

# **From First Pitch to Last Pitch: Scorecard Snapshot and Session Preview**

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Reminder – During  
Legislative Assembly:

WSPTA adopts a two-  
year set of priorities in  
“even” years – start of  
the biennium

Opportunity to add to  
priorities, update  
resolutions, during  
“odd” years

Resolutions and  
Legislative Principles  
are foundational and  
help guide how WSPTA  
engages during  
session

# Legislative Priorities

Washington State  
**PTA**  
everychild.one voice.®

## Top 5 Legislative Priorities for 2025 – 2026

### Closing the Funding Gaps

Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation, policies, and budgets that ensure the financial stability of all school districts, by prioritizing K-12 education in the state's operating budget, and by closing existing gaps in basic education funding for MSOC (Materials, Supplies and Operating Costs), special education services, and student transportation, so that state funding reflects and keeps pace with actual costs.

### Addressing the Student Mental Health Crisis

Washington State PTA shall support legislation or policies that ensure all students have access to the behavioral and mental health resources and preventative measures they need to thrive, including funding for:

- Reduced ratios of students to mental health professionals
- Programs and incentives to recruit, train, and retain mental health professionals
- Resources to assist families
- Training and support for educators and administrators

### Addressing Funding, Inclusion, and Supports in Special Education

Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation or policies that:

- Fully fund special education services including eliminating the cap
- Simplify the safety net reimbursement process
- Address the statewide special education staffing shortage
- Implement inclusionary practices while continuing specially designed instruction and accommodations when beneficial
- Address disproportional identification, referrals, and discipline
- Provide training in best practices for student and classroom support
- Ban isolation and reduce restraint of all students

### Preventing and Reducing Gun Violence and Suicide

Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation or policies that prevent and reduce gun violence and suicide including:

- Fund school-based mental health services
- Require permits for firearm purchases
- Incentivize safe storage of firearms and medications
- Restrict bulk weapons purchases
- Prohibit firearms in sensitive places including parks and public buildings
- Fund community-based prevention and intervention programs

### Expanding School Construction Funding Options

Washington State PTA shall advocate for legislation or policies that:

- Increase overall state funding and funding options for school construction projects and improvements

# WSPTA 2025 Legislative Session Scorecard<sup>1</sup>

Color Key: Green – much progress; Light Green – moderate progress; Yellow – little progress and more to do; Red – no progress

All bills that failed to pass in the 2025 session can be considered in the 2026 session

WSPTA Priority	Bill Number or Budget <sup>2</sup>	What it does	Status
Top 5 Priorities (in order of voting in October 2024)			
<b>Closing the Funding Gaps to ensure the financial stability of all school districts, by prioritizing K-12 education in the state’s operating budget, and by closing existing gaps in basic education funding for MSOC (Materials, Supplies and Operating Costs), special education services, and student transportation, so that state funding reflects and keeps pace with actual costs.</b>	<a href="#">ESSB 5192</a>  \$78.89 million  Represents an increase of <b>\$45.99</b> (inflation adjustment) and <b>\$35.27</b> (policy increase) for a total of <b>\$81.26 per K-12 student.</b>	<b>Materials, Supplies &amp; Operating Costs (MSOC):</b>  Increases general K-12 and grades 9-12 MSOC allocation. The MSOC allocation amounts are increased from \$1,533.02 to \$1,614.28 per student for general MSOC allocations and from \$204.03 to \$214.84 per student for additional 9-12 grade allocations.  Inflationary adjustments will be made using the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) for the previous calendar year at the beginning of the school year.  Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, each school district must annually report all MSOC expenditures, disaggregated by the categories listed, to OSPI.	Passed (Chapter 334, Laws of 2025)



# A triple, a single and a swing with a miss

- Special education - \$331 million for 2025-27
    - Removed the cap on enrollment of special education students
    - Increased and simplified the multiplier of the Basic Education rate
    - Decreased the threshold to reach the safety net
  - MSOC - \$78.89 million over two years - \$81.26 per student increase
  - Zero movement on transportation AND lost \$13 million/year special passengers
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# Stealing second

On gun violence, the legislature passed E2SHB 1163, which requires permits and training for the purchase, transfer and possession of firearms.

- Hotly contested
- Long nights and lots of amendments

Similarly, simple majority for bonds on school construction got a lot of attention in 2025 but ...

- Senate Bill 5186 and Senate Joint Resolution 8200 were left on second base when they couldn't secure enough Republican votes to bring it home.

HB 12 Schools (Orwan)		SSB 5666 would have created a school-based mental health psychology internship program. (Slatter)	
Addressing Funding, Inclusion, and Support in Special Education	E2SSB 5263	NOTE: See above on Closing the Funding Gaps for special education policy changes and two-year funding.	Passed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fully fund special education services including eliminating the cap</li><li>Simplify the safety net reimbursement process</li><li>Address the statewide special education staffing shortage</li><li>Implement inclusionary practices while continuing specially designed instruction and accommodations when beneficial</li><li>Address disproportional identification, referrals, and discipline</li><li>Provide training in best practices for student and classroom support</li><li>Ban isolation and reduce restraint of all students</li></ul>	\$4 million	Funding to continue six demonstration sites on isolation and restraint and add up to 16 pilot sites.	
	SSB 5253	Expands special education services to students up to age 22.	Passed (Chapter 256, Laws of 2025)
		Failed to pass: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>HB 1051 would have allowed for the recording of IEP meetings. (Walsh)</li><li>HB 1795/SB 5654 would have made changes to the state's isolation and restraint laws. (Callan/C. Wilson)</li></ul>	
Preventing and Reducing Gun Violence and Suicide	E2SHB 1163	Requires permits and training for the purchase, transfer and possession of firearms.	Passed (Chapter 370, Laws of 2025)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fund school-based mental health services</li><li>Require permits for firearm purchases</li><li>Incentivize safe storage of firearms and medications</li><li>Restrict bulk weapons purchases</li><li>Prohibit firearms in sensitive places including parks and public buildings</li><li>Fund community-based prevention and intervention programs</li></ul>		Failed to pass: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SHB 1132 would have limited bulk purchases and transfers of firearms and ammunition. (Farivar)</li><li>HB 1152 would have established secure</li></ul>	

The Scorecard uses green, yellow and red (and shades thereof) to visually show how we did during session



# A Walk, a Bunt and some Ks

While lots of bills were introduced about the student mental health crisis, of the 10 we were tracking, none passed.

Even with a budget problem, the Legislature invested \$4 million to continue six demonstration sites working on best practices for isolation and restraint and expand to 16 more.

No movement on school construction equity or changes.

- The Legislature is waiting on a report that was due September 30, 2025 from the consultant working on the School Construction Assistance Program Revision or SCAPR. Still not released.

# Rounding the Bases with Resolutions

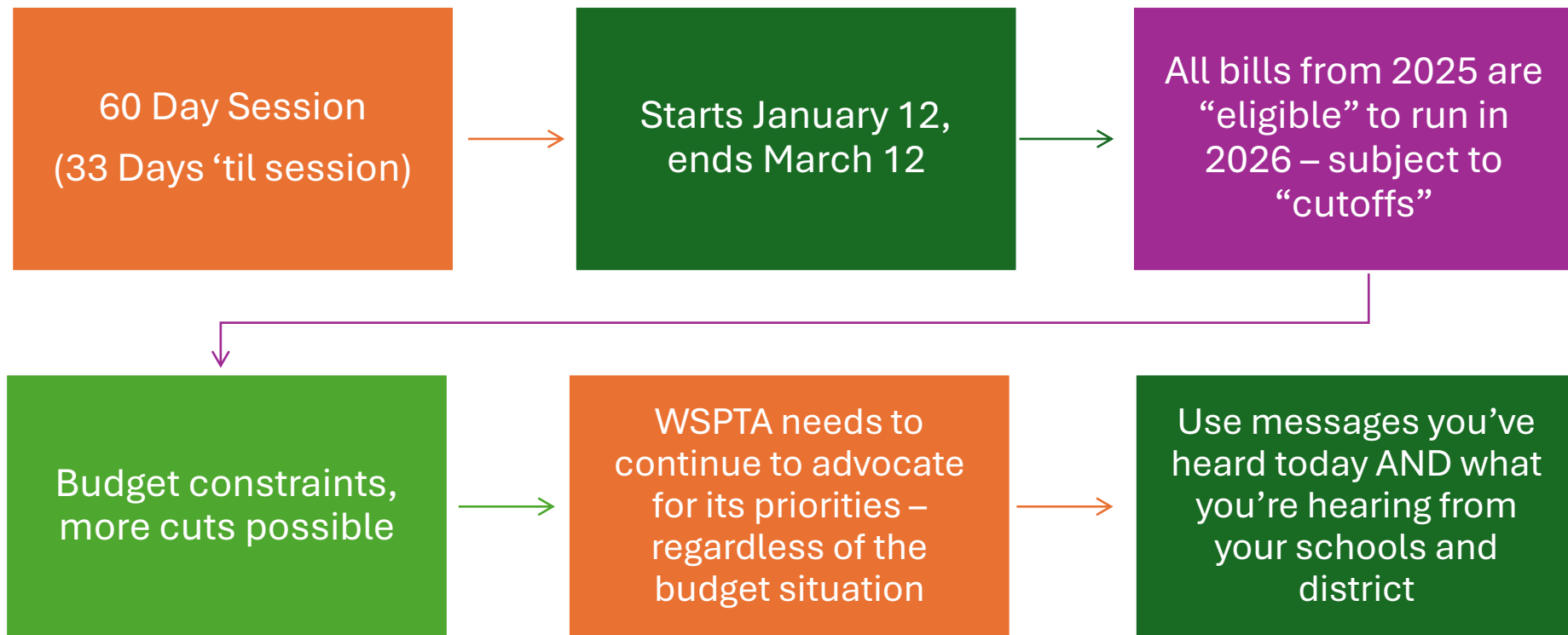
- Right to Repair – finally passed, good for school district IT departments
- Compliance pathways expanded to help school districts meet building performance standards and \$17 million for HVAC systems
- Lots of bills to support access and affordability of post-secondary education
- Held steady on Transition to Kindergarten (maintained 7,266 slots) and got a boost on levies and Local Effort Assistance (\$31.6 million in CY 2026 and \$105.4 million in CY 2027)
- School Meals and Community Eligibility – increase of nearly \$18 million



# Batter Up!

- Last session, ~\$16 billion shortfall over four years
- Closed with a series of tax increases, including tax on services and impacts are still shaking out – not a lot of appetite for tax votes in an election year – biggest is SB 5814 (tax on services)
- Lots of **uncertainty** from the federal government
  - Governor Ferguson said federal funding accounts for 28% of the state budget
  - Impact of H.R. 1 and the 2026 FFY is projected to have less funding for Medicaid and SNAP; state might have to start preparing to fill gaps (most are after the mid-term elections)
- Forecasted revenue since April enacted budget has **declined**
  - Through June 30, 2029 - \$1.3 billion less revenue over the four years
  - BUT \$3.2 billion in caseload increases (services provided by the state) and ML expenditures over 4-year period – without any policy changes in 2026 session
  - Projected \$4.3 billion deficit over four years
- **New revenue?**
  - Gov Ferguson says will veto any sales or property tax increases, offering all cuts 2026 supp budget
  - House and Senate Democrats are looking at a wealth tax, income tax, payroll tax on high-wage earners
  - Senate WM Chair says not entertaining any NEW policy funding requests




# Stepping Up to the Plate






WSPTA is  
about the  
“whole  
child”



**Priorities for 2026 include:**

- Closing the funding gaps
- Addressing student mental health
- Preventing gun violence and youth suicide
- Supporting special education
- Expanding school construction funding options

**Other themes:**

- Preserve and reinvest K-12 education funding
  - No new unfunded mandates or costs to school districts
  - Our schools are community hubs and meet student needs for food, shelter, and access to health care through school staff and programs and community partners
  - Protect our students and their families from intimidation and threats
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# Maintain K-12 & Re-Invest in Public Schools

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**Ask:** Keep K-12 education funding at current and inflation-adjusted levels. Re-invest any declining enrollment amounts into our public schools.

## Talking Points:

- Ample funding = paramount duty of Washington state. Education funding represents about 43% of the 2025-27 budget.
- Fewer students = less state funding to districts but the operating and classroom costs remain the same.
- State investments for Maintenance, Supplies & Operating Costs (MSOC) has not kept pace with inflation. To stabilize school districts, the state must increase MSOC or make incremental adjustments over the next four years.
  - OSPI bill would increase by \$100 per student or \$100,000, whichever is greater.
  - Sen. Lisa Wellman, D-Mercer Island and Rep. Mia Gregerson, D-SeaTac are sponsors.
- The K-12 system can't take another hit. Even small reductions in funding can erode progress on student learning and well-being.

# What to Say When They Say No

We understand this is another tough budget year and a lot of competing priorities.

Funding public schools is the state's paramount duty.

We understand that there are a lot of uncertainties with the federal government.

But school districts have been cutting back on programs for several years now.

- *Share the story of what's been going on with your district, impact on your students*
- *What doesn't get done due to unfunded MSOC (e.g., fewer intervention specialists or instructional coaches, delayed curriculum adoption impact on learning).*

This is not the time to lose ground, but to hold district funding stable and preserve K-12 funding from cuts or decreases due to circumstances outside of their control.

Our schools are more than classrooms – they are safe spaces, community hubs, and trusted environments where students receive meals, access health care, and obtain critical services to support success.

WSPTA supports predictable, progressive, and sustainable revenue sources that amply fund K-12 public education.

# Address the Unintended Burden of SB 5814 (2025) on School Districts

Ask: Clarify or amend statute related to SB 5814 to remove the unintended tax burden applied to school district, specifically for temporary staffing services and “live” presentations.

## Talking Points:

- This tax was never intended for public schools.
- School districts rely on temporary staffing contracts to support services to individual students and groups of students.
- School districts must provide training to teachers and other staff for state-required and local professional development and curriculum adoption.
- Also included in “live” presentations are activities like music concerts, theater, and more.
- Added tax costs to school districts divert funds away from students and student services, compounding district budget pressures.



# How You Can Elevate WSPTA Priorities

- Identify stories and data from students, staff and district leadership.
- Keep it simple: videos, photos, quotes, one-pagers, charts.
- Coordinate with the district on visits to schools – show and tell works really well.
  - Say thank you for prior investments, share what has been helpful, what is being lost.
  - Ask for what is needed and share why.
- Meet with your legislators and follow up with emails, phone calls or virtual check-ins.
- Attend Focus Day and participate in Focus on Advocacy Week.

# What talking points would you share with WSPTA in support of any of the priorities? (5 minutes)

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Share what you feel is useful in Menti here:

<https://www.menti.com/al76f62wbhnh>

OR

Go to [www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com)

Enter code: 3433 2500 (will expire 12/21/25)

Limited to 50 people



# Legislative Action Planning Recommendations to Prepare You for Session Advocacy



Talk with your districts,  
clarify their education  
priorities

Align with WSPTA priorities



Build and nurture  
relationships with your  
local legislators

During session, but interim is the  
best time to build those  
relationships  
Remember to reach out positively  
with Legislative Assistants



Gather and share information (data and facts  
– head; compelling – heart stories)



Collaborate with others

# Focus Day – January 19, 2026



- **Register** now
- **Plan** your day
  - Limited parking, so carpooling is encouraged
  - Limited meal options, so purchase with WSPTA or bring food, water and snacks (discrete)
  - Dress for the weather
  - Expect crowds – it's a holiday
- **Email requests** for meetings NOW
  - Might not schedule immediately – Senate schedule is out but House isn't
  - Ask for Save the Date time
  - Tell them how many people to expect will be attending the meeting
    - Legislators will reserve conference rooms or the House or Senate galleries to meet with groups
    - Most legislators have a limit of how many can be in a legislator's office
- Talking Points, Build Your Pitch, Making Appointments, and Successful Meetings with legislators can be found on the WSPTA website, Advocacy tab, Focus on Advocacy and the Toolkit
- Can't come to Olympia? **Schedule a virtual meeting** with your legislator.

# Focus on Advocacy Week – January 26-30

## One new message a day

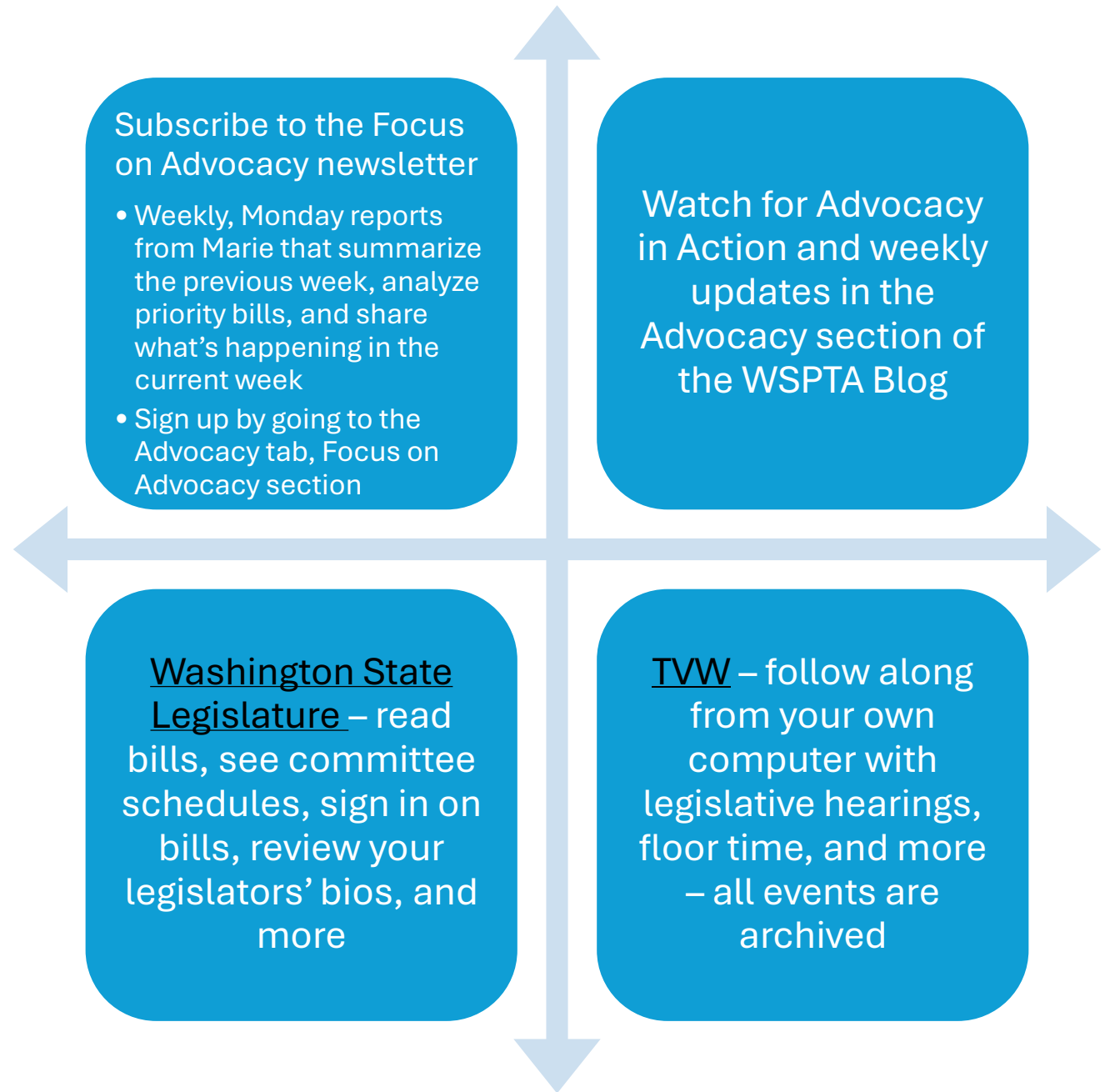
- Top 5
- Other supported
- Priority bills in front of the Legislature

## Copy will be prepared for you, but we need your stories too

- Each message will have content from WSPTA and a place for you to add a personal story or data/facts from your school or district
- Will be sent to your legislators



# How to Stay Engaged – beyond Focus Day



# Let's go to bat for kids together

- Join the WSPTA Advocacy Slack and connect with your fellow advocates statewide.
- Is something happening in your school community that speaks to what we've talked about tonight? Share your story with us!
- Got questions about tonight's presentation? Email [ptaadvocacydir@wastatepta.org](mailto:ptaadvocacydir@wastatepta.org)

Share Your Story



WSPTA Advocacy Slack Sign Up  
Form



# Thank you for spending your evening with us. See you at Focus Day!

Don't forget to sign up for Action Alerts! (QR Code below)

