

Sign in PRO on SB 5918: Funding the Basics of Basic Education

Let legislators know every Washington school needs the resources to keep the lights on and the doors open by [**signing in PRO on SB 5918 by 9:30 AM on Wednesday, January 21.**](#) This critical legislation addresses the growing gap between what the state pays for basic school operations and what districts actually spend - forcing schools to divert enrichment dollars meant for programs and services that help students succeed.

Washington's School Funding Crisis

An increasing number of school districts are in financial crisis.[1] Following the historic McCleary lawsuit, state investment in K-12 peaked at 52% of the operating budget. Today, it has dropped to just 43-44%, and inflation-adjusted funding has actually gone DOWN.[2]

The gap between what the state funded for Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC) in 2023-24 and actual costs was over \$456 million—more than \$400 per student.[3] Despite the legislature passing a much appreciated \$79 million minimal down payment on MSOC in the 2025 session, districts still must use enrichment levy dollars or reserves meant for enhanced learning opportunities to pay for basic requirements like insurance, utilities, technology, and curriculum.[4]

When schools divert enrichment dollars to keep the lights on, students lose access to updated curriculum, teacher training, technology, library materials, and lab equipment they need to thrive. Moreover, reliance on enrichment levy dollars for the basics is not equitable because many districts cannot pass levies or cannot pass levies that generate the same amount of dollars as wealthier districts.

What SB 5918 Does:

Increases MSOC allocations by \$100 per student or \$100,000 per district, whichever is greater—a critical step toward closing the funding gap and ensuring schools can afford the basics.

What Is "Signing in PRO"?

Signing in PRO is a simple way to show your support for a bill without testifying in person. Your name is recorded in the official legislative record, showing lawmakers that you support stable funding for our schools. It takes under 2 minutes.

Step 1: [Click here to access the Committee Sign In – Legislative Record](#)

Step 2: Fill out the simple form:

- Enter your name and contact information (you need not give your street address)
- Select "PRO" (in support of the bill)
- In the "Representing" field, type: **Parent Advocate**

Step 3: Submit! That's it!

The Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee will hold a public hearing on SB 5918 on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 10:30 AM. [Sign in PRO](#) by 9:30 AM on Wednesday, January 21 to ensure your position is recorded.

Your Voice Matters

Legislators pay attention to how many constituents sign in on bills. Every signature shows that Washington parents are united in demanding full funding for basic education. Your two minutes can make a real difference. **Please share this broadly with your PTAs and broader contacts to get the word out.**

Learn More About School Funding:

For more information on Washington's school funding crisis and WSPTA's advocacy priorities:

- [Closing the Funding Gaps - WSPTA One-Pager](#)
- [WSPTA 2025-2026 Legislative Priorities](#)
- [Issues at the Core of Washington State's School Funding Dilemma](#)

Stay Connected:

[Subscribe to WSPTA's Action Network](#) to receive updates on critical education legislation and advocacy opportunities.

Together, we can ensure every Washington student has access to a fully funded education.

Thank you for your advocacy,

Megan Larkin WSPTA Advocacy Director

Footnotes:

[1] Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. School district budget challenges and financial insolvency. <https://ospi.k12.wa.us/policy-funding/school-apportionment/instructions-and-tools/schooldistrict-budget-challenges-and-financial-insolvency>

[2] Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. (2025, January 16). Press Conference. <https://www.tvw.org/watch/?clientID=9375922947&eventID=2025011128>; OSPI 2025 Legislative Session in Review. https://ospi.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/2025-06/2025legislativesessioninreviewpptjune5_0.pdf

[3] Washington State PTA. (2026, January). Closing the Funding Gaps – 2025-26 Legislative Priority. <https://www.wastatepta.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Closing-the-Funding-Gaps-2026.pdf>

[4] Issues at the Core of Washington State's School Funding Dilemma.
<https://www.waschoolfunding.org/>