



February 17, 2018

More bills bit the dust this week, bumping up against the February 14 deadline for bills to move from the chamber in which they started. Failing to meet cutoff were the bills to change the threshold to 55% for passing a bond (SB 6246, SJR 8213) and a bill that would have provided free tuition based on income (SB 6101).

One of the last bills considered by the Senate on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> was [E2SSB 6362](#), which passed along party lines (25-22, 2 excused). One technical and two policy amendments were adopted on the floor, but Senate Democrats defeated the other amendments, including several designed to lower property taxes on local levies – not on the state property tax increase enacted last session. These are the major elements as it passed the Senate:

- Pays 100% of the salary increases in the 2018-19 school year, which meets the Court’s order from last winter (rather than 50% in 2018-19 and 100% in 2019-20), and imposes a 3% cap on growth in salaries;
- Requires enrichment levies to be spent on only enrichment, starting in the 2018-19 school year;
- Requires school districts to create a sub-fund to track local enrichment levy funds;
- Makes no changes to the limit on levies of \$1.50/\$1000 AV or \$2500, whichever is less;
- Maintains compliance with a 17:1 K-3 class size ratio for the 2018-19 school year, with funding reduced in proportion to lack of compliance;
- Increases the special education student multiplier from .9309 percent to .9609 percent, and requires OSPI to make it easier to access the Special Education Safety Net and to reduce the threshold for high-needs students;
- Creates two new safety net programs: one for student transportation that exceeds the state transportation funding formula, and one for salaries for districts that can show the exclusion of a regionalization factor or elimination of staff mix harms a district’s ability to recruit and retain teachers;
- Allows any district bordering a district with a regionalization factor one tercile higher to increase its factor by 6% (e.g., if a district is at 6% and a bordering district is at 18%, then the first district can increase to 12%);
- Includes a limited hold harmless provision for two years for districts whose total state and local funding under 2242 is less than the district had collected on January 1, 2017 for local and state;
- Defines a resident student, for purposes of Local Effort Assistance, as a student who lives within the district’s boundaries or a student who transfers into the district, except for online students who don’t live or attend school within the district’s boundaries. For purposes of levies, the same definitions apply but online students who receive instruction from a teacher in the district are counted; and
- Contains a three-year rolling average for high-poverty LAP distribution to schools with 50% or higher students eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals.

The February [revenue forecast](#) was released last week, with nearly an additional \$650 million for the 2017-19 biennium, and another \$670 million in the 2019-21 biennium. In press conferences last week, Democrats hinted at property tax reduction measures; more will become clear next week when both the House and Senate release supplemental operating and capital budgets. The two chambers have scheduled public hearings on Monday and Tuesday, committee votes on Wednesday and Thursday, and floor action on Friday.

## Status of Legislative Priorities

(all bills may be accessed [here](#) and by typing in the bill number):

- Social and Emotional Learning:
  - HB 1377 has a hearing in Senate Education.
- Ample Funding Basic Education
  - *2242 Fixes: See above and the attached comparison chart.*
- Closing the Opportunity Gap
  - Nothing new this week.
- Standards for Paraeducators
  - SB 6388 passed the Senate and has been scheduled for a hearing in House Education.
- Breakfast after the Bell
  - The bill has passed the Senate and is waiting on concurrence by the House.

Here's a quick look at bills that relate to WSPTA's "Also Supported Positions" adopted at Legislative Assembly and WSPTA resolutions:

- **Dual Credit, Equity & Support.** [SB 5917](#) passed the Senate and there is agreement in the House Higher Education Committee. It is scheduled for a public hearing and vote next week.
- **Family & Community Engagement.** [ESHB 1618](#) is scheduled for a vote in the committee.
- **Teacher Shortage.** [4SHB 1827](#) is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate education committee.
- **Early Learning Levies.** SB 6458 failed to make it out of the Senate, so is basically dead for the session.
- **School construction.** [SB 6531](#) has been scheduled for a hearing in House Capital budget on Monday.
- **School meals.** [HB 2610](#) passed the House and is scheduled for a hearing in Senate education.
- **Post-secondary/Higher Education Access & Affordability.** HB 1512 remains in play; this bill would expand a student's eligibility for the College Bound Scholarship to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and allow eligible students to sign the pledge in the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade, beginning in the 2018-19 school year. The bill also would prioritize students for the State Need Grant who have family incomes in the 0-70 percent median family income range.
- **Dyslexia.** OSPI's Special Education Advisory Committee has raised some issues with the bill as it passed the Senate. The bill is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Education Committee.
- **Assessments.** [ESHB 1046](#) didn't make the deadline. But don't nail a coffin in the issue just yet.
- **Majority Plus.** Failed to make it out of the Senate. But this is the first time a bill changing simple majority for bonds passed a policy and a budget committee, so proponents will continue working on it. Failed bonds from the Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> ballot measures may lend support to a compromise at 55% rather than the 60% threshold.
- **Foster Youth.** [SSB 6223](#) is scheduled for a hearing in House Education.

## WSPTA's Week in Review

WSPTA Legislative Director Nancy Chamberlain testified in favor of [ESHB 1618](#), the family and community engagement bill.

## 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, February 19

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

- 2SHB 1377 - Public Hearing - Improving students' mental health by enhancing nonacademic professional services.
- SHB 2712 - Public Hearing - Eliminating lunch copays for students who qualify for reduced-price lunches.
- ESHB 1618 - Exec Session - Concerning family and community engagement coordinators.
- SHB 2685 - Exec Session - Promoting pre-apprenticeship opportunities for high school students.

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

- E2SSB 6162 - Public Hearing - Defining dyslexia as a specific learning disability and requiring early screening for dyslexia.
- 2SSB 6410 - Public Hearing - Concerning school safety.

#### 3:30 p.m., House Capital Budget, HHR B

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

#### 3:30 p.m., House Finance, HHR A

- HB 2967 - Exec Session - Assisting Washington families by improving the fairness of the state's tax system by enacting a capital gains tax and providing property tax relief.

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

- SB 6095 - Public Hearing - Concerning the capital budget. (Hearing is on the Proposed Substitute.)

### Tuesday, February 20

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

- SSB 6419 - Exec Session - Concerning access to the Washington early childhood education and assistance program.

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

- E3SHB 1488 - Public Hearing - Expanding higher education opportunities for certain students.
- 3SHB 1512 - Public Hearing - Expanding college bound scholarship eligibility.
- 2SHB 1293 - Public Hearing - Eliminating the parent or guardian approval requirement for the college bound scholarship pledge.
- E2SHB 1561 - Public Hearing - Concerning open educational resources.
- HB 2832 - Public Hearing - Ensuring the passport to college promise program is available to certain populations of foster youth.

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

- 2SSB 6274 - Public Hearing - Helping former foster youth and youth experiencing homelessness access and complete college and registered apprenticeships.

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

- E4SHB 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.
- SHB 2748 - Public Hearing - Modifying the learning assistance program.

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

- SSB 6141 - Public Hearing - Strengthening school district plans for recognition, screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students.
- SB 6168 - Public Hearing - Concerning school composting and recycling.
- SSB 6388 - Public Hearing - Concerning paraeducators.
- ESSB 6223 - Public Hearing - Concerning equitable educational outcomes for vulnerable children and youth.

### **1:30 p.m., Senate Human Services & Corrections, SHR 2**

- E2SHB 2779 - Public Hearing - Improving access to mental health services for children and youth.

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

- HB 2299 - Public Hearing - Making supplemental operating appropriations.

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

- SB 6032 - Public Hearing - Making supplemental operating appropriations. (Hearing is on the Proposed Substitute.)
- SB 6095 - Exec Session - Concerning the capital budget.

## ***Wednesday, February 21***

### **1:30 p.m., House Health Care & Wellness, HHR A**

- E2SSB 6529 - Public Hearing - Establishing a pesticide application safety work group.

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

- 2SSB 6274 - Exec Session - Helping former foster youth and youth experiencing homelessness access and complete college and registered apprenticeships.
- ESB 5917 - Public Hearing - Requiring a systemwide credit policy regarding international baccalaureate and Cambridge international exams.

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

- HB 2299 - Exec Session - Making supplemental operating appropriations.

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

- SB 6032 - Exec Session - Making supplemental operating appropriations.

## ***Thursday, February 22***

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

- HB 1452 - Public Hearing - Concerning the opportunity scholarship program.

### **8 a.m., House Education, HHR A**

- Bills to be determined

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

- E2SHB 1600 - Public Hearing - Increasing the career and college readiness of public school students.
- HB 2641 - Public Hearing - Promoting the use of expert volunteers in career and technical education courses offered in grades seven and eight.
- SHB 2686 - Public Hearing - Concerning high school and beyond plans.
- ESHB 2802 - Public Hearing - Concerning expanded learning opportunities.
- ESHB 2610 - Public Hearing - Creating the hunger-free students' bill of rights act.
- SHB 2558 - Public Hearing - Preventing public identification or stigmatization of public school students.

**3:30 p.m., House Capital Budget, HHR B**

- HB 2395 - Public Hearing - Concerning the capital budget.

*Friday, February 23*

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

- 2SSB 6274 - Exec Session - Helping former foster youth and youth experiencing homelessness access and complete college and registered apprenticeships.
- ESB 5917 - Exec Session - Requiring a systemwide credit policy regarding international baccalaureate and Cambridge international exams.