



January 28, 2018

A lively [two-hour hearing](#) on January 22 offered an opportunity for school district leaders and education stakeholders to address implementation issues with last year's [EHB 2242](#), the education funding overhaul bill that passed the Legislature with no time for review. Since last summer, district business and financial staff, along with OSPI and the Governor's budget office, have been running numbers associated with the extensive fiscal and policy changes to determine the impact on individual school districts. Along the way, certain operational and implementation issues have been identified, and lawmakers who were engaged in the negotiations readily admitted there would be a need for follow-up legislation.

Coming forward this year are no fewer than two broad "fix" bills – each with a companion in both chambers – and nearly a dozen bills designed to "fix" specific elements of EHB 2242, including funding for special education, regionalization factors, and the high-poverty Learning Assistance Program (LAP) concentration funding.

On Thursday, [Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education](#) Chair Lisa Wellman, D-Mercer Island, urged committee members to adopt a [substitute](#) to [SB 6362](#), which she said provided some good thinking on the major elements to be fixed this session. "School districts have been struggling (with implementation)," said Wellman. "We're a policy committee, and we need to vet the ideas that are being raised by our districts."

Joining her in voting yes was Senate Ways & Means Chair Christine Rolfes, D-Bainbridge Island, who was one of the eight negotiators on EHB 2242 last session. "We wanted the policy people to address the policy concerns, to look at it through a policy lens, not just the budget people," said Rolfes. She said their goal was for a broader group than just last session's eight legislators to be involved, and to move a bill that addressed issues in tandem with budget conversations and didn't unveil a solution the day before a vote.

Senate Republicans on the committee voted it out without recommendation, with Ranking Republican Hans Zeiger, R-Puyallup, stating that he had hoped that the discussion would take place in a similar fashion to last session, with each of the two chambers and two caucuses providing members to negotiate whatever changes would be made. Before the vote on SSB 6362, Zeiger offered a proposed [substitute](#) that would have made some small technical changes; the amendment failed.

SSB 6362 is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Ways & Means Committee Thursday, February 1 at 3:30 PM.

The House has taken a different approach, sending all the "2242 fix bills" to the House Appropriations Committee. On Wednesday, January 31 at 3:30 PM the committee will hear public testimony on three of the many bills, including [HB 2717](#), [HB 2721](#) (OSPI request), and [HB 2763](#).

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

- Social and Emotional Learning:
  - No new bills introduced.
- Ample Funding Basic Education  
2242 Fixes:
  - [SSB 6362](#) blended elements of all the bills heard January 22<sup>nd</sup>, including:
    - Codifying a hold harmless for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years, for any district that would experience a negative net sum after combining state, local and LEA funding prior to the enacted EHB 2242. The fiscal note on this section of the bill is marked at about \$12 million to make districts “whole.”
    - Increasing the multiplier for special education from 0.9309 to 0.9609.
    - Extending the date for K-3 classroom ratio compliance one year, to the 2019-20 school year.
    - Adding a three-year rolling average of the student enrollment qualifying for free- and reduced-priced meals if that enrollment is equal to or exceeds 50 percent enrollment, and allowing a school to receive the high-poverty LAP funding for one year after it no longer meets the 50 percent threshold.
    - Allowing districts to carry over up to 20 percent of their categorical funding in the LAP, Transitional Bilingual Instruction Program, and Highly Capable program to use in the next year in the same categorical program.
  - The substitute bill did not address levies, local effort assistance (LEA), regionalization, or experience factors (formerly staff mix). It initially included a section on regionalization which was struck with an oral amendment. The substitute includes a section stating intent to address levies and LEA.
  - In the substitute bill:
    - Some elements were maintained, including a requirement for OSPI to pre-approve enrichment levies. OSPI’s suggestion was to remove this from law.
    - Other elements, like restrictions on the use of local levies for administrator salaries, which inflationary salary measure to use, and transportation vehicle enrichment levies, were changed.
    - One issue that has been raised as a concern by many districts – the definition of a resident student for purposes of levy and LEA collection – was removed from the underlying bill. In other words, the substitute doesn’t define a “resident student,” so current laws and definitions would apply.
- Closing the Opportunity Gap
  - Nothing new this week.
- Standards for Paraeducators
  - Both the House and Senate education committees heard public testimony in favor of a proposed substitute HB 2698 and SB 6388, which 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.
  - Beth Sigall testified in favor in the House; Andy Jensen testified in favor in the Senate.
- Breakfast after the Bell
  - The Senate Ways & Means Committee heard from proponents of HB 1508, the Breakfast after the Bell program, and moved a substitute out of committee last week. The bill now moves to the Senate Rules committee. It is expected to be brought to the Senate floor next week and passed, with Senate changes approved by the House.
  - Parent Heather Lindberg and her two daughters testified in favor of the bill.

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

As mentioned above, WSPTA was represented at public hearings on the paraeducators bills and Breakfast after the Bell, both Top 5 issues. In addition, Legislative Director Nancy Chamberlain and Legislative Committee member Heidi Bennett testified on the 2242 fix bills. Meagan Dunn testified on behalf of WSPTA on a SB 6529, a pesticide bill in the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee.

## The Week Ahead (Schedule subject to change)

*Interested in testifying? Please contact WSPTA Legislative Director Nancy Chamberlain ([ptalegdir@wastatepta.org](mailto:ptalegdir@wastatepta.org))*

*Monday, January 29*

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

- SB 6148 - Public Hearing - Creating a work group on educational equity for homeless children and youth.
- SB 6223 - Public Hearing - Concerning equitable educational outcomes for foster children and youth from preschool to postsecondary education.
- SB 6260 - Public Hearing - Covering costs for low-income running start students.

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

- HB 2927 - Public Hearing - Concerning highly capable students.

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

- SB 6531 - Public Hearing - Regarding the school construction assistance program.

*Tuesday, January 30*

### **Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4, JACB - 1/30 @ 3:30pm**

SB 6458 - Public Hearing - Concerning additional enrichment levy amounts to fund early learning programs.

*Wednesday, January 31*

### **3:30 p.m., House Appropriations**

- 2SHB 1377 - Public Hearing - Improving students' mental health by enhancing nonacademic professional services.

- 3SHB 1827 - Public Hearing - Expanding the current and future educator workforce supply through evidence-based strategies to improve and incentivize the recruitment and retention of highly effective educators, especially in high-need subject, grade-level, and geographic areas, and to establish a cohesive continuum of high quality professional learning from preparation programs to job embedded induction, mentoring, collaboration, and other professional development opportunities.
- HB 2717 - Public Hearing - Concerning public schools.
- HB 2721 - Public Hearing - Modifying basic education provisions.
- HB 2763 - Public Hearing - Concerning additional poverty-based learning assistance program allocation.

*Thursday, February 1*

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

- SB 6209 - Public Hearing - Facilitating high school success.

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

- SB 6362 - Public Hearing - Modifying basic education provisions.
- SB 6141 - Public Hearing - Strengthening school district plans for recognition, screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students.
- SB 6162 - Public Hearing - Defining dyslexia as a specific learning disability and requiring early screening for dyslexia.