higher education for international baccalaureate (IB) examinations.
- HB 1488 - Exec Session - Expanding higher education opportunities for certain students.
- HB 2386 - Exec Session - Providing room and board for certain college bound scholarship students.
- HB 2656 - Exec Session - Concerning concurrent enrollment programs and college preparatory with examination programs.

1:30 p.m., Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education, SHR 1

- SB 6133 - Exec Session - Expanding statewide career and technical education course equivalency options.

- SB 6141 - Exec Session - Strengthening school district plans for recognition, screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students.
- SB 6162 - Exec Session - Defining dyslexia as a specific learning disability and requiring early screening for dyslexia.

1:30 p.m., House Education, HHR A

- HB 2698 - Public Hearing - Concerning paraeducators.
- HB 2748 - Public Hearing - Modifying the learning assistance program.

Wednesday, January 24

8 a.m., Senate State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections, SHR 2

- SB 6246 - Public Hearing - Providing for approval of school district bonds by fifty-five percent of the voters voting.
- SJR 8213 - Public Hearing - Amending the Constitution to allow at least fifty-five percent of voters voting to authorize school district bonds.

1:30 p.m., House Higher Education, HHR D

- Executive Action on previously heard bills.
- HB 2832 - Public Hearing - Ensuring the passport to college promise program is available to certain populations of foster youth.
- HB 2854 - Public Hearing - Establishing pilot programs to plan for the needs of certain college students experiencing homelessness.

3:30 p.m., House Appropriations, HHR A

- HB 2379 - Public Hearing - Addressing the need for substitutes in schools.
- HB 2712 - Public Hearing - Eliminating lunch copays for students who qualify for reduced-price lunches.

3:30 p.m., Senate Ways & Means, SHR 4

- 2ESHB 1508 - Public Hearing - Promoting student health and readiness through meal and nutrition programs.
- 2ESHB 1508 - Exec Session - Promoting student health and readiness through meal and nutrition programs.

Thursday, January 25

8 a.m., House Education, HHR A

- HB 2802 - Public Hearing - Concerning expanded learning opportunities.
- HB 2848 - Public Hearing - Modifying school and court processes to promote attendance and reduce truancy.
- HB 2390 - Exec Session - Regulating opioid medications at educational institutions.
- HB 2442 - Exec Session - Creating a students protecting students program.
- HB 2558 - Exec Session - Preventing public identification or stigmatization of public school students.

- HB 2610 - Exec Session - Creating the hunger-free students' bill of rights act.
- HB 2641 - Exec Session - Promoting the use of expert volunteers in career and technical education courses offered in grades seven and eight.

8 a.m., Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development, SHR 2

- SB 6261 - Exec Session - Modifying eligibility for state need grants.
- SB 5568 - Exec Session - Freezing tuition at institutions of higher education.
- SB 6398 - Public Hearing - Concerning concurrent enrollment programs and college preparatory with examination programs.

1:30 p.m., Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education, SHR 1

- SB 6388 - Public Hearing - Concerning paraeducators.
- SB 6389 - Public Hearing - Regarding career and technical education in alternative learning experience programs.
- SB 6153 - Public Hearing - Informing high school students enrolled in dual credit courses about the online credit search tool.

Friday, January 26

8 a.m., House Early Learning & Human Services, HHR C

- HB 2659 - Public Hearing - Expanding eligibility for the early childhood education and assistance program.

8 a.m., Senate State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections, SHR 2

- SB 6246 - Exec Session - Providing for approval of school district bonds by fifty-five percent of the voters voting.
- SJR 8213 - Exec Session - Amending the Constitution to allow at least fifty-five percent of voters voting to authorize school district bonds.