

A vibrant, abstract background featuring a diagonal rainbow brushstroke. The colors transition from deep purple and blue on the left, through magenta, red, orange, yellow, and green, towards the top right. The texture is grainy and expressive, resembling a thick application of paint or chalk.

2023 POST-SESSION DEBRIEF

Marie Sullivan, Legislative Consultant | April 26, 2023

OVERVIEW

Successes

Biggest issues

2023-25 budgets

New policies adopted for upcoming school years

What didn't pass

SUCCESSSES

2023-24 Adopted Priorities

1. Addressing the student mental health crisis
2. Closing critical gaps in education funding
3. Preventing & reducing gun violence and suicide
4. Addressing funding, inclusion, and supports in special education
5. Building and maintaining safer school facilities

2023 Legislative Session

- Funding carried forward to increase nurses, social workers, psychologists, counselors - \$548.6M + for 2023-24 and 2024-25 school year
- Focus on making mental health, nurses more accessible
- [ESHB 1436](#) – special education
- Transportation for special passengers
- School meals for K-4 grades
- 4+ bills on gun violence
- \$40M seismic safety, \$100M reappropriation

ALSO SUPPORTED — POLICY & FUNDING

Diverse & Effective Educator Workforce

- Money for RWT, BEST

School Construction Funding Options

Mastery-based Learning

- Money to continue MBL pilots

Highly Capable Students

- [SSB 5072](#) — universal screening

Closing the Digital Divide

- Money continues for grants

Family Engagement

Climate Change

- Lots of activity here

Meaningful High School Diploma

- High School & Beyond Plans — [E2SSB 5243](#)
- Dual Credit bills (Running Start, College in the High School) — [2SHB 1316](#), [2SSB 5048](#)
- New graduation pathway — [HB 1308](#)
- Work-based elective credit — [SHB 1658](#)

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

47 WSPTA testifiers

Focus Week, Focus Day and meetings with legislators

Action Alerts

Emails, amendment requests, requests for action

SPECIAL EDUCATION — ESHB 1436



Increases the cap on enrollment from 13.5% to 15%



Increases the multiplier rate:

1.2 – PreK

1.12 for students spending 80% or more of the school day in general education classes

1.06 for students spending less than 80% in general education classes



Safety Net access (when costs for a student's IEP exceeds):

2 times the average per-pupil expenditure (districts with fewer than 1,000 students)

2.2 times the average per-pupil expenditure (districts with 1,000 or more students)



Studies & Special Education Advocates

Disproportionality

JLARC/SAO performance audit

OSPI

SPECIAL EDUCATION BUDGET (BIG ITEMS) 2023-25 OPERATING BUDGET

- ❖ \$101.7 million – to increase the cap on enrollment
- ❖ \$240.1 million – to increase the multiplier
- ❖ \$5.5 million – lower the safety net threshold
- ❖ \$5.0 million – isolation & restraint demonstration projects
- ❖ \$5.0 million – inclusionary practices Professional Development
- ❖ \$5.0 million – *learning device grants (checking on this)*
- ❖ \$13.5 million – IDEA and ARPA funding

NOTE: Additional funding can be found for special education in other activities, e.g., compensation

OTHER MONEY - OPERATING

- \$261.3 million – compensation increases
- \$82.4 million – Community Eligibility Provision (federal program) and Free School Meals K-4 (40% or more FRPL)
- \$26 million – special passengers
- \$23.3 million – regionalization/experience factor rebase ([LEAP Doc. 3](#))
- \$23 million – local effort assistance, one-time, 2023 supplemental ([LEAP Doc. 4](#))
- ~\$15 million behavioral health provisos
- \$6.5 million mastery-based learning - expansion



2023-25 CAPITAL BUDGET

- \$588.1 million School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP)
- \$101 million Small District Modernization Grant program (1,000 or fewer students)
- \$40 million Seismic safety (\$100M reappropriation)
- \$20.2 million School District Health & Safety
- \$11.5 million Healthy Kids – Healthy Schools
- \$5 million Career Prep & Launch Capital grants (\$150K/project)
- \$663,000 Dept of Natural Resources – seismic risk analysis

POLICY BILLS – PREVENTING GUN VIOLENCE

- [E2SHB 1143](#) – 10-day waiting period for all firearms (Chapter 161, Laws of 2023)
 - [HB 1230](#) – safe storage of firearms and medications (signed by Governor)
 - [SHB 1240](#) – banning assault weapons (effective immediately) (Chapter 162, Laws of 2023)
 - [SSB 5078](#) – holding the firearms industry accountable (Chapter 163, Laws of 2023)
 - [SSB 5561](#) – extending the date of the Law Enforcement Community Engagement Grant program
- ... and more + funding in operating budget for AGO, Commerce, OSPI*

POLICY BILLS & BUDGET — MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE

- [E2SHB 1170](#) — updating the state’s integrated climate response strategy.
- [E2SHB 1181](#) — adding climate change as an element to the state’s Growth Management Act.
- [E2SHB 1216](#) — expediting clean energy siting.
- [HB 1777](#) — authorizing the use of performance-based contracting for energy services and equipment.
- \$69 million — EV charging stations (districts eligible)
- \$37 million — battery storage, solar (districts eligible)
- \$20 million — energy assessment (districts eligible)
- \$5 million — energy assessments (1,000 or fewer students)



MEANINGFUL HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA & HICAP

- [HB 1308](#) – adding a performance-based graduation pathway
- [2SHB 1316](#) – expanding Running Start (FTE from 1.2 to 1.4, summer)
- [SHB 1658](#) – authorizing work-based elective credit (up to 2 credits, 360 hours each)
- [2SSB 5048](#) – eliminating College in the High School fees (UW, EWU, CWU, SBCTC)
- [SSB 5072](#) – requiring universal screening of all students, on or before 2nd grade and on or before 6th grade
- [E2SSB 5243](#) – updating the High School & Beyond Plans, universal platform

BILLS IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTIONS

- [SHB 1207](#) – requiring updated student handbooks to address HIB and discrimination in schools
- [E2SHB 1238](#) – providing free school meals for all students
- [HB 1622](#), [HB 1679](#), and [ESSB 5072](#) – supporting students experiencing homelessness
- [ESSB 5257](#) – requiring 30 minutes of recess in a full school day
- [HB 1232](#), [2SHB 1559](#), and [EHB 1823](#) – supporting access and affordability of post-secondary education



BILLS THAT DIDN'T PASS — SPECIAL EDUCATION

Consideration for the 2024 Session?

- HB 1109 – early identification and evaluation grants for schools
- HB 1305 – earlier and quicker student evaluations
- HB 1479 – isolation and restraint practices
- Removing the cap on enrollment





BILLS THAT DIDN'T PASS

CONSIDERATION IN 2024 FOR WSPTA?

- HB 1353 – simple majority for bonds (HJR 4203 constitutional amendment)
- HB 1368 – zero emission busses
- HB 1392 – fair serving and repair of digital electronic equipment
- HB 1565 – teacher residency, online portal for hiring/recruiting
- HB 1741 – OSPI school staffing, including family & community engagement
- HB 1747/SB 5680 – conducting seismic studies on additional schools
- SB 5346 – encouraging use of student art in school construction
- SB 5647 – sharing school safety policies with temporary employees

QUESTIONS?

