

Weekly Legislative Update: Education

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New This Week

We are removing **SB 5102 Concerning School Library Information and Technology Programs** and **HB 1109 Providing Funding for School Districts for Special Education** from our priority bills as they never came back from last session and **SB 5964/HB 2058 Increasing Student Access to Free Meals Served at Public Schools** from our Watch list as neither made it out of committee.

Bills We Support

HB 1956/SB 5923 Addressing Fentanyl and Other Substance Use Prevention Education. Fentanyl and other opioid prevention education delivered through health classes or other discretionary programs must be provided to as many seventh and ninth grade students as possible during the remainder of the 2024-25 school year, and annually to seventh and ninth grade students thereafter. **SB 5923 didn't make it out of committee. HB 1956 passed the House and will have a hearing in Ways & Means on Feb. 24 at 9:00 AM. It is in the House budget.**

HB 2180/SB 6014 Increasing the Special Education Enrollment Funding Cap. This would increase funding from 15% to 17.25%. **SB 6014 didn't make it out of committee. HB 2180 passed the House and will have a hearing in Ways & Means on Feb. 24 at 9 AM. It is in the House budget.**

SB 5882/HB 1960 Increasing prototypical school staffing to better meet student needs. This would phase in additional staff allocations for paraeducators, office support staff, and non-instructional aides in the prototypical school funding model. More still needs to be done. **HB 1960 is dead, but SB 5882 passed the Senate and will be voted on by Appropriations on Feb. 26 at 10:30 AM. It is in the Senate budget.**

SB 5953 Concerning Financial Aid Grants for Incarcerated Students. This provides education resources for incarcerated students. **Passed the Senate, and a vote is scheduled in Appropriations on Feb. 26 at 10:30 AM. It is in the Senate budget.**

SHB 2494 Increasing state funding for operating costs in schools. The MSOC (materials, supplies and operating per pupil amounts defined in the prototypical formulas would be updated and include a \$23 per pupil increase, from \$1,519.04 to \$1,542.04 per pupil. **It passed the House and has a hearing in Ways & Means on Feb.24 at 9 AM. It is in the House budget.**

SB 5873 Providing Adequate and Predictable Student Transportation. This bill would authorize another year studying/gathering data on this issue, but would not provide adequate funding currently. **It passed the Senate and was heard in Appropriations on Feb. 22. It is in the Senate budget.**

ESSB 6031 Modifying the student transportation allocation to accommodate multiple vehicle types for transporting students. It passed the Senate and is scheduled for a vote in Appropriations on Feb. 26. It is in the Senate budget.

Bills We Oppose

HB 1897/SB 5809 Concerning Enrichment Funding for Charter Public Schools. Voters, who are represented by elected school boards, vote to approve enrichment levies. There is no process or ability for charter school parents to do this. **Neither bill passed out of committee, but funding is in the Senate budget.**

How You Can Be Involved

- If you are interested in a particular bill, use the links above to go to the webpage for that bill. These pages include staff summaries and reports including who testified PRO versus CON on the bill. There is also information about how to access videos of hearings that have been held.
- Read and take action through the [LWVWA Legislative Action Newsletter](#), distributed each Sunday during the legislative session.
- You may also express your opinion on legislation with the LWVWA issue chairs. We will take your perspectives under consideration as we determine our support for legislation and prepare testimony. Please direct questions or comments to [Catherine Ahl](#) (360-697-7924), Education Issue Chair.