

Weekly Legislative Update: Education

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February 4, 2024

Bills Needing Action This Week

*Remember, only authorized members can speak for the League; the Issue Chairs will do that, so **please leave the "Organization" box blank.** A more powerful influence is many voices speaking for themselves rather than many voices speaking for the League.*

No bills need action this week.

Bills We Support

SB 5102 Concerning School Library Information and Technology Programs. This bill would ensure every board of directors provide resources and materials for the operation of a school library information and technology program so that every student has access to the program. Left from last Session and **still in Senate Rules.**

HB 1109 Providing Funding for School Districts for Special Education. This bill would provide funding for public schools to conduct evaluations for special education and to develop individualized education programs for eligible students during the summer. Left from last session and **still in House Rules.**

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** was heard in Ways & Means on Jan. 30. **HB 1956** passed the House Education Committee on Jan. 25 and was referred to Appropriations

HB 2180/SB 6014 Increasing the Special Education Enrollment Funding Cap. This would increase funding from 15% to 17.25%. **SB 6014** passed the Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education on Jan. 18 and referred to Ways & Means. **HB 2180** passed the House Appropriations Committee on Jan. 29 and referred to Rules.

SB 5882/HB 1960 Increasing prototypical school staffing to better meet student needs. This would phase in additional staff allocations for teaching assistants, office support staff, and non-instructional aides in the prototypical school funding model. More still needs to be done. **SB 5882** was heard by Ways & Means on Feb. 3. **HB 1960** was heard by Appropriations on Feb. 3 and is scheduled for a vote on Feb. 5.

SB 5953 Concerning Financial Aid Grants for Incarcerated Students. This provides education resources for incarcerated students. **Was heard by Ways & Means on Feb. 2.**

Bills We Are Watching

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. **Ways & Means held a Hearing was held on Jan. 23.**

SB 5964/HB 2058 Increasing Student Access to Free Meals Served at Public Schools. This bill would provide breakfast and lunch without charge to any requesting students. **HB 2058 passed the House Education Committee on Jan. 18 and was referred To Appropriations. SB 5964 was heard in the Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education on Jan. 29.**

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. **SB 5809 was heard by Ways & Means on Feb. 2. HB 1897 was heard by House Appropriations on Feb. 1.**

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.