This Week in Review

With next week’s “cut-off” deadline arriving (all bills must be out of their original house policy committee by Friday, February 7 to remain alive), legislative committees continued to sprint through large public hearing agendas. Some of those committees have also taken action to adopt (or “exec”) a handful of bills; however, next week much of the action in committees will be lengthy executive sessions to debate, amend, and adopt bills before the first legislative cut-off date.

School Levies/LEA

A number of key education bills continue to be highlighted in the two education committees and/or the two fiscal committees. This week, perhaps the major highlight was a public hearing on local school district levies. Last week, the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee held public hearings on two Local Effort Assistance (LEA) bills (SB 6075 and SB 6510—for more information, see TWIO, January 24). On Monday, the Committee continued discussing local funding, holding public hearings on three bills to adjust current levy policies. (It should also be noted, on Wednesday, the House Appropriations Committee also heard a bill—HB 2788—to extend current LEA provisions to charter schools.)

All three bills heard in the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee would increase the current school district levy lid:

- **SB 6344**—Current law caps local school district levies at the lesser of $2.50 per $1,000 of Assessed Value or $2,500 per pupil (adjusted for inflation). (Seattle School District continues to maintain its unique cap of the lesser of $2.50 per $1,000AV or $3,000 per pupil, adjusted for inflation.) SB 6344 simply removes the “lesser of” language and replaces it with “either”—allowing districts to choose to increase their total levy request.

  On first blush, this almost-technical change seems reasonable—and is a change the education community has discussed since the new levy policies were adopted in 2017’s HB 2242. As an example of how this could help some districts, take a look at Easton School District. Patrick Dehuff, Easton Superintendent, testified in favor of SB 6344 and discussed his district’s situation. Prior to the new McCleary levy policies, Easton was operating on a levy of approximately $1.00 per $1,000 of Assessed Value. When the new caps were implemented, Easton was well-above the $2.50 per pupil cap, so the district had to lower the levy; they currently operate on a levy of less than $.40 per $1,000AV. Dehuff noted that last year’s levy fix (SB 5313), which increased the cap from $1.50
per $1,000 of Assessed Value to $2.50, did nothing to help Easton because they were already at their max $2,500 per pupil cap. Several other small, rural school districts are in a similar situation and SB 6344 would assist them (along with many larger school districts).

Taking a deeper dive into impacts of SB 6344, however, shows this “solution” is not so simple—or equitable. (See the financial modeling for SB 6344—Note: the model uses 2020 taxes.) For example, in Seattle School District, if they adopted a levy capped at $2.50 per $1,000 of Assessed Value, rather than the current “lesser of” $2,500 per pupil, they could collect $13,091 per pupil. Just under half (133) of Washington’s school districts—including small, medium, and large districts—could collect greater than the current $2,500 per pupil cap (or $2,565 in 2021, with inflation added), if they maxed out their levies at $2.50 per $1,000 of Assessed Value. Unfortunately, many of these districts would have difficulty in convincing their voters to adopt a $2.50 levy, after promising to hold their levies at $1.50—which would exacerbate the current inequities in the system.

The remaining school districts (162) would be limited to the maximum per pupil cap ($2,500, or $2,565 with inflation added)—and many of these districts would have little hope of reaching the per pupil cap because a much-higher-than-current levy would be required. Some examples: Aberdeen would need a $6.58 levy to reach the maximum per pupil cap; Kelso, $5.04; Kennewick, $5.32; Mary M. Knight, $20.40; Omak, $20.51; Pasco, $5.85; Sunnyside, $10.92; and Yakima, $7.33. A handful of small districts would require a levy of well-over $20.00 (Taholah at $28.99) to reach the per pupil maximum. Obviously, there is a question if these districts would need a levy funded at $2,565 per pupil; however, these numbers show how the current levy inequities could be dramatically exacerbated.

If SB 6344 were to advance, it seems as though: (1) some type of maximum collection would be in order—whether a district operated under a lid of $2.50 per $1,000 of Assessed Value or $2,565 per pupil—to limit the inequities; and/or (2) Local Effort Assistance would need to be enhanced for those districts most dramatically impacted.

- **SB 6477**—The next bill changes the levy cap for collection in Calendar Year 2021 and Calendar Year 2022 to be: the lesser of $2.50 per $1,000 of Assessed Value or $2,565 per pupil (adjusted for inflation); OR the school district’s voter-approved M&O levy under the levy policy in law prior to the implementation of the new levy policy under HB 2242 (2017). This would allow most districts that approved four-year levies prior to the transition to the new levy policy to collect additional revenue, if the levy has not yet lapsed. There is a Proposed Substitute that corrects a typo in a session law citation in the bill (it is a small typo, yet the impact is major). It is anticipated that this bill would positively impact about ten districts.

- **SB 6533**—This bill would change the current school district levy per pupil maximum to match Seattle’s. That is, the levy cap would be the lesser of $2.50 per $1,000 of Assessed Value or $3,000 per pupil (adjusted for inflation). While this bill addresses a fairness issue (why is one district treated differently than the other 294 districts?), it would allow many districts to collect additional local revenue, further exacerbating inequities between districts. To address this issue, an enhancement in Local Effort Assistance should be provided if this bill moves.

NOTE: Senate Committee Services has prepared a simple chart comparing these three levy proposals to current law.

Prior to this legislative session, it seemed unlikely there would be much discussion about levies or LEA. While it was not a surprise multiple bills were introduced on levies/
LEA, it was a bit unexpected those bills were heard. Whether they move further than a public hearing is still to be determined; however, none of the levy bills (SB 6344/HB 2753, SB 6477, and SB 6533/HB 2823), nor the LEA bills (SB 6075/HB 2237, and SB 6510), that have been heard have been scheduled for executive action (and none of the House companion bills have even been heard). Granted, things can turn on a dime in Olympia—and there is an argument that the bills could be tagged as “Necessary to Implement the Budget” (especially the LEA bills)—but as of today, it appears the sun is setting on these bills.

Additionally, legislative leaders are starting to indicate the bills may have come to the end of the road for this year. During this week’s Democratic Leadership media availability, journalists asked specifically if there would be any changes to levy laws this session. Senator Christine Rolfes (D-Bainbridge Island), Chair of the Senate Ways & Means Committee, said that in the Senate there are several “small bills that are very school district specific,” as opposed to more, broad bills dealing with “levy reform” (apparently she was unaware of Senate committee action on three “levy reform” bills the day before the media availability). She went on to say that she did not “foresee making a big levy policy change this year.”

Several levy/LEA bills have been introduced in the House, but none have of them have been heard yet. Representative Pat Sullivan (D-Covington), House Majority Leader, echoed Sen. Rolfes’ comments, saying that “whenever you talk about levies, levy equalization gets dragged into it with very complex formulas” and said clearly, “I can’t imagine in a 60-day session we would do reform.” He noted that several legislators are pushing bills that would impact their individual school districts (those “small bills” that Rolfes referenced), and Leadership has encouraged them to continue to work with House Leadership on the issues, but “for this session, I think it is unlikely to see a bill get through the process.”

When a journalist followed up by asking if bills with “small fixes for individual districts that are still having some problems” have an opportunity to pass, Sen. Rolfes said with a smile, if the school districts have “legitimate needs, yes.” You hate to read too much into things, but the manner in which she responded seemed to indicate that she did not believe school districts that are requesting these fixes actually have “legitimate needs.”

**School-Based Health Centers**

The issue of school-based health centers has become a hot issue this session, with multiple bills floating around and numerous discussions. The conversation was jump-started with a public hearing last week on SB 6279. In short, this bill would have required all school districts to partner with a “health care sponsor” to establish at least one school-based health center within the district by the beginning of the 2025–26 school year. WSSDA would have been required to draft a model policy on school-based health centers and, in turn, districts would have also been required to adopt the WSSDA model policy or at least a policy that incorporated the key elements of the WSSDA model. Before the hearing, a Proposed Substitute was introduced to scale the bill down, requiring only First Class school districts to establish the health centers; under the Proposed Substitute, Second Class school districts could opt-in, if they chose.

Even though SB 6279 clearly declared that the health care sponsor has “sole responsibility for the school-based health center’s services, activities, and operations,” concerns remained about costs of the program, potential liability issues, and other questions. At this point, it appears that this was the start of a conversation and the bill likely will be set down without further action this session.

Other bills, however, appear to have some life. On Monday, the House Education Committee held a public hearing on two bills about school-based health centers. The first, HB 2288, would specifically authorize school districts to enter into agreements...
with health care providers to establish school-based health centers for the provision of services exclusively to district students, employees, and employees’ dependents. Even though over 50 school-based health centers have been established in Washington’s public schools, there are questions about whether school districts have the actual authority to establish these health centers. HB 2288 would explicitly authorize school districts to participate in school-based health center arrangements, limiting (or at least protecting school districts from) potential legal challenges. The bill has been scheduled for executive action on Thursday, February 6. Meanwhile, its Senate companion, SB 6563, is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee on Monday, February 3.

The second bill heard by the House Education Committee was HB 2708, to study school-based health centers. The bill would require the Department of Health to establish a Work Group on school-based health centers. Required participants include OSPI, WASA, and multiple other education or health care associations. A report with findings and recommendations would be required to be sent to the Legislature by December 1, 2020. The bill has been scheduled for executive action on Thursday, February 6.

The Week Ahead

As noted above, much of the action in legislative committees next week will be in executive sessions, as legislators quickly move to adopt priority bills prior to next Friday’s cut-off deadline. Of course, there are several public hearings, including a bill regarding one of the education community’s collective priority: enhanced staffing allocations.

The centerpiece of WASA’s 2020 Legislative Platform—and a major priority for most of the education associations—is the strong support for an enhancement of staffing allocations as a part of the Prototypical School Funding Model. To update all of the staffing ratios to achieve more realistic state-funded staffing levels will be enormously expensive; increasing the ratios to the level as adopted as a part of Initiative 1351 (2014) is estimated to cost as much as $5.6 billion. Of course, we cannot realistically expect a wholesale facelift of outdated staffing ratios in the 2020 session; however, the Legislature has an opportunity to begin phasing in updated ratios. We hope (and we will actively advocate) that legislators provide some kind of “down payment” to start the process this year.

To help get that ball rolling, State Superintendent Chris Reykdal requested the introduction of SB 6615. The bill introduced earlier this week—along with a House companion bill, HB 2897—would establish in statute a phase-in plan to increase K–12 staffing allocations, as outlined in Initiative 1351. The bill’s phase-in plan would implement the recommendations of OSPI’s Staffing Enrichment Workgroup. (For a short summary of the Workgroup’s recommendations, see WASA’s presentation at November’s Superintendent Component Meeting.)

As recommended by the Workgroup, the bill’s phase-in plan would begin by focusing on meeting students’ needs for safety as well as mental, social, emotional, and behavioral health. Additionally, the bill would establish a phase-in schedule for additional professional development for all staff (classified, certificated, and certificated administrative staff), culminating in ten days by the 2025–26 school year.

SB 6615 will be heard by the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee on Wednesday, February 5. It would be beneficial to have a strong show of support for this bill next week.

One of the important message points to remember about the staffing allocation issue is that the Legislature IS fully funding the current Prototypical School Funding Model. The problem is the original staffing allocations were funded at artificially low ratios based on historic staffing ratios that had been in place since the late 1980’s to ensure the...
conversion was cost neutral. Since then, the need for student supports in local school districts has grown exponentially, yet the funding ratios for most staff positions have remained the same since the Model was first implemented. So, while the Legislature is fully funding the Model, it is fully funding staff allocations that do not meet current needs.

Next week, the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee will also address funding of school districts with forestlands. Historically, funds that school districts received from federal or state forestlands was deducted from their basic education apportionment. Superintendent Reykdal, by rule, eliminated the practice; however, legislators have attempted to reverse that decision recently. SB 6573, which will be heard on Monday, February 3, would statutorily eliminate the reduction of state basic education apportionment due to a school district’s receipt of federal or state forest revenues. A companion bill, HB 2791, has not yet been scheduled to be heard in the House Appropriations Committee.

School Employees’ Benefits Board
None of the SEBB-eligibility bills discussed last week (SB 6290, SB 6296, or SB 6189—see TWIO, January 24) have been scheduled for executive action, yet. They are considered fiscal bills, however, and sit in the Senate Ways & Means Committee, which has a later cut-off deadline (Tuesday, February 11). That said, it is not anticipated they will be acted upon. The bill with the greatest opportunity to move is SB 6189 in amended form, which would not provide immediate relief to school districts, but establish a Work Group to review costs to school districts.

Another SEBB bill, HB 2458, which deals with “optional benefits” rather than eligibility, has been scheduled for executive action in the House Education Committee on Tuesday, February 4. This is the bill drafted jointly by WASA and WEA to clarify—and reaffirm—that school districts may offer optional benefits (in particular, VEBA plans) that are not provided by SEBB. The Senate companion bill, SB 6479, is scheduled for executive action in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on Wednesday, February 5.

2020 Supplemental Operating Budget
Yesterday, the Economic & Revenue Forecast Council met to receive the quarterly state Economic update and to adopt an updated four-year Budget Outlook. As we have seen in the last few forecast updates, revenue collections continue to be above expectations and the economic outlook is generally positive with little change from the November forecast. We will see more firm numbers when the revenue forecast is updated next month; however, preliminary data indicates another $169 million will be available beyond what was predicted in November. Also, as we have seen previously, there are multiple “downside” threats to our economy, including: tensions in Iran, North Korea, and China; ongoing uncertainty regarding Boeing’s 737 MAX production; and concerns about international trade policy. Additionally, there is still fear of an upcoming recession, with national economists predicting there is a 25 percent chance of a recession in the next 12 months. The projected probability of a recession, however, has gradually reduced in the last several months.

In the first few weeks of the session, there has not been much public discussion about the 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget; however, the issue was discussed a bit in this week’s Democratic media availability (linked above). Rep. Sullivan indicated that the House (which starts the legislative budget process this year) will likely follow tradition and release their first budget proposal on the Monday after the February revenue forecast update is released (the Economic & Revenue Forecast Council is scheduled to release an updated state revenue review on February 19). Sullivan also noted that, similar to the governor’s minimalistic budget request, the Legislature’s budget proposals will likely, “for the first time in a while” move back to “that traditional Supplemental Budget.” This was a clear indication that legislative proposals, and more than likely, the final budget
package will be fairly skinny. The governor released a very “modest” budget request; however, it also included “off-budget” funding for a package of homelessness projects. To address homelessness, the governor requested $319 million from the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA). If the February revenue forecast includes the kind of increase predicted in yesterday’s economic review, legislators may be able to fund some of the governor’s homelessness programs and/or some of their own ideas, without tapping the hard-to-access BSA—or increasing revenues (that is, taxes).

Historically, the governor’s budget request has been the high watermark proposal. If that is the case again this year, we can expect most of our requests to fall off the table fairly quickly. As noted above, even with predictions of additional available revenue, much (if not all) of those funds would be used for programs outside of education, in particular homelessness issues. All the more reason for school administrators to fully engage in the process to ensure K–12’s voice is heard loud and clear when legislators start to divvying up the scraps.

AEA
By Mitch Denning

This week each association held their annual Leg Meeting Day, as WAMOA reps met with 29 members of the House Capital Budget and Senate Ways & Means Committees on Tuesday, and WSNA reps met on Thursday with 26 House and Senate members, of which 25 are our Meals for Kids champions.

Our WAMOA folks urged the lawmakers to support the OSPI Seismic Retrofit Safety Grant program in the Governor’s proposed 2020–21 Supplemental Capital Budget in the amount of $10 million. They also thanked them for supporting three grants in the 2019–21 Capital Budget, including Urgent Repair, Healthy Kids/Healthy Schools and Small District Modernization Grants. They shared the district recipients for the Urgent Repair and HKHS Grants. The Legislature is to soon determine the recipients of the Small District Modernization Grants.

Our WSNA folks urged the lawmakers to support a proposed amended version of HB 1892, elimination of the reduced-price lunch copay, which phases in PreK and grades 4–6 in SY 2020–21 at the projected rate of $1.5 million. They also shared a suggested way to improve HB 2660, expanding the Community Eligibility Provision federal effort, to increase the number of students eating for free through that program.

On Tuesday, WSNA testified with concerns about HB 2660, suggesting to the House Education Committee that they consider raising the requirement for schools to have to join the program to a higher bar so that schools would not lose money.
Pensions/Health Benefits

By Fred Yancey – The Nexus Group

The big push has begun as bills will be moving out of their house of origin in order to clear the policy and fiscal deadlines and move toward adoption by the chambers.

Some bills have yet, if ever, to be scheduled, and are not reported here yet, they may not be dead. (See ** note below.) These have been mentioned in previous reports.

**An important note is that those dealing with dollars, (think COLA or SEBB), will stay ‘alive’ until SINE DIE as they fall into the ‘necessary to implement the budget’ category. **

Meanwhile, the need for communication with legislators to help them prioritize is critical.

Below is a summary of bills that have had some degree of action to date.

Retirement Related Proposals

Proposed bills dealing with providing a benefit increase to those members in TRA 1 and PERS 1 plans, although introduced will not see any action until the budget talks begin.

Since the next revenue forecast is due February 19, further action on these requests consists of working with legislators behind the scenes to remind them of the need. Bills in play include: SB 6165, HB 1390, and SB 5400.

SB 6662—was introduced on January 31, 2020. Providing retirement benefits at earlier ages in the Plans 2 and 3 of the Public Employees’ Retirement System, the Teachers’ Retirement System, and the School Employees’ Retirement System. Briefly stated, any member who is at least age 55 and has completed at least five service credit years and for whom the sum of the number of years of the member’s age and the number of years of the member’s service credit equals 85 or more, shall be eligible to retire and receive an unreduced retirement allowance. Also, SB 6662 includes a 3 percent one-time COLA for Plan 1 members. This bill has been referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

School Employees’ Benefits Board (SEBB) Health Related Proposals

The SEBB Board held a meeting on January 27, 2020. The summary of the meeting is available to review.

HB 2458/SB 6479—Concerning optional benefits offered by school districts.

This bill allows for districts to continue offering some benefits that are not in competition with those offered by SEBB. If SEBB is not providing the benefit, then a jurisdiction should be able to provide it. It was pointed out that these benefits are employee paid. Examples would include VEBA, cancer insurance, auto insurance, etc.

These bills are scheduled for Executive Action on February 4 (House Education) and February 5 (Senate Ways & Means).

Other Bills:

Previously, SB 6176 incorporating the costs of employee health and retirement benefits into school district contracts for pupil transportation was covered. It had a public hearing on January 24, where WASA and schools testified as to the unfunded costs associated with it. In addition, the bill is problematic for a number of reasons. Once this door is open, what about contracted food service workers, special education contractor, etc.?

Subsequent to the hearing, the House brought ESHB 1813, a similar bill out of Rules Committee where it ended last Session and brought it directly to the floor. The House
passed this bill January 30, with a 60/36 vote. Wham! No need for committee hearings, just quick action. It will now move to the Senate for their action.

**Other Bills that may have Fiscal/HR Impacts for Districts**

**HB 2171**—Concerning vested vacation or paid time off upon an employee’s termination. If an employer has an established policy, practice, or agreement to provide paid vacation or paid time off, and an employee is terminated from employment by death, reduction in force, resignation, dismissal, or retirement, any of the employee’s unused vested vacation time or paid time off must be paid to the employee as wages at the employee’s final rate in accordance with the employment policy, practice, or agreement with respect to eligibility and vesting requirements.

This was passed out of committee on January 30.

**HB 2614/SB 6349**—Concerning paid family and medical leave. This bill is agency request legislation clearing up some areas with the family and medical leave act, laying out penalty process steps and clarifying certain issues.

HB 2614 passed out of the policy committee on January 23, and is scheduled before the House Appropriations Committee on February 3.

SB 6349 is in second reading in Senate Rules.

**HB 2739**—Adjusting certain requirements of the shared leave program. Provides that state employees seeking shared leave due to illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition are not required to deplete all of their annual and sick leave before receiving shared leave. Allows intermittent and non-consecutive use of shared leave.

This bill is scheduled for Executive Session on January 31.

**HB 2740**—Concerning the employment of individuals who lawfully consume marijuana. This may or may not affect school districts since all are posted “Drug Free Zones”, but it may be worth a look.

This bill is scheduled for Executive Action on February 5.

**SB 6123**—Allowing state employee leave for organ donation. Requires agencies to allow employees to take paid leave as needed, not exceeding 30 days in a two-year period, for participation in life-giving procedures.

This bill is scheduled for Executive Action on February 5.

**SB 6368**—Concerning sick leave for K–12 employees. Leave provided in this proviso not taken shall accumulate from year to year. Such accumulated time may be taken at any time during the school year and may be used for the purpose of payments for unused sick leave in accordance with RCW 28A.400.210.

SB 6368 has been scheduled for a public hearing before the Senate Education Committee on February 3. It was previously scheduled for a public hearing, but the committee time was cut short due to extended floor action by the Senate. Two Superintendents had registered to testify ‘Con’ on this bill due to its unfunded costs.
Legislative Resources

Committee Meeting Schedule

Legislative Committees Meetings are scheduled to be held at the following times but are subject to change.

Up-to-date meeting schedules and agendas are available on the State Legislature website.

Mondays
1:30–3:25 p.m.
Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education
Senate Hearing Room 1
House Education
House Hearing Room A
3:30–5:30 p.m.
Senate Ways & Means
Senate Hearing Room 4
House Appropriations
House Hearing Room A

Tuesdays
1:30–3:25 p.m.
Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education
Senate Hearing Room 1
House Education
House Hearing Room A
3:30–5:30 p.m.
Senate Ways & Means
Senate Hearing Room 4
House Appropriations
House Hearing Room A

Wednesdays
3:30–5:30 p.m.
Senate Ways & Means
Senate Hearing Room 4
House Appropriations
House Hearing Room A

Thursdays
8–9:55 a.m.
House Education
House Hearing Room A
1:30–3:25 p.m.
Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education
Senate Hearing Room 1
3:30–5:30 p.m.
Senate Ways & Means
Senate Hearing Room 4
House Appropriations
House Hearing Room A

Useful Links

Washington State Government
http://www.access.wa.gov

State Legislature
http://www.leg.wa.gov

Senate
http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate

House of Representatives
http://www.leg.wa.gov/House

Legislative Committees

Legislative Schedules
http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/calendar.aspx

Office of the Governor
http://www.governor.wa.gov

OSPI
http://www.k12.wa.us

TVW
http://www.tvw.org

Session Cut–off Calendar

January 13, 2020
First Day of Session.

February 7, 2020
Last day to read in committee reports in house of origin, except House fiscal, Senate Ways & Means, and Transportation committees.

February 11, 2020
Last day to read in committee reports from House fiscal, Senate Ways & Means, and Transportation committees in house of origin.

February 19, 2020
Last day to consider bills in house of origin (5 p.m.).

February 28, 2020
Last day to read in committee reports from opposite house, except House fiscal, Senate Ways & Means, and Transportation committees.

March 2, 2020
Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal, Senate Ways & Means, and Transportation committees.

March 6, 2020*
Last day to consider opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session).

March 12, 2020
Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

*After the 94th day, only initiatives, alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, messages pertaining to amendments, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session may be considered.
**Bill Watch**

*TWIO* tracks critical education bills each week as they are introduced. Detailed bill information can be accessed by clicking on the bill number. The following is a list of the bills of highest interest to school administrators. A more comprehensive bill watch list is located on the WASA website.

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Reminder of the WSPA Region 4 meeting this week.
DATE: Thursday, January 30, 2020
TIME: 1:00PM - 4:00PM
PLACE: Highline Public Schools Board Room, 15675 Ambaum Blvd SW, Burien, WA 98166
PRESENTATION: Para Requirements & ESSA Certification and Assignment Policy
RSVP to cooks@rsd407.og for planning purposes if you have NOT already done so.
Unable to attend please register for WSPA Region 4 Training: Para Requirements and ESSA on Jan 30, 2020 1:00PM PST at: http://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4779317965587716364
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.
Looking forward to seeing everyone there!
Stacia, Sara, & Stacy
From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: ROBIN FOX
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Meeting this Thursday

A new message, WSPA Region 4 Meeting this Thursday, has been posted to the Region 4 Membership committee by Stacy Cook. See the message below, or login into your account to view.

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Stacia, Sara, & Stacy
From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: Janet Culik
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Meeting this Thursday

Attachments may contain viruses that are harmful to your computer. Attachments may not display correctly.
From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: Sarah Miller
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Meeting this Thursday

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Stacia, Sara, & Stacy
From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: MIKE DINGES
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Meeting this Thursday

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Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Meeting this Thursday
Message-Id: <3603de6c-97fa-481c-a1da-cd785267420d.200008420458.10062.1580248031317@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: jdinges@tacoma.k12.wa.us
From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: Matthew Thomas
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Meeting this Thursday

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Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Meeting this Thursday
Message-Id: <dda90ecc-9d4e-4185-b8ee-1eb560854e3c.200008420409.10062.1580248030078@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: mthomas3@tacoma.k12.wa.us
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To: Matthew Thomas
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From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: ANDREA FRAZIER
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Meeting this Thursday

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From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: JANET MCCAFFREY
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Meeting this Thursday

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Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Meeting this Thursday
Message-Id: <9c3305cf-24b7-4aff-936d-264820dfe8b.200008420155.10062.1580248023496@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: jmccaff@tacoma.k12.wa.us
From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: Hannah Gbenro
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Meeting this Thursday

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From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: Marie Verhaar
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Meeting this Thursday

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Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Meeting this Thursday
Message-Id: <ladcebc3-b4a7-4fe8-933f-c8c586b5ed8e.200008420190.10062.1580248024433@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: mverhaa@tacoma.k12.wa.us
From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: Collette Stewart
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Meeting this Thursday

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Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Meeting this Thursday
Message-Id: <e5ec84e4-9c38-4d39-b00a-a5eabfa07487.200008420168.10062.1580248023819@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: cstewar1@tacoma.k12.wa.us
From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: Steven Deaderick
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Meeting this Thursday

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Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Upcoming Meeting
Message-Id: <1e3a3b89-6f85-484b-8e92-fd2e6b776df4.200008326264.10062.1579825660394@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: clim@tacoma.k12.wa.us
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Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Upcoming Meeting
Message-Id: <583bd05c-8e50-4e2c-b3f8-5eed33ad4586.200008326178.10062.1579825658267@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: kbell2@tacoma.k12.wa.us
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From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: Matthew Thomas
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Upcoming Meeting

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Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Upcoming Meeting
Message-Id: <2276eea1-68eb-4721-9ebf-794dd745739.200008326106.10062.1579825656577@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: mthomas3@tacoma.k12.wa.us
From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: Janet Culik
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Upcoming Meeting

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Message-Id: <9db5d67c-7dfe-4277-bce5-f4ead3cc0c9f.200008325877.10062.1579825650674@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: tament@tacoma.k12.wa.us
From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: KIRSTEN ANDERSON-CONNOLLY
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Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Upcoming Meeting
Message-Id: <d61c5ca9-a64e-451e-b150-1ffad227879d.200008325922.10062.1579825651805@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: sdeader@tacoma.k12.wa.us
From: Washington School Personnel Association  
To: Justin Hickey  
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Upcoming Meeting  

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From: Washington School Personnel Association  
To: Hannah Gbenro  
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Upcoming Meeting

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| Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Upcoming Meeting (53Kb) |

Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Upcoming Meeting
Message-Id: <5bd6872f-f74d-4ee1-8243-b90ce1776e5d.200008325847.10062.1579825649946@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: hgbenro@tacomak12.wa.us
Good Afternoon Region 4 Members,

As a reminder, our next Region meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 30, 2020 from 1:00pm-4:00pm.

Presentation: Para Requirements and ESSA Certification and Assignment Policy

Presenters: Jack Busbee, Assoc. Director, Paraeducator Board and Julia Fallon, Program Lead Title II, Part A-Teachers, Principals, and Other School Leaders, OSPI

Location: Highline Public Schools Board Room, 15675 Ambaum Blvd SW, Burien, WA 98166

Please RSVP to cooks@rsd407.org for refreshment planning purposes.

For those unable to attend this training in person, we will be offering a webinar version.

Please register for WSPA Region 4 Training: Para Requirements and ESSA on Jan 30, 2020 1:00PM PST at:
http://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4779317965587716364

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Stacia, Sara and Stacy
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Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net
Subject: Region 4 Membership - WSPA Region 4 Upcoming Meeting
Message-Id: <34362be1-ebb3-471c-95ae-fbe6458d8aac.200008325865.10062.1579825650419@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: cstewar1@tacoma.k12.wa.us
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After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Stacia, Sara and Stacy
From: Washington School Personnel Association  
To: DEBBRA BAKER  
Subject: Password Reset Confirmation

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Password Reset Confirmation (46Kb)

Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net  
Subject: Password Reset Confirmation  
Message-Id: <bf8fc119-7df2-4c34-82b2-2d2bc1903aa9.200008267695.10062.1579645681580@memberclicks-mail.net>  
Recipient: dbaker@tacoma.k12.wa.us
Debbra,

Thank you for registering yourself to attend the WSPA Annual Conference.

This is your receipt for your registration.

Your information provided is as follows:

District: Tacoma Public Schools
Registrant Name: Debbra Baker
Total Number of Registrants: 0
Receipt Date: 01/21/2020
Receipt ID: 201751219
Total Payment Amount: $295.00

If you chose the "Invoice Me" option you will receive your invoice through separate email. Once received please submit to your accounting department for payment.

Your Conference Materials will be available electronically. You will receive email notice closer to the start date of the conference with instructions on how to access those materials.

Thank you for your registration,

Washington School Personnel Association
The password associated with your account, username dbaker@tacoma.k12.wa.us, has been changed.

If you did not make this change, please contact your organization's administrator.
From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: Chantana Lim
Subject: WSPA Annual Conference Form Submitted Successfully

Attachments may contain viruses that are harmful to your computer. Attachments may not display correctly.

Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net
Subject: WSPA Annual Conference Form Submitted Successfully
Message-Id: <7e63f9ec-de4d-4aa9-a03b-93c6efa4a2af.200008262311.10062.1579635600361@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: clim@tacoma.k12.wa.us
Chantana,

Thank you for registering yourself to attend the WSPA Annual Conference.

This is your receipt for your registration.

Your information provided is as follows:

- District: Tacoma Public Schools
- Registrant Name: Chantana Lim
- Total Number of Registrants: 1
- Receipt Date: 01/21/2020
- Receipt ID: 201749672
- Total Payment Amount: $300.00

If you chose the "Invoice Me" option you will receive your invoice through separate email. Once received please submit to your accounting department for payment.

Your Conference Materials will be available electronically. You will receive email notice closer to the start date of the conference with instructions on how to access those materials.

Thank you for your registration,

Washington School Personnel Association
To reset your password, click the link below:

Reset Password

If you did not request this password change, please contact your administrator.

Please Note: The link above will be valid for 1 hour from the time it was generated.
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WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020 (632Kb)

Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net
Subject: WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020
Message-Id: <a590a4ee-b3ef-48a2-9703-6378f5af928a.200008202891.10062.1579289536553@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: kbell2@tacoma.k12.wa.us
This Week in Olympia

Dear WSPA Members,

We are excited to share that WSPA will be partnering with the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) to further our legislative priorities and advocacy work in the upcoming legislative session.

WASA publishes the *TWIO -- This Week in Olympia* each week during the legislative session. In this issue, you will find the 2020 Session Preview and Governor Inslee's 2020 Budget Request.

This report is attached for your reference and is also available via podcast by clicking here.

We are grateful for the opportunity to join forces with WASA. We encourage you to contact your legislators and use your voice to champion issues that further the education and welfare of our students and protect the funding of education.

Thank you,

Jennifer Tottenham
WSPA Program Coordinator
Annual Conference

Registration is now open to attend WSPA Annual Conference 2020!

Tulalip Resort and Casino
Pre-conference: March 1, 2020
Conference: March 2-4, 2020

Please click here for event information and registration. We cannot wait to see you there!

21st Century Bargaining Workshop

We invite you to join us at the 21st Century Bargaining Workshop presented by Porter Foster Rorick LLP. This workshop will focus on skills such as bargaining law, engineering, psychology, mediation, district crisis bargaining operations, and union strategies.

Please click here for event information and registration.

WA Educator Career Fairs

Let the recruiting begin! The WA Educator Career Fair registrations are now open:

WA Educator Career Fair: Spokane Convention Center
March 18, 2020

WA Educator Career Fair: Tacoma Dome
March 25, 2020

Please click here for event information and registration.

Calendar of Events

Please click here for our calendar of events.
IN THIS ISSUE:
- 2020 Session Preview
- Governor Inslee’s 202 Budget Request

Opening Day Special Edition

2020 Session Preview

This afternoon, January 13, 2020, the Legislature convened its second year of the 66th Biennial Session. This “short” session is limited to 60 days. With little available revenue (more on that below) and a major election in November, wherein all 98 seats in the House and half the seats in the Senate will be on the ballot, no one in Olympia is betting on overtime this year. (Perhaps the only thing that could force a Special Session is a protracted fight over an overhaul of the two-year Transportation Budget, with expected reductions of over a half-billion dollars, due to the passage of Initiative 976 ($30 Car Tabs) this past fall.)

The political dynamics of this session will be interesting to watch—and the impact of these dynamics is still to be determined. While the House and Senate (along with the governor’s office) continue to operate under Democratic control, both houses have seen changes. The most impactful change is a new Speaker of the House, as the previous speaker, Representative Frank Chopp (D-Seattle), stepped down from the position shortly after last session after 20 years, the longest-serving speaker in state history. Chopp will continue to serve in the House, at least through this session, but he will no longer be one of the most powerful individuals in Olympia. His successor, Representative Laurie Jinkins (D-Tacoma), was selected as Speaker-designate this past summer by her Democratic colleagues.

One of the first legislative actions in the House today was to officially elect Jinkins as its new speaker (while the Speaker of the House is a key leader in the majority caucus, the position oversees the full House and a speaker must be elected by the full body). It is unclear how much this will change how the House operates and what bills will be allowed to come to the Floor, but it is likely many controversial issues that died silent deaths under Chopp’s cautious directing of the House could move forward under a more open and progressive leader. That could include a Capital Gains Tax—which has been proposed for several years, but has never been voted on in the House. Jinkins has sponsored legislation to implement a Capital Gains Tax, so she might be inclined to have a full Floor debate. Similarly, legislation regarding gun control, sex education, and criminal justice issues could see the light of day in the full House.

The Senate continues to be controlled by Democrats, but the liberal wing of the Caucus may have less of a fight from moderate-leaning members in their Caucus. After the 2019 Session, Guy Palumbo (D-Maltby) resigned to return to the private sector. While he was only one senator in a 28-member strong Caucus (versus 21 Republicans), he
was known to join with other moderate Democrats, often frustrating the plans of his leadership. One area where he did not always see eye-to-eye with his Caucus was K–12 education—which many times was beneficial for us. His moderate voice, however, has been replaced by one of his former seatmates in the House, Derek Stanford (D-Bothell), who will be more apt to fall in line with the direction of his leadership.

One of the most difficult political dynamics for educators this year will be the not-so-subtle avoidance of K–12 education, especially in regards to funding. For the last few years we have been dealing with legislators who have the so-called “McCleary fatigue.” There is fairly clear evidence in the 2019–21 Operating Budget that legislators shifted their focus away from education and it appears that will continue—if not increase. While legislators may shy away from overtly expressing their weariness with dealing with education, Governor Inslee has no problem stating it outright. When introducing his 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget request in December (details below), he plainly stated the Legislature has made “great success” to fully fund education and to “fulfill our constitutional obligation” to K–12 education. And because of these “major achievements in education” it is “time for the State of Washington to turn our attention” to the homelessness crisis. Now, most citizens would likely agree that homelessness is a growing problem that needs to be addressed; however, legislators and the governor should not be ignoring the state’s paramount duty—especially given that most educators would question whether basic education is fully funded.

It will likely be an uphill battle to keep K–12 education on the radar screen and achieve success in the 2020 session; as noted, legislators are weary of focusing on our issues. Unfortunately, public opinion is starting to shift as well. The most recent Crosscut/Elway Poll asked voters the open-ended question, “What are the most important issues the Legislature should focus on during this session?” Thirty-three percent responded “Social Services” (with thirty-one percent specifically indicating “Homelessness”). Only ten percent of respondents mentioned “Education.” Education fell to sixth place, below “Social Services,” “Taxes,” “Economy,” “Environment,” and “Transportation.”

Clearly, it will be difficult to successfully achieve our goals in the 2020 Session, given the State’s fiscal constraints and the current political dynamics; however, we encourage all administrators to be fully engaged in the legislative process, as we will have NO opportunity to succeed if educators are not engaged in the fight.

**Governor Inslee’s 2020 Budget Request**

On November 20, 2019, the state’s Economic & Revenue Forecast Council issued their final quarterly revenue forecast for 2019. As seen in previous updates over the year, revenues again were above projections from proceeding forecasts (November predictions were $299 million greater than September projections), leaving an anticipated Beginning Balance in the General Fund of almost $2.0 billion, with a projected Ending Fund Balance in 2019–21 of $802 million. Add to that significant revenues in the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA or “Rainy Day Fund”) of $2.2 billion and the projected Total Reserves for 2019–21 increases to $3.0 billion.

At first blush, these numbers indicate Washington’s economy continues to grow and legislators will have plenty of money to spend in the 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget. True, revenues continue to grow, but if you look deeper into the revenue forecast report, revenue growth is slower than in previous years and is projected to further slow in the future—while required expenditures continue to climb. Additionally, projected Maintenance Level spending (that is, required spending to provide currently authorized services, including adjustments—up or down—in entitlement caseloads or enrollment and other mandatory expenses, such as inflation) is projected to be $903 million ($517 million for the remainder of 2019–21 and $386 million in 2021–23). Before the game even begins, much of the available revenue in the Beginning Balance
will be gobbled up by required Maintenance Level spending. Finally, while there are significant revenues available in the BSA, those funds are difficult to access, requiring a 60 percent supermajority vote of the Legislature to use. Unless there is a real, catastrophic emergency, it is unlikely Republicans would be willing to provide their votes to Democratic budget-writers, allowing them to reach the necessary 60 percent threshold so they can further expand spending.

With that backdrop, we can discuss Governor Inslee’s 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget proposal. By law, the governor is required to release a budget proposal to the Legislature by mid-December. Complying with the law, Inslee unveiled his budget proposal on December 18. As described in the budget highlights, Inslee proposed “mostly modest changes” and would only increase current General Fund spending by 0.6 percent (after required Maintenance Level expenditures were made).

In total, the governor requests $834 million in increased General Fund spending. This includes $478 million in required Maintenance Level spending and $336 in Policy Level increases (funding for either new or expanded programs). This does not tell the full story, however. His “full” budget request is an increase of $1.15 billion. As noted above, Inslee believes it is time to address the homelessness crisis. He proposes to spend $319 million on the following:

- Funding for the Home Security Fund Account, “to provide sufficient funding for homeless response program expenditures” ($280.7 million);
- Funding for the Housing Trust Fund, “to provide sufficient funding for additional homeless shelters and enhancements to existing shelters” ($30.0 million); and
- Funding for the Model Toxics Control Operating Account, “to provide sufficient funding to remove solid, hazardous, and infectious waste generated by vacated homeless encampments” ($8.0 million).

Because Governor Inslee believes these programs need funding immediately, he has proposed that the required $319 million come from the Budget Stabilization Account, rather than suggesting a tax increase. As noted above, it will be extremely difficult to achieve the necessary 60 percent vote to access BSA funds—even though most legislators in each Caucus have stated that addressing the homelessness crisis is necessary. Democratic leaders have already publicly stated they support much of Inslee’s proposals, but have suggested that using BSA funding is unlikely. (This proposal is outside the budget and has been introduced as a stand-alone bill, SB 6167.)

For K–12 Education, Inslee’s budget is very minimal. Total requested K–12 funding is $143.2 million. A significant portion of that request—$106.6 million—is for required Maintenance Level funding. Only $36.6 million is proposed in Policy Level spending (suggesting this is a “modest” investment is an understatement). To get a quick visual understanding about the size of Inslee’s K–12 proposal, take a look at Inslee’s “Education” highlights. Those K–12 highlights comprise about a quarter of the page, while “Human Services” highlights take up a full four pages; and “Natural Resources” highlights are four pages long. Budget adjustments for the state’s paramount duty, however, are described in four bullet-points.

To put Governor Inslee’s K–12 budget proposal in context, compare it to State Superintendent Chris Reykdal’s budget request (for details, see TWIO Special Edition, Oct. 23, 2019). Reykdal’s request includes Policy Level increases of $65.97 million (which does not include approximately $400–500 million for an initial “down payment” of the six-year phase-in of increased staffing allocations in the Prototypical School Funding Model).
It should be noted that, while Inslee’s K–12 funding request totals $143.2 million, included is a proposed $86.3 million transfer of a program (Early Support for Infants & Toddlers or “ESIT”) from OSPI to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. This would be a revenue neutral shift in the overall budget; however, it would result in a $86.3 million reduction in the K–12 portion of the budget. Which means Inslee’s budget proposal for K–12 education is really $62.6 million in total—and is actually a Policy Level reduction of $49.7 million. Modest, indeed.

Line-item details of the K–12 education portion of the budget follow below. Full details of the governor’s entire budget proposal are available on the Office of Financial Management’s budget website. Included are the highlights of the budget, complete agency recommendation summaries, and the actual budget bills.

This afternoon, the House Appropriations Committee will hold a public hearing on the governor’s budget, introduced as HB 2325. Tomorrow afternoon, the Senate Ways & Means Committee will hold a public hearing on the Senate-introduced budget, SB 6168, along with the governor’s proposed BSA funding for homelessness programs, SB 6167. This year, the House is scheduled to start the legislative budget process; however, if tradition holds, they will likely not unveil the first legislative proposal until after the February revenue forecast is released. The Economic & Revenue Forecast Council is scheduled to provide its first quarterly update on February 19.

K–12 Education Budget Details

Pupil Transportation Adjustment—$39.0 million
Governor Inslee requests funding to incorporate an increase in the prior year pupil transportation base over the amount that was assumed in the 2019–21 budget. A significant portion of pupil transportation expenditures are due to compensation costs.

Prior School Year Adjustments—$29.5 million
Additional one-time funding is included in the budget to provide for payments to school districts for pupil transportation in the 2018–19 school year. Apportionment payments for this purpose in Fiscal Year 2019 exceeded the 2019 Supplemental Budget by $29,500,000; however, OSPI paid this amount to districts in Fiscal Year 2020. This funding is provided to maintain the initial Fiscal Year 2020 appropriation level.

Mental Health & Safety—$2.6 million
The 2019–21 Operating Budget provided funding to support a new statewide student mental health and safety network, as adopted by 2SHB 1216. The 2019 Legislature funded one FTE for regional coordination at each ESD. This request would strengthen the network by providing 13.5 additional FTE staff. The additional funding would be used for one additional FTE for regional coordination of behavioral health, school safety and threat assessment efforts, and .5 FTE administrative support at each of the nine ESDs.

School Nurse Corps—$1.7 million
The School Nurse Corps program was established in 1999, yet funding has not increased since that time, eroding buying power. The governor requests an additional investment to expand nursing services in Washington’s smallest schools by increasing the capacity for the School Nurse Corps to meet the registered nursing needs of small and rural schools. The additional funding would allow for sufficient nurses to provide one day of services every two weeks to each Class II school district, as well as support staff at each ESD. The funding would be provided as FTE staff in the ESD program, which will allow for the program funding to grow with future compensation adjustments.

Further, the governor’s budget would move funding for the School Nurse Corps from the Grants and Pass-through Funding program to the OSPI agency program. Funding
at OSPI provides statewide support for the nursing network in coordination with ESDs that provide direct services to districts. In a separate item, the ESD funding is moved directly into the ESD program. Decreases in this program are offset by increases in the OSPI agency program.

**Institutional Education Funding—$1.0 million**
Governor Inslee requests $780,000 to increase the enhancement for the differentiated instructional needs of students in institutional education programs. The 2019 Legislature provided enhanced funding for this purpose for an estimated 20 percent of institutional education students, but data shows that the rate of incidence of students with Individualized Education Programs in Washington’s institutions is at least 35 percent. The needs funded with this enhancement may include, but are not limited to, one-on-one instruction, enhanced access to counseling for social emotional needs of the student, and services to identify the proper level of instruction at the time of student entry into the facility.

An additional $200,000 is requested for student records coordinators to manage the transmission of academic records with Green Hill Academic School and Naselle Youth Camp School. The 2019 Legislature provided funding for this purpose at Echo Glen Children’s Center. This additional funding would provide the same support to Washington's other two long-term juvenile institutions.

**Early Learning Options—$283,000**
Funding is requested for OSPI to collaborate with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to complete a report with options and recommendations for administrative efficiencies and long-term strategies to align and integrate high-quality early learning programs administered by both agencies. The report is due September 1, 2020.

In separate portions of the budget, DCYF would be provided with $375,000 to support the Department’s work on the required report, and $480,000 would be provided to the Office of Financial Management to contract for project management and fiscal modeling to support the OSPI/DCYF project.

**Early Support for Infants & Toddlers Transfer—($86.3 million)**
The governor’s budget request would transfer funding for payments to providers for the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program from OSPI to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families beginning September 1, 2020. This would be a revenue neutral shift in the overall budget; however, it would result in a $86.3 million reduction in the K–12 portion of the budget.

**Health Benefit Rate Adjustment— ($37.3 million)**
Health benefit funding under the new School Employees’ Benefits Board (SEBB) insurance program is “adjusted” (that is, reduced) based on updated rates for Fiscal Year 2021. Modeling for prior rate estimates used assumptions based on experience from the Public Employees’ Benefits Board; the adjusted rate incorporates new data from SEBB open enrollment, especially regarding plan choice and demographic information. Enrollment information is subject to change pending final verification and resolution of on-going appeals.

**Allocated FTEs for ESDs—($15,000)**
Funding is provided for compensation adjustments to the Educational Service District FTE staff who were previously allocated with pass-through funding.

Additionally, under the governor’s proposal, existing levels of ESD funding for the K–20 Telecommunications Network, the School Nurse Corps and the Student Safety and Well-being Network are moved into the ESD program. This funding, which has historically been passed through OSPI to ESDs, would be allocated to the ESDs directly. With this shift,
funding would be provided as FTE allocations at the ESDs so it can grow appropriately with future compensation adjustments. Increases in this program are offset by decreases in OSPI’s Agency Program and Grants and Pass-through Funding program.

Additional Details

PERS & TRS Plan 1 Benefits Increase—$5.0 million
Under the governor’s proposal, eligible members of the Public Employees’ Retirement System Plan 1 and the Teachers’ Retirement System Plan 1 members, would be provided an increase of 1.5 percent, up to a maximum of $22 per month.

Professional Development
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From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: ROBIN FOX
Subject: WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020

Attachments may contain viruses that are harmful to your computer. Attachments may not display correctly.

WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020 (632Kb)

Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net
Subject: WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020
Message-Id: <7f43401e-2e57-479d-bfbc-c62726c07f38.200008202891.10062.1579289538228@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: rfox1@tacoma.k12.wa.us
Washington School Personnel Association

To: Justin Hickey

Subject: WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020

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Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net
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Message-Id: <334ae958-21d0-4029-8970-4f4302c70a8b.200008202891.10062.1579289536000@memberclicks-mail.net>
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Washington School Personnel Association

This Week in Olympia

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This report is attached for your reference and is also available via podcast by clicking here.

We are grateful for the opportunity to join forces with WASA. We encourage you to contact your legislators and use your voice to champion issues that further the education and welfare of our students and protect the funding of education.

Thank you,

Jennifer Tottenham
WSPA Program Coordinator

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This afternoon, January 13, 2020, the Legislature convened its second year of the 66th Biennial Session. This "short" session is limited to 60 days. With little available revenue (more on that below) and a major election in November, wherein all 98 seats in the House and half the seats in the Senate will be on the ballot, no one in Olympia is betting on overtime this year. (Perhaps the only thing that could force a Special Session is a protracted fight over an overhaul of the two-year Transportation Budget, with expected reductions of over a half-billion dollars, due to the passage of Initiative 976 ($30 Car Tab$) this past fall.)

The political dynamics of this session will be interesting to watch—and the impact of these dynamics are still to be determined. While the House and Senate (along with the governor's office) continue to operate under Democratic control, both houses have seen changes. The most impactful change is a new Speaker of the House, as the previous speaker, Representative Frank Chopp (D-Seattle), stepped down from the position shortly after last session after 20 years, the longest-serving speaker in state history. Chopp will continue to serve in the House, at least through this session, but he will no longer be one of the most powerful individuals in Olympia. His successor, Representative Laurie Jinkins (D-Tacoma), was selected as Speaker-designate this past summer by her Democratic colleagues.

One of the first legislative actions in the House today was to officially elect Jinkins as its new speaker (while the Speaker of the House is a key leader in the majority caucus, the position oversees the full House and a speaker must be elected by the full body). It is unclear how much this will change how the House operates and what bills will be allowed to come to the Floor, but it is likely many controversial issues that died silent deaths under Chopp's cautious directing of the House could move forward under a more open and progressive leader. That could include a Capital Gains Tax—which has been proposed for several years, but has never been voted on in the House. Jinkins has sponsored legislation to implement a Capital Gains Tax, so she might be inclined to have a full Floor debate. Similarly, legislation regarding gun control, sex education, and criminal justice issues could see the light of day in the full House.

The Senate continues to be controlled by Democrats, but the liberal wing of the Caucus may have less of a fight from moderate-leaning members in their Caucus. After the 2019 Session, Guy Palumbo (D-Maltby) resigned to return to the private sector. While he was only one senator in a 28-member strong Caucus (versus 21 Republicans), he...
was known to join with other moderate Democrats, often frustrating the plans of his leadership. One area where he did not always see eye-to-eye with his Caucus was K–12 education—which many times was beneficial for us. His moderate voice, however, has been replaced by one of his former seatmates in the House, Derek Stanford (D-Bothell), who will be more apt to fall in line with the direction of his leadership.

One of the most difficult political dynamics for educators this year will be the not-so-subtle avoidance of K–12 education, especially in regards to funding. For the last few years we have been dealing with legislators who have the so-called “McCleary fatigue.” There is fairly clear evidence in the 2019–21 Operating Budget that legislators shifted their focus away from education and it appears that will continue—if not increase. While legislators may shy away from overtly expressing their weariness with dealing with education, Governor Inslee has no problem stating it outright. When introducing his 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget request in December (details below), he plainly stated the Legislature has made “great success” to fully fund education and to “fulfill our constitutional obligation” to K–12 education. And because of these “major achievements in education” it is “time for the State of Washington to turn our attention” to the homelessness crisis. Now, most citizens would likely agree that homelessness is a growing problem that needs to be addressed; however, legislators and the governor should not be ignoring the state’s paramount duty—especially given that most educators would question whether basic education is fully funded.

It will likely be an uphill battle to keep K–12 education on the radar screen and achieve success in the 2020 session; as noted, legislators are weary of focusing on our issues. Unfortunately, public opinion is starting to shift as well. The most recent Crosscut/Elway Poll asked voters the open-ended question, “What are the most important issues the Legislature should focus on during this session?” Thirty-three percent responded “Social Services” (with thirty-one percent specifically indicating “Homelessness”). Only ten percent of respondents mentioned “Education.” Education fell to sixth place, below “Social Services,” “Taxes,” “Economy,” Environment,” and “Transportation.”

Clearly, it will be difficult to successfully achieve our goals in the 2020 Session, given the State’s fiscal constraints and the current political dynamics; however, we encourage all administrators to be fully engaged in the legislative process, as we will have NO opportunity to succeed if educators are not engaged in the fight.

Governor Inslee’s 2020 Budget Request

On November 20, 2019, the state’s Economic & Revenue Forecast Council issued their final quarterly revenue forecast for 2019. As seen in previous updates over the year, revenues again were above projections from proceeding forecasts (November predictions were $299 million greater than September projections), leaving an anticipated Beginning Balance in the General Fund of almost $2.0 billion, with a projected Ending Fund Balance in 2019–21 of $802 million. Add to that significant revenues in the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA or “Rainy Day Fund”) of $2.2 billion and the projected Total Reserves for 2019–21 increases to $3.0 billion.

At first blush, these numbers indicate Washington’s economy continues to grow and legislators will have plenty of money to spend in the 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget. True, revenues continue to grow, but if you look deeper into the revenue forecast report, revenue growth is slower than in previous years and is projected to further slow in the future—while required expenditures continue to climb. Additionally, projected Maintenance Level spending (that is, required spending to provide currently authorized services, including adjustments—up or down—in entitlement caseloads or enrollment and other mandatory expenses, such as inflation) is projected to be $903 million ($517 million for the remainder of 2019–21 and $386 million in 2021–23). Before the game even begins, much of the available revenue in the Beginning Balance...
will be gobbled up by required Maintenance Level spending. Finally, while there are significant revenues available in the BSA, those funds are difficult to access, requiring a 60 percent supermajority vote of the Legislature to use. Unless there is a real, catastrophic emergency, it is unlikely Republicans would be willing to provide their votes to Democratic budget-writers, allowing them to reach the necessary 60 percent threshold so they can further expand spending.

With that backdrop, we can discuss Governor Inslee’s 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget proposal. By law, the governor is required to release a budget proposal to the Legislature by mid-December. Complying with the law, Inslee unveiled his budget proposal on December 18. As described in the budget highlights, Inslee proposed “mostly modest changes” and would only increase current General Fund spending by 0.6 percent (after required Maintenance Level expenditures were made).

In total, the governor requests $834 million in increased General Fund spending. This includes $478 million in required Maintenance Level spending and $336 in Policy Level increases (funding for either new or expanded programs). This does not tell the full story, however. His “full” budget request is an increase of $1.15 billion. As noted above, Inslee believes it is time to address the homelessness crisis. He proposes to spend $319 million on the following:

- Funding for the Home Security Fund Account, “to provide sufficient funding for homeless response program expenditures” ($280.7 million);
- Funding for the Housing Trust Fund, “to provide sufficient funding for additional homeless shelters and enhancements to existing shelters” ($30.0 million); and
- Funding for the Model Toxics Control Operating Account, “to provide sufficient funding to remove solid, hazardous, and infectious waste generated by vacated homeless encampments” ($8.0 million).

Because Governor Inslee believes these programs need funding immediately, he has proposed that the required $319 million come from the Budget Stabilization Account, rather than suggesting a tax increase. As noted above, it will be extremely difficult to achieve the necessary 60 percent vote to access BSA funds—even though most legislators in each Caucus have stated that addressing the homelessness crisis is necessary. Democratic leaders have already publicly stated they support much of Inslee’s proposals, but have suggested that using BSA funding is unlikely. (This proposal is outside the budget and has been introduced as a stand-alone bill, SB 6167.)

For K–12 Education, Inslee’s budget is very minimal. Total requested K–12 funding is $143.2 million. A significant portion of that request—$106.6 million—is for required Maintenance Level funding. Only $36.6 million is proposed in Policy Level spending (suggesting this is a “modest” investment is an understatement). To get a quick visual understanding about the size of Inslee’s K–12 proposal, take a look at Inslee’s “Education” highlights. Those K–12 highlights comprise about a quarter of the page, while “Human Services” highlights take up a full four pages; and “Natural Resources” highlights are four pages long. Budget adjustments for the state’s paramount duty, however, are described in four bullet-points.

To put Governor Inslee’s K–12 budget proposal in context, compare it to State Superintendent Chris Reykdal’s budget request (for details, see TWIO Special Edition, Oct. 23, 2019). Reykdal’s request includes Policy Level increases of $65.97 million (which does not include approximately $400–500 million for an initial “down payment” of the six-year phase-in of increased staffing allocations in the Prototypical School Funding Model).
It should be noted that, while Inslee’s K–12 funding request totals $143.2 million, included is a proposed $86.3 million transfer of a program (Early Support for Infants & Toddlers or “ESIT”) from OSPI to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. This would be a revenue neutral shift in the overall budget; however, it would result in a $86.3 million reduction in the K–12 portion of the budget. Which means Inslee's budget proposal for K–12 education is really $62.6 million in total—and is actually a Policy Level reduction of $49.7 million. Modest, indeed.

Line-item details of the K–12 education portion of the budget follow below. Full details of the governor’s entire budget proposal are available on the Office of Financial Management’s [budget website](#). Included are the highlights of the budget, complete agency recommendation summaries, and the actual budget bills.

This afternoon, the House Appropriations Committee will hold a public hearing on the governor’s budget, introduced as [HB 2325](#). Tomorrow afternoon, the Senate Ways & Means Committee will hold a public hearing on the Senate-introduced budget, [SB 6168](#), along with the governor’s proposed BSA funding for homelessness programs, [SB 6167](#). This year, the House is scheduled to start the legislative budget process; however, if tradition holds, they will likely not unveil the first legislative proposal until after the February revenue forecast is released. The Economic & Revenue Forecast Council is scheduled to provide its first quarterly update on February 19.

**K–12 Education Budget Details**

**Pupil Transportation Adjustment—$39.0 million**
Governor Inslee requests funding to incorporate an increase in the prior year pupil transportation base over the amount that was assumed in the 2019–21 budget. A significant portion of pupil transportation expenditures are due to compensation costs.

**Prior School Year Adjustments—$29.5 million**
Additional one-time funding is included in the budget to provide for payments to school districts for pupil transportation in the 2018–19 school year. Apportionment payments for this purpose in Fiscal Year 2019 exceeded the 2019 Supplemental Budget by $29,500,000; however, OSPI paid this amount to districts in Fiscal Year 2020. This funding is provided to maintain the initial Fiscal Year 2020 appropriation level.

**Mental Health & Safety—$2.6 million**
The 2019–21 Operating Budget provided funding to support a new statewide student mental health and safety network, as adopted by 2SHB 1216. The 2019 Legislature funded one FTE for regional coordination at each ESD. This request would strengthen the network by providing 13.5 additional FTE staff. The additional funding would be used for one additional FTE for regional coordination of behavioral health, school safety and threat assessment efforts, and .5 FTE administrative support at each of the nine ESDs.

**School Nurse Corps—$1.7 million**
The School Nurse Corps program was established in 1999, yet funding has not increased since that time, eroding buying power. The governor requests an additional investment to expand nursing services in Washington’s smallest schools by increasing the capacity for the School Nurse Corps to meet the registered nursing needs of small and rural schools. The additional funding would allow for sufficient nurses to provide one day of services every two weeks to each Class II school district, as well as support staff at each ESD. The funding would be provided as FTE staff in the ESD program, which will allow for the program funding to grow with future compensation adjustments.

Further, the governor’s budget would move funding for the School Nurse Corps from the Grants and Pass-through Funding program to the OSPI agency program. Funding
at OSPI provides statewide support for the nursing network in coordination with ESDs that provide direct services to districts. In a separate item, the ESD funding is moved directly into the ESD program. Decreases in this program are offset by increases in the OSPI agency program.

**Institutional Education Funding—$1.0 million**
Governor Inslee requests $780,000 to increase the enhancement for the differentiated instructional needs of students in institutional education programs. The 2019 Legislature provided enhanced funding for this purpose for an estimated 20 percent of institutional education students, but data shows that the rate of incidence of students with Individualized Education Programs in Washington’s institutions is at least 35 percent. The needs funded with this enhancement may include, but are not limited to, one-on-one instruction, enhanced access to counseling for social emotional needs of the student, and services to identify the proper level of instruction at the time of student entry into the facility.

An additional $200,000 is requested for student records coordinators to manage the transmission of academic records with Green Hill Academic School and Naselle Youth Camp School. The 2019 Legislature provided funding for this purpose at Echo Glen Children’s Center. This additional funding would provide the same support to Washington’s other two long-term juvenile institutions.

**Early Learning Options—$283,000**
Funding is requested for OSPI to collaborate with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to complete a report with options and recommendations for administrative efficiencies and long-term strategies to align and integrate high-quality early learning programs administered by both agencies. The report is due September 1, 2020.

In separate portions of the budget, DCYF would be provided with $375,000 to support the Department’s work on the required report, and $480,000 would be provided to the Office of Financial Management to contract for project management and fiscal modeling to support the OSPI/DCYF project.

**Early Support for Infants & Toddlers Transfer—($86.3 million)**
The governor’s budget request would transfer funding for payments to providers for the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program from OSPI to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families beginning September 1, 2020. This would be a revenue neutral shift in the overall budget; however, it would result in a $86.3 million reduction in the K–12 portion of the budget.

**Health Benefit Rate Adjustment— ($37.3 million)**
Health benefit funding under the new School Employees’ Benefits Board (SEBB) insurance program is “adjusted” (that is, reduced) based on updated rates for Fiscal Year 2021. Modeling for prior rate estimates used assumptions based on experience from the Public Employees’ Benefits Board; the adjusted rate incorporates new data from SEBB open enrollment, especially regarding plan choice and demographic information. Enrollment information is subject to change pending final verification and resolution of on-going appeals.

**Allocated FTEs for ESDs—($15,000)**
Funding is provided for compensation adjustments to the Educational Service District FTE staff who were previously allocated with pass-through funding.

Additionally, under the governor’s proposal, existing levels of ESD funding for the K–20 Telecommunications Network, the School Nurse Corps and the Student Safety and Well-being Network are moved into the ESD program. This funding, which has historically been passed through OSPI to ESDs, would be allocated to the ESDs directly. With this shift,
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Additional Details

PERS & TRS Plan 1 Benefits Increase—$5.0 million
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Washington School Personnel Association

January 17, 2020

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WSPA Program Coordinator

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Opening Day Special Edition

2020 Session Preview

This afternoon, January 13, 2020, the Legislature convened its second year of the 66th Biennial Session. This "short" session is limited to 60 days. With little available revenue (more on that below) and a major election in November, wherein all 98 seats in the House and half the seats in the Senate will be on the ballot, no one in Olympia is betting on overtime this year. (Perhaps the only thing that could force a Special Session is a protracted fight over an overhaul of the two-year Transportation Budget, with expected reductions of over a half-billion dollars, due to the passage of Initiative 976 ($30 Car Tabs) this past fall.)

The political dynamics of this session will be interesting to watch—and the impact of these dynamics are still to be determined. While the House and Senate (along with the governor's office) continue to operate under Democratic control, both houses have seen changes. The most impactful change is a new Speaker of the House, as the previous speaker, Representative Frank Chopp (D-Seattle), stepped down from the position shortly after last session after 20 years, the longest-serving speaker in state history. Chopp will continue to serve in the House, at least through this session, but he will no longer be one of the most powerful individuals in Olympia. His successor, Representative Laurie Jinkins (D-Tacoma), was selected as Speaker-designate this past summer by her Democratic colleagues.

One of the first legislative actions in the House today was to officially elect Jinkins as its new speaker (while the Speaker of the House is a key leader in the majority caucus, the position oversees the full House and a speaker must be elected by the full body). It is unclear how much this will change how the House operates and what bills will be allowed to come to the Floor, but it is likely many controversial issues that died silent deaths under Chopp's cautious directing of the House could move forward under a more open and progressive leader. That could include a Capital Gains Tax—which has been proposed for several years, but has never been voted on in the House. Jinkins has sponsored legislation to implement a Capital Gains Tax, so she might be inclined to have a full Floor debate. Similarly, legislation regarding gun control, sex education, and criminal justice issues could see the light of day in the full House.

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was known to join with other moderate Democrats, often frustrating the plans of his leadership. One area where he did not always see eye-to-eye with his Caucus was K–12 education—which many times was beneficial for us. His moderate voice, however, has been replaced by one of his former seatmates in the House, Derek Stanford (D-Bothell), who will be more apt to fall in line with the direction of his leadership.

One of the most difficult political dynamics for educators this year will be the not-so-subtle avoidance of K–12 education, especially in regards to funding. For the last few years we have been dealing with legislators who have the so-called “McCleary fatigue.” There is fairly clear evidence in the 2019–21 Operating Budget that legislators shifted their focus away from education and it appears that will continue—if not increase. While legislators may shy away from overtly expressing their weariness with dealing with education, Governor Inslee has no problem stating it outright. When introducing his 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget request in December (details below), he plainly stated the Legislature has made “great success” to fully fund education and to “fulfill our constitutional obligation” to K–12 education. And because of these “major achievements in education” it is “time for the State of Washington to turn our attention” to the homelessness crisis. Now, most citizens would likely agree that homelessness is a growing problem that needs to be addressed; however, legislators and the governor should not be ignoring the state’s paramount duty—especially given that most educators would question whether basic education is fully funded.

It will likely be an uphill battle to keep K–12 education on the radar screen and achieve success in the 2020 session; as noted, legislators are weary of focusing on our issues. Unfortunately, public opinion is starting to shift as well. The most recent Crosscut/Elway Poll asked voters the open-ended question, “What are the most important issues the Legislature should focus on during this session?” Thirty-three percent responded “Social Services” (with thirty-one percent specifically indicating “Homelessness”). Only ten percent of respondents mentioned “Education.” Education fell to sixth place, below “Social Services,” “Taxes,” “Economy,” Environment,” and “Transportation.”

Clearly, it will be difficult to successfully achieve our goals in the 2020 Session, given the State’s fiscal constraints and the current political dynamics; however, we encourage all administrators to be fully engaged in the legislative process, as we will have NO opportunity to succeed if educators are not engaged in the fight.

**Governor Inslee’s 2020 Budget Request**

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With that backdrop, we can discuss Governor Inslee’s 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget proposal. By law, the governor is required to release a budget proposal to the Legislature by mid-December. Complying with the law, Inslee unveiled his budget proposal on December 18. As described in the budget highlights, Inslee proposed “mostly modest changes” and would only increase current General Fund spending by 0.6 percent (after required Maintenance Level expenditures were made).

In total, the governor requests $834 million in increased General Fund spending. This includes $478 million in required Maintenance Level spending and $336 in Policy Level increases (funding for either new or expanded programs). This does not tell the full story, however. His “full” budget request is an increase of $1.15 billion. As noted above, Inslee believes it is time to address the homelessness crisis. He proposes to spend $319 million on the following:

- Funding for the Home Security Fund Account, “to provide sufficient funding for homeless response program expenditures” ($280.7 million);
- Funding for the Housing Trust Fund, “to provide sufficient funding for additional homeless shelters and enhancements to existing shelters” ($30.0 million); and
- Funding for the Model Toxics Control Operating Account, “to provide sufficient funding to remove solid, hazardous, and infectious waste generated by vacated homeless encampments” ($8.0 million).

Because Governor Inslee believes these programs need funding immediately, he has proposed that the required $319 million come from the Budget Stabilization Account, rather than suggesting a tax increase. As noted above, it will be extremely difficult to achieve the necessary 60 percent vote to access BSA funds—even though most legislators in each Caucus have stated that addressing the homelessness crisis is necessary. Democratic leaders have already publicly stated they support much of Inslee’s proposals, but have suggested that using BSA funding is unlikely. (This proposal is outside the budget and has been introduced as a stand-alone bill, SB 6167.)

For K–12 Education, Inslee’s budget is very minimal. Total requested K–12 funding is $143.2 million. A significant portion of that request—$106.6 million—is for required Maintenance Level funding. Only $36.6 million is proposed in Policy Level spending (suggesting this is a “modest” investment is an understatement). To get a quick visual understanding about the size of Inslee’s K–12 proposal, take a look at Inslee’s Education highlights. Those K–12 highlights comprise about a quarter of the page, while Human Services highlights take up a full four pages; and Natural Resources highlights are four pages long. Budget adjustments for the state’s paramount duty, however, are described in four bullet-points.

To put Governor Inslee’s K–12 budget proposal in context, compare it to State Superintendent Chris Reykdal’s budget request (for details, see TWIO Special Edition, Oct. 23, 2019). Reykdal’s request includes Policy Level increases of $65.97 million (which does not include approximately $400–500 million for an initial “down payment” of the six-year phase-in of increased staffing allocations in the Prototypical School Funding Model).
It should be noted that, while Inslee’s K–12 funding request totals $143.2 million, included is a proposed $86.3 million transfer of a program (Early Support for Infants & Toddlers or “ESIT”) from OSPI to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. This would be a revenue neutral shift in the overall budget; however, it would result in a $86.3 million reduction in the K–12 portion of the budget. Which means Inslee’s budget proposal for K–12 education is really $62.6 million in total—and is actually a Policy Level reduction of $49.7 million. Modest, indeed.

Line-item details of the K–12 education portion of the budget follow below. Full details of the governor’s entire budget proposal are available on the Office of Financial Management’s budget website. Included are the highlights of the budget, complete agency recommendation summaries, and the actual budget bills.

This afternoon, the House Appropriations Committee will hold a public hearing on the governor’s budget, introduced as HB 2325. Tomorrow afternoon, the Senate Ways & Means Committee will hold a public hearing on the Senate-introduced budget, SB 6168, along with the governor’s proposed BSA funding for homelessness programs, SB 6167. This year, the House is scheduled to start the legislative budget process; however, if tradition holds, they will likely not unveil the first legislative proposal until after the February revenue forecast is released. The Economic & Revenue Forecast Council is scheduled to provide its first quarterly update on February 19.

### K–12 Education Budget Details

**Pupil Transportation Adjustment**—$39.0 million

Governor Inslee requests funding to incorporate an increase in the prior year pupil transportation base over the amount that was assumed in the 2019–21 budget. A significant portion of pupil transportation expenditures are due to compensation costs.

**Prior School Year Adjustments**—$29.5 million

Additional one-time funding is included in the budget to provide for payments to school districts for pupil transportation in the 2018–19 school year. Apportionment payments for this purpose in Fiscal Year 2019 exceeded the 2019 Supplemental Budget by $29,500,000; however, OSPI paid this amount to districts in Fiscal Year 2020. This funding is provided to maintain the initial Fiscal Year 2020 appropriation level.

**Mental Health & Safety**—$2.6 million

The 2019–21 Operating Budget provided funding to support a new statewide student mental health and safety network, as adopted by 2SHB 1216. The 2019 Legislature funded one FTE for regional coordination at each ESD. This request would strengthen the network by providing 13.5 additional FTE staff. The additional funding would be used for one additional FTE for regional coordination of behavioral health, school safety and threat assessment efforts, and .5 FTE administrative support at each of the nine ESDs.

**School Nurse Corps**—$1.7 million

The School Nurse Corps program was established in 1999, yet funding has not increased since that time, eroding buying power. The governor requests an additional investment to expand nursing services in Washington’s smallest schools by increasing the capacity for the School Nurse Corps to meet the registered nursing needs of small and rural schools. The additional funding would allow for sufficient nurses to provide one day of services every two weeks to each Class II school district, as well as support staff at each ESD. The funding would be provided as FTE staff in the ESD program, which will allow for the program funding to grow with future compensation adjustments.

Further, the governor’s budget would move funding for the School Nurse Corps from the Grants and Pass-through Funding program to the OSPI agency program. Funding...
at OSPI provides statewide support for the nursing network in coordination with ESDs that provide direct services to districts. In a separate item, the ESD funding is moved directly into the ESD program. Decreases in this program are offset by increases in the OSPI agency program.

Institutional Education Funding—$1.0 million
Governor Inslee requests $780,000 to increase the enhancement for the differentiated instructional needs of students in institutional education programs. The 2019 Legislature provided enhanced funding for this purpose for an estimated 20 percent of institutional education students, but data shows that the rate of incidence of students with Individualized Education Programs in Washington’s institutions is at least 35 percent. The needs funded with this enhancement may include, but are not limited to, one-on-one instruction, enhanced access to counseling for social emotional needs of the student, and services to identify the proper level of instruction at the time of student entry into the facility.

An additional $200,000 is requested for student records coordinators to manage the transmission of academic records with Green Hill Academic School and Naselle Youth Camp School. The 2019 Legislature provided funding for this purpose at Echo Glen Children’s Center. This additional funding would provide the same support to Washington’s other two long-term juvenile institutions.

Early Learning Options—$283,000
Funding is requested for OSPI to collaborate with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to complete a report with options and recommendations for administrative efficiencies and long-term strategies to align and integrate high-quality early learning programs administered by both agencies. The report is due September 1, 2020.

In separate portions of the budget, DCYF would be provided with $375,000 to support the Department’s work on the required report, and $480,000 would be provided to the Office of Financial Management to contract for project management and fiscal modeling to support the OSPI/DCYF project.

Early Support for Infants & Toddlers Transfer—($86.3 million)
The governor’s budget request would transfer funding for payments to providers for the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program from OSPI to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families beginning September 1, 2020. This would be a revenue neutral shift in the overall budget; however, it would result in a $86.3 million reduction in the K–12 portion of the budget.

Health Benefit Rate Adjustment— ($37.3 million)
Health benefit funding under the new School Employees’ Benefits Board (SEBB) insurance program is “adjusted” (that is, reduced) based on updated rates for Fiscal Year 2021. Modeling for prior rate estimates used assumptions based on experience from the Public Employees’ Benefits Board; the adjusted rate incorporates new data from SEBB open enrollment, especially regarding plan choice and demographic information. Enrollment information is subject to change pending final verification and resolution of on-going appeals.

Allocated FTEs for ESDs—($15,000)
Funding is provided for compensation adjustments to the Educational Service District FTE staff who were previously allocated with pass-through funding.

Additionally, under the governor’s proposal, existing levels of ESD funding for the K–20 Telecommunications Network, the School Nurse Corps and the Student Safety and Well-being Network are moved into the ESD program. This funding, which has historically been passed through OSPI to ESDs, would be allocated to the ESDs directly. With this shift,
funding would be provided as FTE allocations at the ESDs so it can grow appropriately with future compensation adjustments. Increases in this program are offset by decreases in OSPI’s Agency Program and Grants and Pass-through Funding program.

**Additional Details**

**PERS & TRS Plan 1 Benefits Increase——$5.0 million**
Under the governor’s proposal, eligible members of the Public Employees’ Retirement System Plan 1 and the Teachers’ Retirement System Plan 1 members, would be provided an increase of 1.5 percent, up to a maximum of $22 per month.

**Professional Development**
No additional funding is provided for educator Professional Development; however, proviso language in the governor’s budget would specifically designate funds previously appropriated ($39.7 million) for Professional Development in the 2020–21 school year for training on “racial literacy, cultural responsiveness, and stereotype threat for purposes of closing persistent opportunity gaps.”

**Career Connected Tribal Liaison——$150,000**
Legislation adopted in 2019 (HB 2158) expanded Career Connected Learning (CCL) opportunities to students statewide. Requested additional funding would provide 1.0 FTE staff at OSPI for outreach to tribal schools to facilitate access to and support of enrollment in Career Connected Learning opportunities for tribal students. This includes career awareness and exploration, career preparation, and career launch programs, as defined in law, so that tribal students may receive high school or college credit to the maximum extent possible. Funding would be provided from the new Workforce Education Investment Account, as created by HB 2158.

**No Child Left Inside——$500,000**
Funds from the Governor’s Special Appropriations would be provided to the Outdoor Education and Recreation Account to provide additional No Child Left Inside grants for outdoor education and recreation programs that engage youth in experiencing the natural, cultural, ethnic, and artistic heritage of Washington State.

**Special Education Study——$400,000**
Funding would be provided to the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP), via The Evergreen State College, to study special education services in public K–12 education systems. WSIPP would review the available research literature with a focus on evidence from rigorous research regarding impacts of specific special education services on student outcomes. Where available, the study would focus on student success outcomes including successful transitions to life post-high school, student engagement, disciplinary action, and academic outcomes. To the extent possible, WSIPP would study the cost effectiveness of various successful approaches to service delivery, including both broad strategies and specific services. An interim report summarizing preliminary findings on special education strategies would be required by June 30, 2021, with a final report due by June 30, 2022.

**Teacher Shortage Program——$155,000**
Legislation adopted in 2019 (E2SHB 1139) directed Central Washington University to remotely supervise student teachers. This funding request would provide for the one-time purchase of audiovisual technology and equipment for this purpose.

**Education Ombuds Funding——$484,000**
The Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO), housed in the Governor’s Office, has a goal to reach over one million students and 100,000 educators in Washington; however, it has not yet been realized. Additionally, demand for OEO’s conflict resolution and trainings
continues to increase, as does the difficulty of addressing school safety and opportunity gap issues. Funding ($434,000) would be provided for additional staff and resources for increased outreach efforts, preventive trainings to schools and families, professional development, and a tribal liaison.

Additional requested funding ($50,000) would be provided to OEO to develop a plan to implement a program to promote skills, knowledge, and awareness concerning issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion among families with school-age children. This work would be done in consultation with OSPI and the Washington State Office of Equity. A report with recommendations would be required by September 1, 2020.

Office of Administrative Hearings—$524,000
The governor's budget requests funding for the Office of Administrative Hearings to address OSPI's increased hearings caseload. Additional funding is required to comply with federal requirements after a significant spike in referrals from OSPI, specifically concerning cases relating to special education issues.

K–12 Non-Medicare Retiree Risk Pool—$15,000
Funding would be provided to the Health Care Authority (HCA) to fund additional actuarial services so HCA can continue work on changes for non-Medicare eligible retirees who will retire as School Employees’ Benefits Board (SEBB) members. This would allow those who retire while covered by the SEBB insurance to remain in the SEBB program until they become eligible for Medicare. Currently, such K–12 retirees are enrolled in the Public Employees’ Benefits Board (PEBB) coverage.

Centralized Early Learning Center—$95,000
The governor’s budget requests funding for the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to support the Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors’ effort to re-purpose an elementary school into a Community Early Learning Hub. The Hub is one centralized access point for all services supporting families with children from birth through age three. One-time funding would be provided to help coordinate between community partners delivering early learning educational services, child care, parent services, home visiting, and public assistance programs.

Central Services Changes—$658,000
The governor’s budget requests a series of funding adjustments for all state agencies, including OSPI. While OSPI’s share of the funding enhancements or reductions would be minimal, the total adjustments impact the overall funding level of the K–12 portion of the budget; agency adjustments result in a net increase of $658,000.

- **Archives/Records Management**—$1,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of state archiving and state records center costs from the Secretary of State’s Office.

- **Attorney General**—$29,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of legal service charges from the Attorney General’s Office.

- **Administrative Hearings**—$525,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of administrative hearings charges from the Office of Administrative Hearings.

- **DES Central Services**—$7,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of charges from the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) for campus rent, utilities, parking, and contracts; capital project surcharges; financing cost recovery; public and historic facilities; real estate services; risk management services; personnel service rates; the Perry Street Child Care Center; small agency services; and the Department’s enterprise applications.
• **OFM Central Services**—$96,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of charges from the Office of Financial Management (OFM) for statewide financial applications, One Washington, and other OFM central services.
The mission of the Washington School Personnel Association is to provide leadership in promoting effective human resource practices within the education community through legislative involvement, professional development activities, and a broad-based resources network.

Washington School Personnel Association January 17, 2020

This Week in Olympia

Dear WSPA Members,

We are excited to share that WSPA will be partnering with the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) to further our legislative priorities and advocacy work in the upcoming legislative session.

WASA publishes the TWIO -- This Week in Olympia each week during the legislative session. In this issue, you will find the 2020 Session Preview and Governor Inslee's 2020 Budget Request.

This report is attached for your reference and is also available via podcast by clicking here.

We are grateful for the opportunity to join forces with WASA. We encourage you to contact your legislators and use your voice to champion issues that further the education and welfare of our students and protect the funding of education.

Thank you,

Jennifer Tottenham
WSPA Program Coordinator

In This Issue...

1. This Week in Olympia
2. Annual Conference
3. Bargaining Workshop
4. WA Educator Career Fair
5. Updated Job Board
6. Member Request Forum

Updated Job Board

The updated Job Board may be found on the main menu or under "Quick Links."

Members may now personalize their job postings with district logos, additional job information, and direct application directions. Please click here to access the Job Board.

Member Request Forum

Post your questions and get...
Annual Conference

Registration is now open to attend WSPA Annual Conference 2020!

Tulalip Resort and Casino
Pre-conference: March 1, 2020
Conference: March 2-4, 2020

Please click here for event information and registration. We cannot wait to see you there!

21st Century Bargaining Workshop

We invite you to join us at the 21st Century Bargaining Workshop presented by Porter Foster Rorick LLP. This workshop will focus on skills such as bargaining law, engineering, psychology, mediation, district crisis bargaining operations, and union strategies.

Please click here for event information and registration.

WA Educator Career Fairs

Let the recruiting begin! The WA Educator Career Fair registrations are now open:

WA Educator Career Fair: Spokane Convention Center
March 18, 2020

WA Educator Career Fair: Tacoma Dome
March 25, 2020

Please click here for event information and registration.

Calendar of Events

Please click here for our calendar of events.
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Line-item details of the K–12 education portion of the budget follow below. Full details of the governor’s entire budget proposal are available on the Office of Financial Management’s budget website. Included are the highlights of the budget, complete agency recommendation summaries, and the actual budget bills.

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Teacher Shortage Program—$155,000
Legislation adopted in 2019 (E2SHB 1139) directed Central Washington University to remotely supervise student teachers. This funding request would provide for the one-time purchase of audiovisual technology and equipment for this purpose.

Education Ombuds Funding—$484,000
The Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO), housed in the Governor’s Office, has a goal to reach over one million students and 100,000 educators in Washington; however, it has not yet been realized. Additionally, demand for OEO’s conflict resolution and trainings
continues to increase, as does the difficulty of addressing school safety and opportunity gap issues. Funding ($434,000) would be provided for additional staff and resources for increased outreach efforts, preventive trainings to schools and families, professional development, and a tribal liaison.

Additional requested funding ($50,000) would be provided to OEO to develop a plan to implement a program to promote skills, knowledge, and awareness concerning issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion among families with school-age children. This work would be done in consultation with OSPI and the Washington State Office of Equity. A report with recommendations would be required by September 1, 2020.

**Office of Administrative Hearings—$524,000**
The governor’s budget requests funding for the Office of Administrative Hearings to address OSPI’s increased hearings caseload. Additional funding is required to comply with federal requirements after a significant spike in referrals from OSPI, specifically concerning cases relating to special education issues.

**K–12 Non-Medicare Retiree Risk Pool—$15,000**
Funding would be provided to the Health Care Authority (HCA) to fund additional actuarial services so HCA can continue work on changes for non-Medicare eligible retirees who will retire as School Employees’ Benefits Board (SEBB) members. This would allow those who retire while covered by the SEBB insurance to remain in the SEBB program until they become eligible for Medicare. Currently, such K–12 retirees are enrolled in the Public Employees’ Benefits Board (PEBB) coverage.

**Centralized Early Learning Center—$95,000**
The governor’s budget requests funding for the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to support the Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors’ effort to re-purpose an elementary school into a Community Early Learning Hub. The Hub is one centralized access point for all services supporting families with children from birth through age three. One-time funding would be provided to help coordinate between community partners delivering early learning educational services, child care, parent services, home visiting, and public assistance programs.

**Central Services Changes—$658,000**
The governor’s budget requests a series of funding adjustments for all state agencies, including OSPI. While OSPI’s share of the funding enhancements or reductions would be minimal, the total adjustments impact the overall funding level of the K–12 portion of the budget; agency adjustments result in a net increase of $658,000.

- **Archives/Records Management—$1,000**
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of state archiving and state records center costs from the Secretary of State’s Office.

- **Attorney General—$29,000**
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of legal service charges from the Attorney General’s Office.

- **Administrative Hearings—$525,000**
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- **DES Central Services—$7,000**
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of charges from the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) for campus rent, utilities, parking, and contracts; capital project surcharges; financing cost recovery; public and historic facilities; real estate services; risk management services; personnel service rates; the Perry Street Child Care Center; small agency services; and the Department’s enterprise applications.
• **OFM Central Services—$96,000**
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of charges from the Office of Financial Management (OFM) for statewide financial applications, One Washington, and other OFM central services.
From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: Janet Culik
Subject: WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020

Attachments may contain viruses that are harmful to your computer. Attachments may not display correctly.

WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020 (632Kb)

Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net
Subject: WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020
Message-Id: <cfa12e05-c553-4513-8e1b-46b68884e467.200008202891.10062.1579289533755@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: jculik@tacoma.k12.wa.us
Dear WSPA Members,

We are excited to share that WSPA will be partnering with the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) to further our legislative priorities and advocacy work in the upcoming legislative session.

WASA publishes the TWIO -- This Week in Olympia each week during the legislative session. In this issue, you will find the 2020 Session Preview and Governor Inslee's 2020 Budget Request.

This report is attached for your reference and is also available via podcast by clicking here.

We are grateful for the opportunity to join forces with WASA. We encourage you to contact your legislators and use your voice to champion issues that further the education and welfare of our students and protect the funding of education.

Thank you,

Jennifer Tottenham
WSPA Program Coordinator

In This Issue...

1. This Week in Olympia
2. Annual Conference
3. Bargaining Workshop
4. WA Educator Career Fair
5. Updated Job Board
6. Member Request Forum

Updated Job Board

The updated Job Board may be found on the main menu or under "Quick Links."

Members may now personalize their job postings with district logos, additional job information, and direct application directions. Please click here to access the Job Board.

Member Request Forum

Post your questions and get...
IN THIS ISSUE:

• 2020 Session Preview
• Governor Inslee's 202 Budget Request

Opening Day Special Edition

2020 Session Preview

This afternoon, January 13, 2020, the Legislature convened its second year of the 66th Biennial Session. This "short" session is limited to 60 days. With little available revenue (more on that below) and a major election in November, wherein all 98 seats in the House and half the seats in the Senate will be on the ballot, no one in Olympia is betting on overtime this year. (Perhaps the only thing that could force a Special Session is a protracted fight over an overhaul of the two-year Transportation Budget, with expected reductions of over a half-billion dollars, due to the passage of Initiative 976 ($30 Car Tabs) this past fall.)

The political dynamics of this session will be interesting to watch—and the impact of these dynamics are still to be determined. While the House and Senate (along with the governor’s office) continue to operate under Democratic control, both houses have seen changes. The most impactful change is a new Speaker of the House, as the previous speaker, Representative Frank Chopp (D-Seattle), stepped down from the position shortly after last session after 20 years, the longest-serving speaker in state history. Chopp will continue to serve in the House, at least through this session, but he will no longer be one of the most powerful individuals in Olympia. His successor, Representative Laurie Jinkins (D-Tacoma), was selected as Speaker-designate this past summer by her Democratic colleagues.

One of the first legislative actions in the House today was to officially elect Jinkins as its new speaker (while the Speaker of the House is a key leader in the majority caucus, the position oversees the full House and a speaker must be elected by the full body). It is unclear how much this will change how the House operates and what bills will be allowed to come to the Floor, but it is likely many controversial issues that died silent deaths under Chopp’s cautious directing of the House could move forward under a more open and progressive leader. That could include a Capital Gains Tax—which has been proposed for several years, but has never been voted on in the House. Jinkins has sponsored legislation to implement a Capital Gains Tax, so she might be inclined to have a full Floor debate. Similarly, legislation regarding gun control, sex education, and criminal justice issues could see the light of day in the full House.

The Senate continues to be controlled by Democrats, but the liberal wing of the Caucus may have less of a fight from moderate-leaning members in their Caucus. After the 2019 Session, Guy Palumbo (D-Maltby) resigned to return to the private sector. While he was only one senator in a 28-member strong Caucus (versus 21 Republicans), he...
was known to join with other moderate Democrats, often frustrating the plans of his leadership. One area where he did not always see eye-to-eye with his Caucus was K–12 education—which many times was beneficial for us. His moderate voice, however, has been replaced by one of his former seatmates in the House, Derek Stanford (D-Bothell), who will be more apt to fall in line with the direction of his leadership.

One of the most difficult political dynamics for educators this year will be the not-so-subtle avoidance of K–12 education, especially in regards to funding. For the last few years we have been dealing with legislators who have the so-called “McCleary fatigue.” There is fairly clear evidence in the 2019–21 Operating Budget that legislators shifted their focus away from education and it appears that will continue—if not increase. While legislators may shy away from overtly expressing their weariness with dealing with education, Governor Inslee has no problem stating it outright. When introducing his 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget request in December (details below), he plainly stated the Legislature has made “great success” to fully fund education and to “fulfill our constitutional obligation” to K–12 education. And because of these “major achievements in education” it is “time for the State of Washington to turn our attention” to the homelessness crisis. Now, most citizens would likely agree that homelessness is a growing problem that needs to be addressed; however, legislators and the governor should not be ignoring the state’s paramount duty—especially given that most educators would question whether basic education is fully funded.

It will likely be an uphill battle to keep K–12 education on the radar screen and achieve success in the 2020 session; as noted, legislators are weary of focusing on our issues. Unfortunately, public opinion is starting to shift as well. The most recent Crosscut/Elway Poll asked voters the open-ended question, “What are the most important issues the Legislature should focus on during this session?” Thirty-three percent responded “Social Services” (with thirty-one percent specifically indicating “Homelessness”). Only ten percent of respondents mentioned “Education.” Education fell to sixth place, below “Social Services,” “Taxes,” “Economy,” “Environment,” and “Transportation.”

Clearly, it will be difficult to successfully achieve our goals in the 2020 Session, given the State’s fiscal constraints and the current political dynamics; however, we encourage all administrators to be fully engaged in the legislative process, as we will have NO opportunity to succeed if educators are not engaged in the fight.

**Governor Inslee’s 2020 Budget Request**

On November 20, 2019, the state’s Economic & Revenue Forecast Council issued their final quarterly revenue forecast for 2019. As seen in previous updates over the year, revenues again were above projections from proceeding forecasts (November predictions were $299 million greater than September projections), leaving an anticipated Beginning Balance in the General Fund of almost $2.0 billion, with a projected Ending Fund Balance in 2019–21 of $802 million. Add to that significant revenues in the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA or “Rainy Day Fund”) of $2.2 billion and the projected Total Reserves for 2019–21 increases to $3.0 billion.

At first blush, these numbers indicate Washington’s economy continues to grow and legislators will have plenty of money to spend in the 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget. True, revenues continue to grow, but if you look deeper into the revenue forecast report, revenue growth is slower than in previous years and is projected to further slow in the future—while required expenditures continue to climb. Additionally, projected Maintenance Level spending (that is, required spending to provide currently authorized services, including adjustments—up or down—in entitlement caseloads or enrollment and other mandatory expenses, such as inflation) is projected to be $903 million ($517 million for the remainder of 2019–21 and $386 million in 2021–23). Before the game even begins, much of the available revenue in the Beginning Balance
will be gobbled up by required Maintenance Level spending. Finally, while there are significant revenues available in the BSA, those funds are difficult to access, requiring a 60 percent supermajority vote of the Legislature to use. Unless there is a real, catastrophic emergency, it is unlikely Republicans would be willing to provide their votes to Democratic budget-writers, allowing them to reach the necessary 60 percent threshold so they can further expand spending.

With that backdrop, we can discuss Governor Inslee’s 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget proposal. By law, the governor is required to release a budget proposal to the Legislature by mid-December. Complying with the law, Inslee unveiled his budget proposal on December 18. As described in the budget highlights, Inslee proposed “mostly modest changes” and would only increase current General Fund spending by 0.6 percent (after required Maintenance Level expenditures were made).

In total, the governor requests $834 million in increased General Fund spending. This includes $478 million in required Maintenance Level spending and $336 in Policy Level increases (funding for either new or expanded programs). This does not tell the full story, however. His “full” budget request is an increase of $1.15 billion. As noted above, Inslee believes it is time to address the homelessness crisis. He proposes to spend $319 million on the following:

- Funding for the Home Security Fund Account, “to provide sufficient funding for homeless response program expenditures” ($280.7 million);
- Funding for the Housing Trust Fund, “to provide sufficient funding for additional homeless shelters and enhancements to existing shelters” ($30.0 million); and
- Funding for the Model Toxics Control Operating Account, “to provide sufficient funding to remove solid, hazardous, and infectious waste generated by vacated homeless encampments” ($8.0 million).

Because Governor Inslee believes these programs need funding immediately, he has proposed that the required $319 million come from the Budget Stabilization Account, rather than suggesting a tax increase. As noted above, it will be extremely difficult to achieve the necessary 60 percent vote to access BSA funds—even though most legislators in each Caucus have stated that addressing the homelessness crisis is necessary. Democratic leaders have already publicly stated they support much of Inslee’s proposals, but have suggested that using BSA funding is unlikely. (This proposal is outside the budget and has been introduced as a stand-alone bill, SB 6167.)

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was known to join with other moderate Democrats, often frustrating the plans of his leadership. One area where he did not always see eye-to-eye with his Caucus was K–12 education—which many times was beneficial for us. His moderate voice, however, has been replaced by one of his former seatmates in the House, Derek Stanford (D-Bothell), who will be more apt to fall in line with the direction of his leadership.

One of the most difficult political dynamics for educators this year will be the not-so-subtle avoidance of K–12 education, especially in regards to funding. For the last few years we have been dealing with legislators who have the so-called “McCleary fatigue.” There is fairly clear evidence in the 2019–21 Operating Budget that legislators shifted their focus away from education and it appears that will continue—if not increase. While legislators may shy away from overtly expressing their weariness with dealing with education, Governor Inslee has no problem stating it outright. When introducing his 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget request in December (details below), he plainly stated the Legislature has made “great success” to fully fund education and to “fulfill our constitutional obligation” to K–12 education. And because of these “major achievements in education” it is “time for the State of Washington to turn our attention” to the homelessness crisis. Now, most citizens would likely agree that homelessness is a growing problem that needs to be addressed; however, legislators and the governor should not be ignoring the state’s paramount duty—especially given that most educators would question whether basic education is fully funded.

It will likely be an uphill battle to keep K–12 education on the radar screen and achieve success in the 2020 session; as noted, legislators are weary of focusing on our issues. Unfortunately, public opinion is starting to shift as well. The most recent Crosscut/Elway Poll asked voters the open-ended question, “What are the most important issues the Legislature should focus on during this session?” Thirty-three percent responded “Social Services” (with thirty-one percent specifically indicating “Homelessness”). Only ten percent of respondents mentioned “Education.” Education fell to sixth place, below “Social Services,” “Taxes,” “Economy,” Environment,” and “Transportation.”

Clearly, it will be difficult to successfully achieve our goals in the 2020 Session, given the State’s fiscal constraints and the current political dynamics; however, we encourage all administrators to be fully engaged in the legislative process, as we will have NO opportunity to succeed if educators are not engaged in the fight.

**Governor Inslee’s 2020 Budget Request**

On November 20, 2019, the state’s Economic & Revenue Forecast Council issued their final quarterly revenue forecast for 2019. As seen in previous updates over the year, revenues again were above projections from proceeding forecasts (November predictions were $299 million greater than September projections), leaving an anticipated Beginning Balance in the General Fund of almost $2.0 billion, with a projected Ending Fund Balance in 2019–21 of $802 million. Add to that significant revenues in the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA or “Rainy Day Fund”) of $2.2 billion and the projected Total Reserves for 2019–21 increases to $3.0 billion.

At first blush, these numbers indicate Washington’s economy continues to grow and legislators will have plenty of money to spend in the 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget. True, revenues continue to grow, but if you look deeper into the revenue forecast report, revenue growth is slower than in previous years and is projected to further slow in the future—while required expenditures continue to climb. Additionally, projected Maintenance Level spending (that is, required spending to provide currently authorized services, including adjustments—up or down—in entitlement caseloads or enrollment and other mandatory expenses, such as inflation) is projected to be $903 million ($517 million for the remainder of 2019–21 and $386 million in 2021–23). Before the game even begins, much of the available revenue in the Beginning Balance...
will be gobbled up by required Maintenance Level spending. Finally, while there are significant revenues available in the BSA, those funds are difficult to access, requiring a 60 percent supermajority vote of the Legislature to use. Unless there is a real, catastrophic emergency, it is unlikely Republicans would be willing to provide their votes to Democratic budget-writers, allowing them to reach the necessary 60 percent threshold so they can further expand spending.

With that backdrop, we can discuss Governor Inslee’s 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget proposal. By law, the governor is required to release a budget proposal to the Legislature by mid-December. Complying with the law, Inslee unveiled his budget proposal on December 18. As described in the budget highlights, Inslee proposed “mostly modest changes” and would only increase current General Fund spending by 0.6 percent (after required Maintenance Level expenditures were made).

In total, the governor requests $834 million in increased General Fund spending. This includes $478 million in required Maintenance Level spending and $336 in Policy Level increases (funding for either new or expanded programs). This does not tell the full story, however. His “full” budget request is an increase of $1.15 billion. As noted above, Inslee believes it is time to address the homelessness crisis. He proposes to spend $319 million on the following:

- Funding for the Home Security Fund Account, “to provide sufficient funding for homeless response program expenditures” ($280.7 million);
- Funding for the Housing Trust Fund, “to provide sufficient funding for additional homeless shelters and enhancements to existing shelters” ($30.0 million); and
- Funding for the Model Toxics Control Operating Account, “to provide sufficient funding to remove solid, hazardous, and infectious waste generated by vacated homeless encampments” ($8.0 million).

Because Governor Inslee believes these programs need funding immediately, he has proposed that the required $319 million come from the Budget Stabilization Account, rather than suggesting a tax increase. As noted above, it will be extremely difficult to achieve the necessary 60 percent vote to access BSA funds—even though most legislators in each Caucus have stated that addressing the homelessness crisis is necessary. Democratic leaders have already publicly stated they support much of Inslee’s proposals, but have suggested that using BSA funding is unlikely. (This proposal is outside the budget and has been introduced as a stand-alone bill, SB 6167.)

For K–12 Education, Inslee’s budget is very minimal. Total requested K–12 funding is $143.2 million. A significant portion of that request—$106.6 million—is for required Maintenance Level funding. Only $36.6 million is proposed in Policy Level spending (suggesting this is a “modest” investment is an understatement). To get a quick visual understanding about the size of Inslee’s K–12 proposal, take a look at Inslee’s “Education” highlights. Those K–12 highlights comprise about a quarter of the page, while “Human Services” highlights take up a full four pages; and “Natural Resources” highlights are four pages long. Budget adjustments for the state’s paramount duty, however, are described in four bullet-points.

To put Governor Inslee’s K–12 budget proposal in context, compare it to State Superintendent Chris Reykdal’s budget request (for details, see TWIO Special Edition, Oct. 23, 2019). Reykdal’s request includes Policy Level increases of $65.97 million (which does not include approximately $400–500 million for an initial “down payment” of the six-year phase-in of increased staffing allocations in the Prototypical School Funding Model).
It should be noted that, while Inslee’s K–12 funding request totals $143.2 million, included is a proposed $86.3 million transfer of a program (Early Support for Infants & Toddlers or “ESIT”) from OSPI to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. This would be a revenue neutral shift in the overall budget; however, it would result in a $86.3 million reduction in the K–12 portion of the budget. Which means Inslee's budget proposal for K–12 education is really $62.6 million in total—and is actually a Policy Level reduction of $49.7 million. Modest, indeed.

Line-item details of the K–12 education portion of the budget follow below. Full details of the governor’s entire budget proposal are available on the Office of Financial Management’s budget website. Included are the highlights of the budget, complete agency recommendation summaries, and the actual budget bills.

This afternoon, the House Appropriations Committee will hold a public hearing on the governor’s budget, introduced as HB 2325. Tomorrow afternoon, the Senate Ways & Means Committee will hold a public hearing on the Senate-introduced budget, SB 6168, along with the governor’s proposed BSA funding for homelessness programs, SB 6167.

This year, the House is scheduled to start the legislative budget process; however, if tradition holds, they will likely not unveil the first legislative proposal until after the February revenue forecast is released. The Economic & Revenue Forecast Council is scheduled to provide its first quarterly update on February 19.

**K–12 Education Budget Details**

**Pupil Transportation Adjustment—$39.0 million**
Governor Inslee requests funding to incorporate an increase in the prior year pupil transportation base over the amount that was assumed in the 2019–21 budget. A significant portion of pupil transportation expenditures are due to compensation costs.

**Prior School Year Adjustments—$29.5 million**
Additional one-time funding is included in the budget to provide for payments to school districts for pupil transportation in the 2018–19 school year. Apportionment payments for this purpose in Fiscal Year 2019 exceeded the 2019 Supplemental Budget by $29,500,000; however, OSPI paid this amount to districts in Fiscal Year 2020. This funding is provided to maintain the initial Fiscal Year 2020 appropriation level.

**Mental Health & Safety—$2.6 million**
The 2019–21 Operating Budget provided funding to support a new statewide student mental health and safety network, as adopted by 2SHB 1216. The 2019 Legislature funded one FTE for regional coordination at each ESD. This request would strengthen the network by providing 13.5 additional FTE staff. The additional funding would be used for one additional FTE for regional coordination of behavioral health, school safety and threat assessment efforts, and .5 FTE administrative support at each of the nine ESDs.

**School Nurse Corps—$1.7 million**
The School Nurse Corps program was established in 1999, yet funding has not increased since that time, eroding buying power. The governor requests an additional investment to expand nursing services in Washington’s smallest schools by increasing the capacity for the School Nurse Corps to meet the registered nursing needs of small and rural schools. The additional funding would allow for sufficient nurses to provide one day of services every two weeks to each Class II school district, as well as support staff at each ESD. The funding would be provided as FTE staff in the ESD program, which will allow for the program funding to grow with future compensation adjustments.

Further, the governor’s budget would move funding for the School Nurse Corps from the Grants and Pass-through Funding program to the OSPI agency program.
at OSPI provides statewide support for the nursing network in coordination with ESDs that provide direct services to districts. In a separate item, the ESD funding is moved directly into the ESD program. Decreases in this program are offset by increases in the OSPI agency program.

**Institutional Education Funding—$1.0 million**
Governor Inslee requests $780,000 to increase the enhancement for the differentiated instructional needs of students in institutional education programs. The 2019 Legislature provided enhanced funding for this purpose for an estimated 20 percent of institutional education students, but data shows that the rate of incidence of students with Individualized Education Programs in Washington’s institutions is at least 35 percent. The needs funded with this enhancement may include, but are not limited to, one-on-one instruction, enhanced access to counseling for social emotional needs of the student, and services to identify the proper level of instruction at the time of student entry into the facility.

An additional $200,000 is requested for student records coordinators to manage the transmission of academic records with Green Hill Academic School and Naselle Youth Camp School. The 2019 Legislature provided funding for this purpose at Echo Glen Children’s Center. This additional funding would provide the same support to Washington’s other two long-term juvenile institutions.

**Early Learning Options—$283,000**
Funding is requested for OSPI to collaborate with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to complete a report with options and recommendations for administrative efficiencies and long-term strategies to align and integrate high-quality early learning programs administered by both agencies. The report is due September 1, 2020.

In separate portions of the budget, DCYF would be provided with $375,000 to support the Department’s work on the required report, and $480,000 would be provided to the Office of Financial Management to contract for project management and fiscal modeling to support the OSPI/DCYF project.

**Early Support for Infants & Toddlers Transfer—($86.3 million)**
The governor’s budget request would transfer funding for payments to providers for the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program from OSPI to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families beginning September 1, 2020. This would be a revenue neutral shift in the overall budget; however, it would result in a $86.3 million reduction in the K–12 portion of the budget.

**Health Benefit Rate Adjustment— ($37.3 million)**
Health benefit funding under the new School Employees’ Benefits Board (SEBB) insurance program is “adjusted” (that is, reduced) based on updated rates for Fiscal Year 2021. Modeling for prior rate estimates used assumptions based on experience from the Public Employees’ Benefits Board; the adjusted rate incorporates new data from SEBB open enrollment, especially regarding plan choice and demographic information. Enrollment information is subject to change pending final verification and resolution of on-going appeals.

**Allocated FTEs for ESDs—($15,000)**
Funding is provided for compensation adjustments to the Educational Service District FTE staff who were previously allocated with pass-through funding.

Additionally, under the governor’s proposal, existing levels of ESD funding for the K–20 Telecommunications Network, the School Nurse Corps and the Student Safety and Well-being Network are moved into the ESD program. This funding, which has historically been passed through OSPI to ESDs, would be allocated to the ESDs directly. With this shift,
funding would be provided as FTE allocations at the ESDs so it can grow appropriately with future compensation adjustments. Increases in this program are offset by decreases in OSPI's Agency Program and Grants and Pass-through Funding program.

Additional Details

**PERS & TRS Plan 1 Benefits Increase—$5.0 million**
Under the governor’s proposal, eligible members of the Public Employees’ Retirement System Plan 1 and the Teachers’ Retirement System Plan 1 members, would be provided an increase of 1.5 percent, up to a maximum of $22 per month.

**Professional Development**
No additional funding is provided for educator Professional Development; however, proviso language in the governor’s budget would specifically designate funds previously appropriated ($39.7 million) for Professional Development in the 2020–21 school year for training on “racial literacy, cultural responsiveness, and stereotype threat for purposes of closing persistent opportunity gaps.”

**Career Connected Tribal Liaison—$150,000**
Legislation adopted in 2019 (HB 2158) expanded Career Connected Learning (CCL) opportunities to students statewide. Requested additional funding would provide 1.0 FTE staff at OSPI for outreach to tribal schools to facilitate access to and support of enrollment in Career Connected Learning opportunities for tribal students. This includes career awareness and exploration, career preparation, and career launch programs, as defined in law, so that tribal students may receive high school or college credit to the maximum extent possible. Funding would be provided from the new Workforce Education Investment Account, as created by HB 2158.

**No Child Left Inside—$500,000**
Funds from the Governor’s Special Appropriations would be provided to the Outdoor Education and Recreation Account to provide additional No Child Left Inside grants for outdoor education and recreation programs that engage youth in experiencing the natural, cultural, ethnic, and artistic heritage of Washington State.

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Washington School Personnel Association January 17, 2020

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**Governor Inslee’s 2020 Budget Request**

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For K–12 Education, Inslee’s budget is very minimal. Total requested K–12 funding is $143.2 million. A significant portion of that request—$106.6 million—is for required Maintenance Level funding. Only $36.6 million is proposed in Policy Level spending (suggesting this is a “modest” investment is an understatement). To get a quick visual understanding about the size of Inslee’s K–12 proposal, take a look at Inslee’s “Education” highlights. Those K–12 highlights comprise about a quarter of the page, while “Human Services” highlights take up a full four pages; and “Natural Resources” highlights are four pages long. Budget adjustments for the state’s paramount duty, however, are described in four bullet-points.

To put Governor Inslee’s K–12 budget proposal in context, compare it to State Superintendent Chris Reykdal’s budget request (for details, see TWIO Special Edition, Oct. 23, 2019). Reykdal’s request includes Policy Level increases of $65.97 million (which does not include approximately $400–500 million for an initial “down payment” of the six-year phase-in of increased staffing allocations in the Prototypical School Funding Model).
It should be noted that, while Inslee's K–12 funding request totals $143.2 million, included is a proposed $86.3 million transfer of a program (Early Support for Infants & Toddlers or “ESIT”) from OSPI to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. This would be a revenue neutral shift in the overall budget; however, it would result in a $86.3 million reduction in the K–12 portion of the budget. Which means Inslee's budget proposal for K–12 education is really $62.6 million in total—and is actually a Policy Level reduction of $49.7 million. Modest, indeed.

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**Pupil Transportation Adjustment—$39.0 million**
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**Prior School Year Adjustments—$29.5 million**
Additional one-time funding is included in the budget to provide for payments to school districts for pupil transportation in the 2018–19 school year. Apportionment payments for this purpose in Fiscal Year 2019 exceeded the 2019 Supplemental Budget by $29,500,000; however, OSPI paid this amount to districts in Fiscal Year 2020. This funding is provided to maintain the initial Fiscal Year 2020 appropriation level.

**Mental Health & Safety—$2.6 million**
The 2019–21 Operating Budget provided funding to support a new statewide student mental health and safety network, as adopted by 2SHB 1216. The 2019 Legislature funded one FTE for regional coordination at each ESD. This request would strengthen the network by providing 13.5 additional FTE staff. The additional funding would be used for one additional FTE for regional coordination of behavioral health, school safety and threat assessment efforts, and .5 FTE administrative support at each of the nine ESDs.

**School Nurse Corps—$1.7 million**
The School Nurse Corps program was established in 1999, yet funding has not increased since that time, eroding buying power. The governor requests an additional investment to expand nursing services in Washington’s smallest schools by increasing the capacity for the School Nurse Corps to meet the registered nursing needs of small and rural schools. The additional funding would allow for sufficient nurses to provide one day of services every two weeks to each Class II school district, as well as support staff at each ESD. The funding would be provided as FTE staff in the ESD program, which will allow for the program funding to grow with future compensation adjustments.

Further, the governor’s budget would move funding for the School Nurse Corps from the Grants and Pass-through Funding program to the OSPI agency program. Funding...
at OSPI provides statewide support for the nursing network in coordination with ESDs that provide direct services to districts. In a separate item, the ESD funding is moved directly into the ESD program. Decreases in this program are offset by increases in the OSPI agency program.

**Institutional Education Funding—$1.0 million**
Governor Inslee requests $780,000 to increase the enhancement for the differentiated instructional needs of students in institutional education programs. The 2019 Legislature provided enhanced funding for this purpose for an estimated 20 percent of institutional education students, but data shows that the rate of incidence of students with Individualized Education Programs in Washington’s institutions is at least 35 percent. The needs funded with this enhancement may include, but are not limited to, one-on-one instruction, enhanced access to counseling for social emotional needs of the student, and services to identify the proper level of instruction at the time of student entry into the facility.

An additional $200,000 is requested for student records coordinators to manage the transmission of academic records with Green Hill Academic School and Naselle Youth Camp School. The 2019 Legislature provided funding for this purpose at Echo Glen Children’s Center. This additional funding would provide the same support to Washington’s other two long-term juvenile institutions.

**Early Learning Options—$283,000**
Funding is requested for OSPI to collaborate with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to complete a report with options and recommendations for administrative efficiencies and long-term strategies to align and integrate high-quality early learning programs administered by both agencies. The report is due September 1, 2020.

In separate portions of the budget, DCYF would be provided with $375,000 to support the Department’s work on the required report, and $480,000 would be provided to the Office of Financial Management to contract for project management and fiscal modeling to support the OSPI/DCYF project.

**Early Support for Infants & Toddlers Transfer—($86.3 million)**
The governor’s budget request would transfer funding for payments to providers for the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program from OSPI to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families beginning September 1, 2020. This would be a revenue neutral shift in the overall budget; however, it would result in a $86.3 million reduction in the K–12 portion of the budget.

**Health Benefit Rate Adjustment— ($37.3 million)**
Health benefit funding under the new School Employees’ Benefits Board (SEBB) insurance program is “adjusted” (that is, reduced) based on updated rates for Fiscal Year 2021. Modeling for prior rate estimates used assumptions based on experience from the Public Employees’ Benefits Board; the adjusted rate incorporates new data from SEBB open enrollment, especially regarding plan choice and demographic information. Enrollment information is subject to change pending final verification and resolution of on-going appeals.

**Allocated FTEs for ESDs—($15,000)**
Funding is provided for compensation adjustments to the Educational Service District FTE staff who were previously allocated with pass-through funding.

Additionally, under the governor’s proposal, existing levels of ESD funding for the K–20 Telecommunications Network, the School Nurse Corps and the Student Safety and Well-being Network are moved into the ESD program. This funding, which has historically been passed through OSPI to ESDs, would be allocated to the ESDs directly. With this shift,
funding would be provided as FTE allocations at the ESDs so it can grow appropriately with future compensation adjustments. Increases in this program are offset by decreases in OSPI’s Agency Program and Grants and Pass-through Funding program.

Additional Details

**PERS & TRS Plan 1 Benefits Increase—$5.0 million**
Under the governor’s proposal, eligible members of the Public Employees’ Retirement System Plan 1 and the Teachers’ Retirement System Plan 1 members, would be provided an increase of 1.5 percent, up to a maximum of $22 per month.

**Professional Development**
No additional funding is provided for educator Professional Development; however, proviso language in the governor’s budget would specifically designate funds previously appropriated ($39.7 million) for Professional Development in the 2020–21 school year for training on “racial literacy, cultural responsiveness, and stereotype threat for purposes of closing persistent opportunity gaps.”

**Career Connected Tribal Liaison—$150,000**
Legislation adopted in 2019 (HB 2158) expanded Career Connected Learning (CCL) opportunities to students statewide. Requested additional funding would provide 1.0 FTE staff at OSPI for outreach to tribal schools to facilitate access to and support of enrollment in Career Connected Learning opportunities for tribal students. This includes career awareness and exploration, career preparation, and career launch programs, as defined in law, so that tribal students may receive high school or college credit to the maximum extent possible. Funding would be provided from the new Workforce Education Investment Account, as created by HB 2158.

**No Child Left Inside—$500,000**
Funds from the Governor’s Special Appropriations would be provided to the Outdoor Education and Recreation Account to provide additional No Child Left Inside grants for outdoor education and recreation programs that engage youth in experiencing the natural, cultural, ethnic, and artistic heritage of Washington State.

**Special Education Study—$400,000**
Funding would be provided to the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP), via The Evergreen State College, to study special education services in public K–12 education systems. WSIPP would review the available research literature with a focus on evidence from rigorous research regarding impacts of specific special education services on student outcomes. Where available, the study would focus on student success outcomes including successful transitions to life post-high school, student engagement, disciplinary action, and academic outcomes. To the extent possible, WSIPP would study the cost effectiveness of various successful approaches to service delivery, including both broad strategies and specific services. An interim report summarizing preliminary findings on special education strategies would be required by June 30, 2021, with a final report due by June 30, 2022.

**Teacher Shortage Program—$155,000**
Legislation adopted in 2019 (E2SHB 1139) directed Central Washington University to remotely supervise student teachers. This funding request would provide for the one-time purchase of audiovisual technology and equipment for this purpose.

**Education Ombuds Funding—$484,000**
The Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO), housed in the Governor’s Office, has a goal to reach over one million students and 100,000 educators in Washington; however, it has not yet been realized. Additionally, demand for OEO’s conflict resolution and trainings
continues to increase, as does the difficulty of addressing school safety and opportunity gap issues. Funding ($434,000) would be provided for additional staff and resources for increased outreach efforts, preventive trainings to schools and families, professional development, and a tribal liaison.

Additional requested funding ($50,000) would be provided to OEO to develop a plan to implement a program to promote skills, knowledge, and awareness concerning issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion among families with school-age children. This work would be done in consultation with OSPI and the Washington State Office of Equity. A report with recommendations would be required by September 1, 2020.

Office of Administrative Hearings—$524,000
The governor's budget requests funding for the Office of Administrative Hearings to address OSPI's increased hearings caseload. Additional funding is required to comply with federal requirements after a significant spike in referrals from OSPI, specifically concerning cases relating to special education issues.

K–12 Non-Medicare Retiree Risk Pool—$15,000
Funding would be provided to the Health Care Authority (HCA) to fund additional actuarial services so HCA can continue work on changes for non-Medicare eligible retirees who will retire as School Employees’ Benefits Board (SEBB) members. This would allow those who retire while covered by the SEBB insurance to remain in the SEBB program until they become eligible for Medicare. Currently, such K–12 retirees are enrolled in the Public Employees’ Benefits Board (PEBB) coverage.

Centralized Early Learning Center—$95,000
The governor’s budget requests funding for the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to support the Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors’ effort to re-purpose an elementary school into a Community Early Learning Hub. The Hub is one centralized access point for all services supporting families with children from birth through age three. One-time funding would be provided to help coordinate between community partners delivering early learning educational services, child care, parent services, home visiting, and public assistance programs.

Central Services Changes—$658,000
The governor’s budget requests a series of funding adjustments for all state agencies, including OSPI. While OSPI’s share of the funding enhancements or reductions would be minimal, the total adjustments impact the overall funding level of the K–12 portion of the budget; agency adjustments result in a net increase of $658,000.

- Archives/Records Management—$1,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of state archiving and state records center costs from the Secretary of State’s Office.

- Attorney General—$29,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of legal service charges from the Attorney General’s Office.

- Administrative Hearings—$525,000
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- DES Central Services—$7,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of charges from the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) for campus rent, utilities, parking, and contracts; capital project surcharges; financing cost recovery; public and historic facilities; real estate services; risk management services; personnel service rates; the Perry Street Child Care Center; small agency services; and the Department’s enterprise applications.
● **OFM Central Services—$96,000**
Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of charges from the Office of Financial Management (OFM) for statewide financial applications, One Washington, and other OFM central services.
Dear WSPA Members,

We are excited to share that WSPA will be partnering with the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) to further our legislative priorities and advocacy work in the upcoming legislative session.

WASA publishes the TWIO -- This Week in Olympia each week during the legislative session. In this issue, you will find the 2020 Session Preview and Governor Inslee’s 2020 Budget Request.

This report is attached for your reference and is also available via podcast by clicking here.

We are grateful for the opportunity to join forces with WASA. We encourage you to contact your legislators and use your voice to champion issues that further the education and welfare of our students and protect the funding of education.

Thank you,

Jennifer Tottenham
WSPA Program Coordinator

This Week in Olympia

Updated Job Board

The updated Job Board may be found on the main menu or under "Quick Links."

Members may now personalize their job postings with district logos, additional job information, and direct application directions. Please click here to access the Job Board.

Member Request Forum

Post your questions and get...
Annual Conference

Registration is now open to attend WSPA Annual Conference 2020!

Tulalip Resort and Casino
Pre-conference: March 1, 2020
Conference: March 2-4, 2020

Please click here for event information and registration. We cannot wait to see you there!

21st Century Bargaining Workshop

We invite you to join us at the 21st Century Bargaining Workshop presented by Porter Foster Rorick LLP. This workshop will focus on skills such as bargaining law, engineering, psychology, mediation, district crisis bargaining operations, and union strategies.

Please click here for event information and registration.

WA Educator Career Fairs

Let the recruiting begin! The WA Educator Career Fair registrations are now open:

WA Educator Career Fair: Spokane Convention Center
March 18, 2020

WA Educator Career Fair: Tacoma Dome
March 25, 2020

Please click here for event information and registration
This afternoon, January 13, 2020, the Legislature convened its second year of the 66th Biennial Session. This “short” session is limited to 60 days. With little available revenue (more on that below) and a major election in November, wherein all 98 seats in the House and half the seats in the Senate will be on the ballot, no one in Olympia is betting on overtime this year. (Perhaps the only thing that could force a Special Session is a protracted fight over an overhaul of the two-year Transportation Budget, with expected reductions of over a half-billion dollars, due to the passage of Initiative 976 ($30 Car Tabs) this past fall.)

The political dynamics of this session will be interesting to watch—and the impact of these dynamics are still to be determined. While the House and Senate (along with the governor’s office) continue to operate under Democratic control, both houses have seen changes. The most impactful change is a new Speaker of the House, as the previous speaker, Representative Frank Chopp (D-Seattle), stepped down from the position shortly after last session after 20 years, the longest-serving speaker in state history. Chopp will continue to serve in the House, at least through this session, but he will no longer be one of the most powerful individuals in Olympia. His successor, Representative Laurie Jinkins (D-Tacoma), was selected as Speaker-designate this past summer by her Democratic colleagues.

One of the first legislative actions in the House today was to officially elect Jinkins as its new speaker (while the Speaker of the House is a key leader in the majority caucus, the position oversees the full House and a speaker must be elected by the full body). It is unclear how much this will change how the House operates and what bills will be allowed to come to the Floor, but it is likely many controversial issues that died silent deaths under Chopp’s cautious directing of the House could move forward under a more open and progressive leader. That could include a Capital Gains Tax—which has been proposed for several years, but has never been voted on in the House. Jinkins has sponsored legislation to implement a Capital Gains Tax, so she might be inclined to have a full Floor debate. Similarly, legislation regarding gun control, sex education, and criminal justice issues could see the light of day in the full House.

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**Opening Day Special Edition continued**

**WASA Legislative Report Podcast**

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Join us at the 2020 WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Legislative Conference, February 9–10. Register now at www.wasa-oly.org/Leg20
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**Additional Details**

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**Teacher Shortage Program—$155,000**
Legislation adopted in 2019 (E2SHB 1139) directed Central Washington University to remotely supervise student teachers. This funding request would provide for the one-time purchase of audiovisual technology and equipment for this purpose.

**Education Ombuds Funding—$484,000**
The Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO), housed in the Governor’s Office, has a goal to reach over one million students and 100,000 educators in Washington; however, it has not yet been realized. Additionally, demand for OEO’s conflict resolution and trainings
continues to increase, as does the difficulty of addressing school safety and opportunity gap issues. Funding ($434,000) would be provided for additional staff and resources for increased outreach efforts, preventive trainings to schools and families, professional development, and a tribal liaison.

Additional requested funding ($50,000) would be provided to OEO to develop a plan to implement a program to promote skills, knowledge, and awareness concerning issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion among families with school-age children. This work would be done in consultation with OSPI and the Washington State Office of Equity. A report with recommendations would be required by September 1, 2020.

Office of Administrative Hearings—$524,000
The governor's budget requests funding for the Office of Administrative Hearings to address OSPI's increased hearings caseload. Additional funding is required to comply with federal requirements after a significant spike in referrals from OSPI, specifically concerning cases relating to special education issues.

K–12 Non-Medicare Retiree Risk Pool—$15,000
Funding would be provided to the Health Care Authority (HCA) to fund additional actuarial services so HCA can continue work on changes for non-Medicare eligible retirees who will retire as School Employees’ Benefits Board (SEBB) members. This would allow those who retire while covered by the SEBB insurance to remain in the SEBB program until they become eligible for Medicare. Currently, such K–12 retirees are enrolled in the Public Employees’ Benefits Board (PEBB) coverage.

Centralized Early Learning Center—$95,000
The governor's budget requests funding for the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to support the Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors’ effort to re-purpose an elementary school into a Community Early Learning Hub. The Hub is one centralized access point for all services supporting families with children from birth through age three. One-time funding would be provided to help coordinate between community partners delivering early learning educational services, child care, parent services, home visiting, and public assistance programs.

Central Services Changes—$658,000
The governor’s budget requests a series of funding adjustments for all state agencies, including OSPI. While OSPI’s share of the funding enhancements or reductions would be minimal, the total adjustments impact the overall funding level of the K–12 portion of the budget; agency adjustments result in a net increase of $658,000.

- Archives/Records Management—$1,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of state archiving and state records center costs from the Secretary of State’s Office.

- Attorney General—$29,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of legal service charges from the Attorney General’s Office.

- Administrative Hearings—$525,000
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- DES Central Services—$7,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of charges from the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) for campus rent, utilities, parking, and contracts; capital project surcharges; financing cost recovery; public and historic facilities; real estate services; risk management services; personnel service rates; the Perry Street Child Care Center; small agency services; and the Department’s enterprise applications.
● OFM Central Services—$96,000
Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of charges from the Office of Financial Management (OFM) for statewide financial applications, One Washington, and other OFM central services.
From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: LAURIE JO DUMAS
Subject: WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020

Attachments may contain viruses that are harmful to your computer. Attachments may not display correctly.

Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net
Subject: WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020
Message-Id: <19e3f13b-98b9-4c67-bcd2-9e759aadff05.200008202891.10062.1579289530962@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: ldumas@tacoma.k12.wa.us
From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: Steven Deaderick
Subject: WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020

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WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020 (632Kb)

Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net
Subject: WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020
Message-Id: <b2529f43-0af6-4f8e-8b75-aa9a4bd49d0a.200008202891.10062.1579289532086@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: sdeader@tacoma.k12.wa.us
From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: Lisa Nolan
Subject: WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020

Attachments may contain viruses that are harmful to your computer. Attachments may not display correctly.
From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: Collette Stewart
Subject: WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020

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Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net
Subject: WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020
Message-Id: <652e7867-4535-42ac-b55a-4a213d6296fa.200008202891.10062.1579289529851@memberclicks-mail.net>
Recipient: cstewar1@tacoma.k12.wa.us
Dear WSPA Members,

We are excited to share that WSPA will be partnering with the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) to further our legislative priorities and advocacy work in the upcoming legislative session.

WASA publishes the TWIO -- This Week in Olympia each week during the legislative session. In this issue, you will find the 2020 Session Preview and Governor Inslee's 2020 Budget Request.

This report is attached for your reference and is also available via podcast by clicking here.

We are grateful for the opportunity to join forces with WASA. We encourage you to contact your legislators and use your voice to champion issues that further the education and welfare of our students and protect the funding of education.

Thank you,

Jennifer Tottenham
WSPA Program Coordinator

In This Issue…

1. This Week in Olympia
2. Annual Conference
3. Bargaining Workshop
4. WA Educator Career Fair
5. Updated Job Board
6. Member Request Forum

Updated Job Board

The updated Job Board may be found on the main menu or under "Quick Links."

Members may now personalize their job postings with district logos, additional job information, and direct application directions. Please click here to access the Job Board.

Member Request Forum

Post your questions and get...
**Annual Conference**

Registration is now open to attend WSPA Annual Conference 2020!

Tulalip Resort and Casino  
Pre-conference: March 1, 2020  
Conference: March 2-4, 2020

Please click here for event information and registration. We cannot wait to see you there!

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**21st Century Bargaining Workshop**

We invite you to join us at the 21st Century Bargaining Workshop presented by Porter Foster Rorick LLP. This workshop will focus on skills such as bargaining law, engineering, psychology, mediation, district crisis bargaining operations, and union strategies.

Please click here for event information and registration.

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**WA Educator Career Fairs**

Let the recruiting begin! The WA Educator Career Fair registrations are now open:

WA Educator Career Fair: Spokane Convention Center  
March 18, 2020

WA Educator Career Fair: Tacoma Dome  
March 25, 2020

Please click here for event information and registration.

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**Calendar of Events**

Please click here for our calendar of events.
This afternoon, January 13, 2020, the Legislature convened its second year of the 66th Biennial Session. This "short" session is limited to 60 days. With little available revenue (more on that below) and a major election in November, wherein all 98 seats in the House and half the seats in the Senate will be on the ballot, no one in Olympia is betting on overtime this year. (Perhaps the only thing that could force a Special Session is a protracted fight over an overhaul of the two-year Transportation Budget, with expected reductions of over a half-billion dollars, due to the passage of Initiative 976 ($30 Car Tabs) this past fall.)

The political dynamics of this session will be interesting to watch—and the impact of these dynamics are still to be determined. While the House and Senate (along with the governor’s office) continue to operate under Democratic control, both houses have seen changes. The most impactful change is a new Speaker of the House, as the previous speaker, Representative Frank Chopp (D-Seattle), stepped down from the position shortly after last session after 20 years, the longest-serving speaker in state history. Chopp will continue to serve in the House, at least through this session, but he will no longer be one of the most powerful individuals in Olympia. His successor, Representative Laurie Jinkins (D-Tacoma), was selected as Speaker-designate this past summer by her Democratic colleagues.

One of the first legislative actions in the House today was to officially elect Jinkins as its new speaker (while the Speaker of the House is a key leader in the majority caucus, the position oversees the full House and a speaker must be elected by the full body). It is unclear how much this will change how the House operates and what bills will be allowed to come to the Floor, but it is likely many controversial issues that died silent deaths under Chopp’s cautious directing of the House could move forward under a more open and progressive leader. That could include a Capital Gains Tax—which has been proposed for several years, but has never been voted on in the House. Jinkins has sponsored legislation to implement a Capital Gains Tax, so she might be inclined to have a full House debate. Similarly, legislation regarding gun control, sex education, and criminal justice issues could see the light of day in the full House.

The Senate continues to be controlled by Democrats, but the liberal wing of the Caucus may have less of a fight from moderate-leaning members in their Caucus. After the 2019 Session, Guy Palumbo (D-Maltby) resigned to return to the private sector. While he was only one senator in a 28-member strong Caucus (versus 21 Republicans), he
was known to join with other moderate Democrats, often frustrating the plans of his leadership. One area where he did not always see eye-to-eye with his Caucus was K–12 education—which many times was beneficial for us. His moderate voice, however, has been replaced by one of his former seatmates in the House, Derek Stanford (D-Bothell), who will be more apt to fall in line with the direction of his leadership.

One of the most difficult political dynamics for educators this year will be the not-so-subtle avoidance of K–12 education, especially in regards to funding. For the last few years we have been dealing with legislators who have the so-called “McCleary fatigue.” There is fairly clear evidence in the 2019–21 Operating Budget that legislators shifted their focus away from education and it appears that will continue—if not increase. While legislators may shy away from overtly expressing their weariness with dealing with education, Governor Inslee has no problem stating it outright. When introducing his 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget request in December (details below), he plainly stated the Legislature has made “great success” to fully fund education and to “fulfill our constitutional obligation” to K–12 education. And because of these “major achievements in education” it is “time for the State of Washington to turn our attention” to the homelessness crisis. Now, most citizens would likely agree that homelessness is a growing problem that needs to be addressed; however, legislators and the governor should not be ignoring the state’s paramount duty—especially given that most educators would question whether basic education is fully funded.

It will likely be an uphill battle to keep K–12 education on the radar screen and achieve success in the 2020 session; as noted, legislators are weary of focusing on our issues. Unfortunately, public opinion is starting to shift as well. The most recent Crosscut/Elway Poll asked voters the open-ended question, “What are the most important issues the Legislature should focus on during this session?” Thirty-three percent responded “Social Services” (with thirty-one percent specifically indicating “Homelessness”). Only ten percent of respondents mentioned “Education.” Education fell to sixth place, below “Social Services,” “Taxes,” “Economy,” Environment,” and “Transportation.”

Clearly, it will be difficult to successfully achieve our goals in the 2020 Session, given the State’s fiscal constraints and the current political dynamics; however, we encourage all administrators to be fully engaged in the legislative process, as we will have NO opportunity to succeed if educators are not engaged in the fight.

**Governor Inslee’s 2020 Budget Request**

On November 20, 2019, the state’s Economic & Revenue Forecast Council issued their final quarterly revenue forecast for 2019. As seen in previous updates over the year, revenues again were above projections from proceeding forecasts (November predictions were $299 million greater than September projections), leaving an anticipated Beginning Balance in the General Fund of almost $2.0 billion, with a projected Ending Fund Balance in 2019–21 of $802 million. Add to that significant revenues in the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA or “Rainy Day Fund”) of $2.2 billion and the projected Total Reserves for 2019–21 increases to $3.0 billion.

At first blush, these numbers indicate Washington’s economy continues to grow and legislators will have plenty of money to spend in the 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget. True, revenues continue to grow, but if you look deeper into the revenue forecast report, revenue growth is slower than in previous years and is projected to further slow in the future—while required expenditures continue to climb. Additionally, projected Maintenance Level spending (that is, required spending to provide currently authorized services, including adjustments—up or down—in entitlement caseloads or enrollment and other mandatory expenses, such as inflation) is projected to be $903 million ($517 million for the remainder of 2019–21 and $386 million in 2021–23). Before the game even begins, much of the available revenue in the Beginning Balance
will be gobbled up by required Maintenance Level spending. Finally, while there are significant revenues available in the BSA, those funds are difficult to access, requiring a 60 percent supermajority vote of the Legislature to use. Unless there is a real, catastrophic emergency, it is unlikely Republicans would be willing to provide their votes to Democratic budget-writers, allowing them to reach the necessary 60 percent threshold so they can further expand spending.

With that backdrop, we can discuss Governor Inslee’s 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget proposal. By law, the governor is required to release a budget proposal to the Legislature by mid-December. Complying with the law, Inslee unveiled his budget proposal on December 18. As described in the budget highlights, Inslee proposed “mostly modest changes” and would only increase current General Fund spending by 0.6 percent (after required Maintenance Level expenditures were made).

In total, the governor requests $834 million in increased General Fund spending. This includes $478 million in required Maintenance Level spending and $336 in Policy Level increases (funding for either new or expanded programs). This does not tell the full story, however. His “full” budget request is an increase of $1.15 billion. As noted above, Inslee believes it is time to address the homelessness crisis. He proposes to spend $319 million on the following:

- Funding for the Home Security Fund Account, “to provide sufficient funding for homeless response program expenditures” ($280.7 million);
- Funding for the Housing Trust Fund, “to provide sufficient funding for additional homeless shelters and enhancements to existing shelters” ($30.0 million); and
- Funding for the Model Toxics Control Operating Account, “to provide sufficient funding to remove solid, hazardous, and infectious waste generated by vacated homeless encampments” ($8.0 million).

Because Governor Inslee believes these programs need funding immediately, he has proposed that the required $319 million come from the Budget Stabilization Account, rather than suggesting a tax increase. As noted above, it will be extremely difficult to achieve the necessary 60 percent vote to access BSA funds—even though most legislators in each Caucus have stated that addressing the homelessness crisis is necessary. Democratic leaders have already publicly stated they support much of Inslee’s proposals, but have suggested that using BSA funding is unlikely. (This proposal is outside the budget and has been introduced as a stand-alone bill, SB 6167.)

For K–12 Education, Inslee’s budget is very minimal. Total requested K–12 funding is $143.2 million. A significant portion of that request—$106.6 million—is for required Maintenance Level funding. Only $36.6 million is proposed in Policy Level spending (suggesting this is a “modest” investment is an understatement). To get a quick visual understanding about the size of Inslee’s K–12 proposal, take a look at Inslee’s “Education” highlights. Those K–12 highlights comprise about a quarter of the page, while “Human Services” highlights take up a full four pages; and “Natural Resources” highlights are four pages long. Budget adjustments for the state’s paramount duty, however, are described in four bullet-points.

To put Governor Inslee’s K–12 budget proposal in context, compare it to State Superintendent Chris Reykdal’s budget request (for details, see TWIO Special Edition, Oct. 23, 2019). Reykdal’s request includes Policy Level increases of $65.97 million (which does not include approximately $400–500 million for an initial “down payment” of the six-year phase-in of increased staffing allocations in the Prototypical School Funding Model).
It should be noted that, while Inslee’s K–12 funding request totals $143.2 million, included is a proposed $86.3 million transfer of a program (Early Support for Infants & Toddlers or “ESIT”) from OSPI to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. This would be a revenue neutral shift in the overall budget; however, it would result in a $86.3 million reduction in the K–12 portion of the budget. Which means Inslee’s budget proposal for K–12 education is really $62.6 million in total—and is actually a Policy Level reduction of $49.7 million. Modest, indeed.

Line-item details of the K–12 education portion of the budget follow below. Full details of the governor’s entire budget proposal are available on the Office of Financial Management’s budget website. Included are the highlights of the budget, complete agency recommendation summaries, and the actual budget bills.

This afternoon, the House Appropriations Committee will hold a public hearing on the governor’s budget, introduced as HB 2325. Tomorrow afternoon, the Senate Ways & Means Committee will hold a public hearing on the Senate-introduced budget, SB 6168, along with the governor’s proposed BSA funding for homelessness programs, SB 6167.

This year, the House is scheduled to start the legislative budget process; however, if tradition holds, they will likely not unveil the first legislative proposal until after the February revenue forecast is released. The Economic & Revenue Forecast Council is scheduled to provide its first quarterly update on February 19.

K–12 Education Budget Details

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One of the most difficult political dynamics for educators this year will be the not-so-subtle avoidance of K–12 education, especially in regards to funding. For the last few years we have been dealing with legislators who have the so-called “McCleary fatigue.” There is fairly clear evidence in the 2019–21 Operating Budget that legislators shifted their focus away from education and it appears that will continue—if not increase. While legislators may shy away from overtly expressing their weariness with dealing with education, Governor Inslee has no problem stating it outright. When introducing his 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget request in December (details below), he plainly stated the Legislature has made “great success” to fully fund education and to “fulfill our constitutional obligation” to K–12 education. And because of these “major achievements in education” it is “time for the State of Washington to turn our attention” to the homelessness crisis. Now, most citizens would likely agree that homelessness is a growing problem that needs to be addressed; however, legislators and the governor should not be ignoring the state’s paramount duty—especially given that most educators would question whether basic education is fully funded.

It will likely be an uphill battle to keep K–12 education on the radar screen and achieve success in the 2020 session; as noted, legislators are weary of focusing on our issues. Unfortunately, public opinion is starting to shift as well. The most recent Crosscut/Elway Poll asked voters the open-ended question, “What are the most important issues the Legislature should focus on during this session?” Thirty-three percent responded “Social Services” (with thirty-one percent specifically indicating “Homelessness”). Only ten percent of respondents mentioned “Education.” Education fell to sixth place, below “Social Services,” “Taxes,” “Economy,” Environment,” and “Transportation.”

Clearly, it will be difficult to successfully achieve our goals in the 2020 Session, given the State’s fiscal constraints and the current political dynamics; however, we encourage all administrators to be fully engaged in the legislative process, as we will have NO opportunity to succeed if educators are not engaged in the fight.

Governor Inslee’s 2020 Budget Request

On November 20, 2019, the state’s Economic & Revenue Forecast Council issued their final quarterly revenue forecast for 2019. As seen in previous updates over the year, revenues again were above projections from proceeding forecasts (November predictions were $299 million greater than September projections), leaving an anticipated Beginning Balance in the General Fund of almost $2.0 billion, with a projected Ending Fund Balance in 2019–21 of $802 million. Add to that significant revenues in the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA or “Rainy Day Fund”) of $2.2 billion and the projected Total Reserves for 2019–21 increases to $3.0 billion.

At first blush, these numbers indicate Washington’s economy continues to grow and legislators will have plenty of money to spend in the 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget. True, revenues continue to grow, but if you look deeper into the revenue forecast report, revenue growth is slower than in previous years and is projected to further slow in the future—while required expenditures continue to climb. Additionally, projected Maintenance Level spending (that is, required spending to provide currently authorized services, including adjustments—up or down—in entitlement caseloads or enrollment and other mandatory expenses, such as inflation) is projected to be $903 million ($517 million for the remainder of 2019–21 and $386 million in 2021–23). Before the game even begins, much of the available revenue in the Beginning Balance...
will be gobbled up by required Maintenance Level spending. Finally, while there are significant revenues available in the BSA, those funds are difficult to access, requiring a 60 percent supermajority vote of the Legislature to use. Unless there is a real, catastrophic emergency, it is unlikely Republicans would be willing to provide their votes to Democratic budget-writers, allowing them to reach the necessary 60 percent threshold so they can further expand spending.

With that backdrop, we can discuss Governor Inslee’s 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget proposal. By law, the governor is required to release a budget proposal to the Legislature by mid-December. Complying with the law, Inslee unveiled his budget proposal on December 18. As described in the budget highlights, Inslee proposed “mostly modest changes” and would only increase current General Fund spending by 0.6 percent (after required Maintenance Level expenditures were made).

In total, the governor requests $834 million in increased General Fund spending. This includes $478 million in required Maintenance Level spending and $336 in Policy Level increases (funding for either new or expanded programs). This does not tell the full story, however. His “full” budget request is an increase of $1.15 billion. As noted above, Inslee believes it is time to address the homelessness crisis. He proposes to spend $319 million on the following:

- Funding for the Home Security Fund Account, “to provide sufficient funding for homeless response program expenditures” ($280.7 million);
- Funding for the Housing Trust Fund, “to provide sufficient funding for additional homeless shelters and enhancements to existing shelters” ($30.0 million); and
- Funding for the Model Toxics Control Operating Account, “to provide sufficient funding to remove solid, hazardous, and infectious waste generated by vacated homeless encampments” ($8.0 million).

Because Governor Inslee believes these programs need funding immediately, he has proposed that the required $319 million come from the Budget Stabilization Account, rather than suggesting a tax increase. As noted above, it will be extremely difficult to achieve the necessary 60 percent vote to access BSA funds—even though most legislators in each Caucus have stated that addressing the homelessness crisis is necessary. Democratic leaders have already publicly stated they support much of Inslee’s proposals, but have suggested that using BSA funding is unlikely. (This proposal is outside the budget and has been introduced as a stand-alone bill, SB 6167.)

For K–12 Education, Inslee’s budget is very minimal. Total requested K–12 funding is $143.2 million. A significant portion of that request—$106.6 million—is for required Maintenance Level funding. Only $36.6 million is proposed in Policy Level spending (suggesting this is a “modest” investment is an understatement). To get a quick visual understanding about the size of Inslee’s K–12 proposal, take a look at Inslee’s “Education” highlights. Those K–12 highlights comprise about a quarter of the page, while “Human Services” highlights take up a full four pages; and “Natural Resources” highlights are four pages long. Budget adjustments for the state’s paramount duty, however, are described in four bullet-points.

To put Governor Inslee’s K–12 budget proposal in context, compare it to State Superintendent Chris Reykdal’s budget request (for details, see TWIO Special Edition, Oct. 23, 2019). Reykdal’s request includes Policy Level increases of $65.97 million (which does not include approximately $400–500 million for an initial “down payment” of the six-year phase-in of increased staffing allocations in the Prototypical School Funding Model).
It should be noted that, while Inslee’s K–12 funding request totals $143.2 million, included is a proposed $86.3 million transfer of a program (Early Support for Infants & Toddlers or “ESIT”) from OSPI to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. This would be a revenue neutral shift in the overall budget; however, it would result in a $86.3 million reduction in the K–12 portion of the budget. Which means Inslee’s budget proposal for K–12 education is really $62.6 million in total—and is actually a Policy Level reduction of $49.7 million. Modest, indeed.

Line-item details of the K–12 education portion of the budget follow below. Full details of the governor’s entire budget proposal are available on the Office of Financial Management’s budget website. Included are the highlights of the budget, complete agency recommendation summaries, and the actual budget bills.

This afternoon, the House Appropriations Committee will hold a public hearing on the governor’s budget, introduced as HB 2325. Tomorrow afternoon, the Senate Ways & Means Committee will hold a public hearing on the Senate-introduced budget, SB 6168, along with the governor’s proposed BSA funding for homelessness programs, SB 6167.

This year, the House is scheduled to start the legislative budget process; however, if tradition holds, they will likely not unveil the first legislative proposal until after the February revenue forecast is released. The Economic & Revenue Forecast Council is scheduled to provide its first quarterly update on February 19.

### K–12 Education Budget Details

**Pupil Transportation Adjustment—$39.0 million**
Governor Inslee requests funding to incorporate an increase in the prior year pupil transportation base over the amount that was assumed in the 2019–21 budget. A significant portion of pupil transportation expenditures are due to compensation costs.

**Prior School Year Adjustments—$29.5 million**
Additional one-time funding is included in the budget to provide for payments to school districts for pupil transportation in the 2018–19 school year. Apportionment payments for this purpose in Fiscal Year 2019 exceeded the 2019 Supplemental Budget by $29,500,000; however, OSPI paid this amount to districts in Fiscal Year 2020. This funding is provided to maintain the initial Fiscal Year 2020 appropriation level.

**Mental Health & Safety—$2.6 million**
The 2019–21 Operating Budget provided funding to support a new statewide student mental health and safety network, as adopted by 2SHB 1216. The 2019 Legislature funded one FTE for regional coordination at each ESD. This request would strengthen the network by providing 13.5 additional FTE staff. The additional funding would be used for one additional FTE for regional coordination of behavioral health, school safety and threat assessment efforts, and .5 FTE administrative support at each of the nine ESDs.

**School Nurse Corps—$1.7 million**
The School Nurse Corps program was established in 1999, yet funding has not increased since that time, eroding buying power. The governor requests an additional investment to expand nursing services in Washington’s smallest schools by increasing the capacity for the School Nurse Corps to meet the registered nursing needs of small and rural schools. The additional funding would allow for sufficient nurses to provide one day of services every two weeks to each Class II school district, as well as support staff at each ESD. The funding would be provided as FTE staff in the ESD program, which will allow for the program funding to grow with future compensation adjustments.

Further, the governor’s budget would move funding for the School Nurse Corps from the Grants and Pass-through Funding program to the OSPI agency program. Funding
at OSPI provides statewide support for the nursing network in coordination with ESDs that provide direct services to districts. In a separate item, the ESD funding is moved directly into the ESD program. Decreases in this program are offset by increases in the OSPI agency program.

**Institutional Education Funding—$1.0 million**
Governor Inslee requests $780,000 to increase the enhancement for the differentiated instructional needs of students in institutional education programs. The 2019 Legislature provided enhanced funding for this purpose for an estimated 20 percent of institutional education students, but data shows that the rate of incidence of students with Individualized Education Programs in Washington’s institutions is at least 35 percent. The needs funded with this enhancement may include, but are not limited to, one-on-one instruction, enhanced access to counseling for social emotional needs of the student, and services to identify the proper level of instruction at the time of student entry into the facility.

An additional $200,000 is requested for student records coordinators to manage the transmission of academic records with Green Hill Academic School and Naselle Youth Camp School. The 2019 Legislature provided funding for this purpose at Echo Glen Children’s Center. This additional funding would provide the same support to Washington’s other two long-term juvenile institutions.

**Early Learning Options—$283,000**
Funding is requested for OSPI to collaborate with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to complete a report with options and recommendations for administrative efficiencies and long-term strategies to align and integrate high-quality early learning programs administered by both agencies. The report is due September 1, 2020.

In separate portions of the budget, DCYF would be provided with $375,000 to support the Department’s work on the required report, and $480,000 would be provided to the Office of Financial Management to contract for project management and fiscal modeling to support the OSPI/DCYF project.

**Early Support for Infants & Toddlers Transfer—($86.3 million)**
The governor’s budget request would transfer funding for payments to providers for the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program from OSPI to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families beginning September 1, 2020. This would be a revenue neutral shift in the overall budget; however, it would result in a $86.3 million reduction in the K–12 portion of the budget.

**Health Benefit Rate Adjustment— ($37.3 million)**
Health benefit funding under the new School Employees’ Benefits Board (SEBB) insurance program is “adjusted” (that is, reduced) based on updated rates for Fiscal Year 2021. Modeling for prior rate estimates used assumptions based on experience from the Public Employees’ Benefits Board; the adjusted rate incorporates new data from SEBB open enrollment, especially regarding plan choice and demographic information. Enrollment information is subject to change pending final verification and resolution of on-going appeals.

**Allocated FTEs for ESDs—($15,000)**
Funding is provided for compensation adjustments to the Educational Service District FTE staff who were previously allocated with pass-through funding.

Additionally, under the governor’s proposal, existing levels of ESD funding for the K–20 Telecommunications Network, the School Nurse Corps and the Student Safety and Well-being Network are moved into the ESD program. This funding, which has historically been passed through OSPI to ESDs, would be allocated to the ESDs directly. With this shift,
funding would be provided as FTE allocations at the ESDs so it can grow appropriately with future compensation adjustments. Increases in this program are offset by decreases in OSPI’s Agency Program and Grants and Pass-through Funding program.

Additional Details

PERS & TRS Plan 1 Benefits Increase—$5.0 million
Under the governor’s proposal, eligible members of the Public Employees’ Retirement System Plan 1 and the Teachers’ Retirement System Plan 1 members, would be provided an increase of 1.5 percent, up to a maximum of $22 per month.

Professional Development
No additional funding is provided for educator Professional Development; however, proviso language in the governor’s budget would specifically designate funds previously appropriated ($39.7 million) for Professional Development in the 2020–21 school year for training on “racial literacy, cultural responsiveness, and stereotype threat for purposes of closing persistent opportunity gaps.”

Career Connected Tribal Liaison—$150,000
Legislation adopted in 2019 (HB 2158) expanded Career Connected Learning (CCL) opportunities to students statewide. Requested additional funding would provide 1.0 FTE staff at OSPI for outreach to tribal schools to facilitate access to and support of enrollment in Career Connected Learning opportunities for tribal students. This includes career awareness and exploration, career preparation, and career launch programs, as defined in law, so that tribal students may receive high school or college credit to the maximum extent possible. Funding would be provided from the new Workforce Education Investment Account, as created by HB 2158.

No Child Left Inside—$500,000
Funds from the Governor’s Special Appropriations would be provided to the Outdoor Education and Recreation Account to provide additional No Child Left Inside grants for outdoor education and recreation programs that engage youth in experiencing the natural, cultural, ethnic, and artistic heritage of Washington State.

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One of the most difficult political dynamics for educators this year will be the not-so-subtle avoidance of K–12 education, especially in regards to funding. For the last few years we have been dealing with legislators who have the so-called “McCleary fatigue.” There is fairly clear evidence in the 2019–21 Operating Budget that legislators shifted their focus away from education and it appears that will continue—if not increase. While legislators may shy away from overtly expressing their weariness with dealing with education, Governor Inslee has no problem stating it outright. When introducing his 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget request in December (details below), he plainly stated the Legislature has made “great success” to fully fund education and to “fulfill our constitutional obligation” to K–12 education. And because of these “major achievements in education” it is “time for the State of Washington to turn our attention” to the homelessness crisis. Now, most citizens would likely agree that homelessness is a growing problem that needs to be addressed; however, legislators and the governor should not be ignoring the state’s paramount duty—especially given that most educators would question whether basic education is fully funded.

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Clearly, it will be difficult to successfully achieve our goals in the 2020 Session, given the State’s fiscal constraints and the current political dynamics; however, we encourage all administrators to be fully engaged in the legislative process, as we will have NO opportunity to succeed if educators are not engaged in the fight.

Governor Inslee’s 2020 Budget Request

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For K–12 Education, Inslee’s budget is very minimal. Total requested K–12 funding is $143.2 million. A significant portion of that request—$106.6 million—is for required Maintenance Level funding. Only $36.6 million is proposed in Policy Level spending (suggesting this is a “modest” investment is an understatement). To get a quick visual understanding about the size of Inslee’s K–12 proposal, take a look at Inslee’s “Education” highlights. Those K–12 highlights comprise about a quarter of the page, while “Human Services” highlights take up a full four pages; and “Natural Resources” highlights are four pages long. Budget adjustments for the state’s paramount duty, however, are described in four bullet-points.

To put Governor Inslee’s K–12 budget proposal in context, compare it to State Superintendent Chris Reykdal’s budget request (for details, see TWIO Special Edition, Oct. 23, 2019). Reykdal’s request includes Policy Level increases of $65.97 million (which does not include approximately $400–500 million for an initial “down payment” of the six-year phase-in of increased staffing allocations in the Prototypical School Funding Model).
It should be noted that, while Inslee’s K–12 funding request totals $143.2 million, included is a proposed $86.3 million transfer of a program (Early Support for Infants & Toddlers or “ESIT”) from OSPI to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. This would be a revenue neutral shift in the overall budget; however, it would result in a $86.3 million reduction in the K–12 portion of the budget. Which means Inslee’s budget proposal for K–12 education is really $62.6 million in total—and is actually a Policy Level reduction of $49.7 million. Modest, indeed.

Line-item details of the K–12 education portion of the budget follow below. Full details of the governor’s entire budget proposal are available on the Office of Financial Management’s budget website. Included are the highlights of the budget, complete agency recommendation summaries, and the actual budget bills.

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**K–12 Education Budget Details**

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**Prior School Year Adjustments—$29.5 million**
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**Mental Health & Safety—$2.6 million**
The 2019–21 Operating Budget provided funding to support a new statewide student mental health and safety network, as adopted by 2SHB 1216. The 2019 Legislature funded one FTE for regional coordination at each ESD. This request would strengthen the network by providing 13.5 additional FTE staff. The additional funding would be used for one additional FTE for regional coordination of behavioral health, school safety and threat assessment efforts, and .5 FTE administrative support at each of the nine ESDs.

**School Nurse Corps—$1.7 million**
The School Nurse Corps program was established in 1999, yet funding has not increased since that time, eroding buying power. The governor requests an additional investment to expand nursing services in Washington’s smallest schools by increasing the capacity for the School Nurse Corps to meet the registered nursing needs of small and rural schools. The additional funding would allow for sufficient nurses to provide one day of services every two weeks to each Class II school district, as well as support staff at each ESD. The funding would be provided as FTE staff in the ESD program, which will allow for the program funding to grow with future compensation adjustments.

Further, the governor’s budget would move funding for the School Nurse Corps from the Grants and Pass-through Funding program to the OSPI agency program. Funding
at OSPI provides statewide support for the nursing network in coordination with ESDs that provide direct services to districts. In a separate item, the ESD funding is moved directly into the ESD program. Decreases in this program are offset by increases in the OSPI agency program.

**Institutional Education Funding—$1.0 million**
Governor Inslee requests $780,000 to increase the enhancement for the differentiated instructional needs of students in institutional education programs. The 2019 Legislature provided enhanced funding for this purpose for an estimated 20 percent of institutional education students, but data shows that the rate of incidence of students with Individualized Education Programs in Washington’s institutions is at least 35 percent. The needs funded with this enhancement may include, but are not limited to, one-on-one instruction, enhanced access to counseling for social emotional needs of the student, and services to identify the proper level of instruction at the time of student entry into the facility.

An additional $200,000 is requested for student records coordinators to manage the transmission of academic records with Green Hill Academic School and Naselle Youth Camp School. The 2019 Legislature provided funding for this purpose at Echo Glen Children’s Center. This additional funding would provide the same support to Washington’s other two long-term juvenile institutions.

**Early Learning Options—$283,000**
Funding is requested for OSPI to collaborate with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to complete a report with options and recommendations for administrative efficiencies and long-term strategies to align and integrate high-quality early learning programs administered by both agencies. The report is due September 1, 2020.

In separate portions of the budget, DCYF would be provided with $375,000 to support the Department’s work on the required report, and $480,000 would be provided to the Office of Financial Management to contract for project management and fiscal modeling to support the OSPI/DCYF project.

**Early Support for Infants & Toddlers Transfer—($86.3 million)**
The governor’s budget request would transfer funding for payments to providers for the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program from OSPI to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families beginning September 1, 2020. This would be a revenue neutral shift in the overall budget; however, it would result in a $86.3 million reduction in the K–12 portion of the budget.

**Health Benefit Rate Adjustment— ($37.3 million)**
Health benefit funding under the new School Employees’ Benefits Board (SEBB) insurance program is “adjusted” (that is, reduced) based on updated rates for Fiscal Year 2021. Modeling for prior rate estimates used assumptions based on experience from the Public Employees’ Benefits Board; the adjusted rate incorporates new data from SEBB open enrollment, especially regarding plan choice and demographic information. Enrollment information is subject to change pending final verification and resolution of on-going appeals.

**Allocated FTEs for ESDs—($15,000)**
Funding is provided for compensation adjustments to the Educational Service District FTE staff who were previously allocated with pass-through funding.

Additionally, under the governor’s proposal, existing levels of ESD funding for the K–20 Telecommunications Network, the School Nurse Corps and the Student Safety and Well-being Network are moved into the ESD program. This funding, which has historically been passed through OSPI to ESDs, would be allocated to the ESDs directly. With this shift,
funding would be provided as FTE allocations at the ESDs so it can grow appropriately with future compensation adjustments. Increases in this program are offset by decreases in OSPI’s Agency Program and Grants and Pass-through Funding program.

Additional Details

PERS & TRS Plan 1 Benefits Increase—$5.0 million
Under the governor’s proposal, eligible members of the Public Employees’ Retirement System Plan 1 and the Teachers’ Retirement System Plan 1 members, would be provided an increase of 1.5 percent, up to a maximum of $22 per month.

Professional Development
No additional funding is provided for educator Professional Development; however, proviso language in the governor’s budget would specifically designate funds previously appropriated ($39.7 million) for Professional Development in the 2020–21 school year for training on “racial literacy, cultural responsiveness, and stereotype threat for purposes of closing persistent opportunity gaps.”

Career Connected Tribal Liaison—$150,000
Legislation adopted in 2019 (HB 2158) expanded Career Connected Learning (CCL) opportunities to students statewide. Requested additional funding would provide 1.0 FTE staff at OSPI for outreach to tribal schools to facilitate access to and support of enrollment in Career Connected Learning opportunities for tribal students. This includes career awareness and exploration, career preparation, and career launch programs, as defined in law, so that tribal students may receive high school or college credit to the maximum extent possible. Funding would be provided from the new Workforce Education Investment Account, as created by HB 2158.

No Child Left Inside—$500,000
Funds from the Governor’s Special Appropriations would be provided to the Outdoor Education and Recreation Account to provide additional No Child Left Inside grants for outdoor education and recreation programs that engage youth in experiencing the natural, cultural, ethnic, and artistic heritage of Washington State.

Special Education Study—$400,000
Funding would be provided to the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP), via The Evergreen State College, to study special education services in public K–12 education systems. WSIPP would review the available research literature with a focus on evidence from rigorous research regarding impacts of specific special education services on student outcomes. Where available, the study would focus on student success outcomes including successful transitions to life post-high school, student engagement, disciplinary action, and academic outcomes. To the extent possible, WSIPP would study the cost effectiveness of various successful approaches to service delivery, including both broad strategies and specific services. An interim report summarizing preliminary findings on special education strategies would be required by June 30, 2021, with a final report due by June 30, 2022.

Teacher Shortage Program—$155,000
Legislation adopted in 2019 (E2SHB 1139) directed Central Washington University to remotely supervise student teachers. This funding request would provide for the one-time purchase of audiovisual technology and equipment for this purpose.

Education Ombuds Funding—$484,000
The Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO), housed in the Governor’s Office, has a goal to reach over one million students and 100,000 educators in Washington; however, it has not yet been realized. Additionally, demand for OEO’s conflict resolution and trainings
continues to increase, as does the difficulty of addressing school safety and opportunity gap issues. Funding ($434,000) would be provided for additional staff and resources for increased outreach efforts, preventive trainings to schools and families, professional development, and a tribal liaison.

Additional requested funding ($50,000) would be provided to OEO to develop a plan to implement a program to promote skills, knowledge, and awareness concerning issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion among families with school-age children. This work would be done in consultation with OSPI and the Washington State Office of Equity. A report with recommendations would be required by September 1, 2020.

Office of Administrative Hearings—$524,000
The governor’s budget requests funding for the Office of Administrative Hearings to address OSPI’s increased hearings caseload. Additional funding is required to comply with federal requirements after a significant spike in referrals from OSPI, specifically concerning cases relating to special education issues.

K–12 Non-Medicare Retiree Risk Pool—$15,000
Funding would be provided to the Health Care Authority (HCA) to fund additional actuarial services so HCA can continue work on changes for non-Medicare eligible retirees who will retire as School Employees’ Benefits Board (SEBB) members. This would allow those who retire while covered by the SEBB insurance to remain in the SEBB program until they become eligible for Medicare. Currently, such K–12 retirees are enrolled in the Public Employees’ Benefits Board (PEBB) coverage.

Centralized Early Learning Center—$95,000
The governor’s budget requests funding for the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to support the Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors’ effort to re-purpose an elementary school into a Community Early Learning Hub. The Hub is one centralized access point for all services supporting families with children from birth through age three. One-time funding would be provided to help coordinate between community partners delivering early learning educational services, child care, parent services, home visiting, and public assistance programs.

Central Services Changes—$658,000
The governor’s budget requests a series of funding adjustments for all state agencies, including OSPI. While OSPI’s share of the funding enhancements or reductions would be minimal, the total adjustments impact the overall funding level of the K–12 portion of the budget; agency adjustments result in a net increase of $658,000.

- **Archives/Records Management**—$1,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of state archiving and state records center costs from the Secretary of State’s Office.

- **Attorney General**—$29,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of legal service charges from the Attorney General’s Office.

- **Administrative Hearings**—$525,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of administrative hearings charges from the Office of Administrative Hearings.

- **DES Central Services**—$7,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of charges from the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) for campus rent, utilities, parking, and contracts; capital project surcharges; financing cost recovery; public and historic facilities; real estate services; risk management services; personnel service rates; the Perry Street Child Care Center; small agency services; and the Department’s enterprise applications.
- **OFM Central Services—$96,000**
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of charges from the Office of Financial Management (OFM) for statewide financial applications, One Washington, and other OFM central services.
From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: ANDREA FRAZIER
Subject: WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020

Attachments may contain viruses that are harmful to your computer. Attachments may not display correctly.

WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020 (632Kb)

Sender: waspa@memberclicks-mail.net
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Recipient: afrazie@tacoma.k12.wa.us

000731 (PRR 2020-00019)
Dear WSPA Members,

We are excited to share that WSPA will be partnering with the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) to further our legislative priorities and advocacy work in the upcoming legislative session.

WASA publishes the TWIO -- This Week in Olympia each week during the legislative session. In this issue, you will find the 2020 Session Preview and Governor Inslee's 2020 Budget Request.

This report is attached for your reference and is also available via podcast by clicking here.

We are grateful for the opportunity to join forces with WASA. We encourage you to contact your legislators and use your voice to champion issues that further the education and welfare of our students and protect the funding of education.

Thank you,

Jennifer Tottenham
WSPA Program Coordinator
Annual Conference

Registration is now open to attend WSPA Annual Conference 2020!

Tulalip Resort and Casino
Pre-conference: March 1, 2020
Conference: March 2-4, 2020

Please click here for event information and registration. We cannot wait to see you there!

21st Century Bargaining Workshop

We invite you to join us at the 21st Century Bargaining Workshop presented by Porter Foster Rorick LLP. This workshop will focus on skills such as bargaining law, engineering, psychology, mediation, district crisis bargaining operations, and union strategies.

Please click here for event information and registration.

WA Educator Career Fairs

Let the recruiting begin! The WA Educator Career Fair registrations are now open:

WA Educator Career Fair: Spokane Convention Center
March 18, 2020

WA Educator Career Fair: Tacoma Dome
March 25, 2020

Please click here for event information and registration.

calendar of events.

This email was sent to tament@tacoma.k12.wa.us by admin@wspa.net
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Opening Day Special Edition

2020 Session Preview

This afternoon, January 13, 2020, the Legislature convened its second year of the 66th Biennial Session. This “short” session is limited to 60 days. With little available revenue (more on that below) and a major election in November, wherein all 98 seats in the House and half the seats in the Senate will be on the ballot, no one in Olympia is betting on overtime this year. (Perhaps the only thing that could force a Special Session is a protracted fight over an overhaul of the two-year Transportation Budget, with expected reductions of over a half-billion dollars, due to the passage of Initiative 976 ($30 Car Tabs) this past fall.)

The political dynamics of this session will be interesting to watch—and the impact of these dynamics are still to be determined. While the House and Senate (along with the governor’s office) continue to operate under Democratic control, both houses have seen changes. The most impactful change is a new Speaker of the House, as the previous speaker, Representative Frank Chopp (D-Seattle), stepped down from the position shortly after last session after 20 years, the longest-serving speaker in state history. Chopp will continue to serve in the House, at least through this session, but he will no longer be one of the most powerful individuals in Olympia. His successor, Representative Laurie Jinkins (D-Tacoma), was selected as Speaker-designate this past summer by her Democratic colleagues.

One of the first legislative actions in the House today was to officially elect Jinkins as its new speaker (while the Speaker of the House is a key leader in the majority caucus, the position oversees the full House and a speaker must be elected by the full body). It is unclear how much this will change how the House operates and what bills will be allowed to come to the Floor, but it is likely many controversial issues that died silent deaths under Chopp’s cautious directing of the House could move forward under a more open and progressive leader. That could include a Capital Gains Tax—which has been proposed for several years, but has never been voted on in the House. Jinkins has sponsored legislation to implement a Capital Gains Tax, so she might be inclined to have a full Floor debate. Similarly, legislation regarding gun control, sex education, and criminal justice issues could see the light of day in the full House.

The Senate continues to be controlled by Democrats, but the liberal wing of the Caucus may have less of a fight from moderate-leaning members in their Caucus. After the 2019 Session, Guy Palumbo (D-Maltby) resigned to return to the private sector. While he was only one senator in a 28-member strong Caucus (versus 21 Republicans), he
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Further, the governor’s budget would move funding for the School Nurse Corps from the Grants and Pass-through Funding program to the OSPI agency program. Funding

Opening Day Special Edition continued

continued
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The governor’s budget requests a series of funding adjustments for all state agencies, including OSPI. While OSPI’s share of the funding enhancements or reductions would be minimal, the total adjustments impact the overall funding level of the K–12 portion of the budget; agency adjustments result in a net increase of $658,000.

- **Archives/Records Management—$1,000**
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of state archiving and state records center costs from the Secretary of State’s Office.

- **Attorney General—$29,000**
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of legal service charges from the Attorney General’s Office.

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- **DES Central Services—$7,000**
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of charges from the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) for campus rent, utilities, parking, and contracts; capital project surcharges; financing cost recovery; public and historic facilities; real estate services; risk management services; personnel service rates; the Perry Street Child Care Center; small agency services; and the Department’s enterprise applications.
• **OFM Central Services—$96,000**
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of charges from the Office of Financial Management (OFM) for statewide financial applications, One Washington, and other OFM central services.
From: Washington School Personnel Association
To: Steven Deaderick
Subject: WSPA Newsletter and Upcoming Events January 2020

This Week in Olympia

Dear WSPA Members,

We are excited to share that WSPA will be partnering with the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) to further our legislative priorities and advocacy work in the upcoming legislative session.

WASA publishes the TWIO -- This Week in Olympia each week during the legislative session. In this issue, you will find the 2020 Session Preview and Governor Inslee's 2020 Budget Request.

This report is attached for your reference and is also available via podcast by clicking here.

We are grateful for the opportunity to join forces with WASA. We encourage you to contact your legislators and use your voice to champion issues that further the education and welfare of our students and protect the funding of education.

Thank you,

Jennifer Tottenham
WSPA Program Coordinator

In This Issue:
1. This Week in Olympia
2. Annual Conference
3. Bargaining Workshop
4. WA Educator Career Fair
5. Updated Job Board
6. Member Request Forum

Updated Job Board

The updated Job Board may be found on the main menu or under "Quick Links."

Members may now personalize their job postings with district logos, additional job information, and direct application directions. Please click here to access the Job Board.

Member Request Forum

Post your questions and get
Annual Conference

Registration is now open to attend WSPA Annual Conference 2020!

Tulalip Resort and Casino
Pre-conference: March 1, 2020
Conference: March 2-4, 2020

Please click here for event information and registration. We cannot wait to see you there!

21st Century Bargaining Workshop

We invite you to join us at the 21st Century Bargaining Workshop presented by Porter Foster Rorick LLP. This workshop will focus on skills such as bargaining law, engineering, psychology, mediation, district crisis bargaining operations, and union strategies.

Please click here for event information and registration.

WA Educator Career Fairs

Let the recruiting begin! The WA Educator Career Fair registrations are now open:

WA Educator Career Fair: Spokane Convention Center
March 18, 2020

WA Educator Career Fair: Tacoma Dome
March 25, 2020

Please click here for event information and registration.
Opening Day Special Edition

2020 Session Preview

This afternoon, January 13, 2020, the Legislature convened its second year of the 66th Biennial Session. This "short" session is limited to 60 days. With little available revenue (more on that below) and a major election in November, wherein all 98 seats in the House and half the seats in the Senate will be on the ballot, no one in Olympia is betting on overtime this year. (Perhaps the only thing that could force a Special Session is a protracted fight over an overhaul of the two-year Transportation Budget, with expected reductions of over a half-billion dollars, due to the passage of Initiative 976 ($30 Car Tabs) this past fall.)

The political dynamics of this session will be interesting to watch—and the impact of these dynamics are still to be determined. While the House and Senate (along with the governor’s office) continue to operate under Democratic control, both houses have seen changes. The most impactful change is a new Speaker of the House, as the previous speaker, Representative Frank Chopp (D-Seattle), stepped down from the position shortly after last session after 20 years, the longest-serving speaker in state history. Chopp will continue to serve in the House, at least through this session, but he will no longer be one of the most powerful individuals in Olympia. His successor, Representative Laurie Jinkins (D-Tacoma), was selected as Speaker-designate this past summer by her Democratic colleagues.

One of the first legislative actions in the House today was to officially elect Jinkins as its new speaker (while the Speaker of the House is a key leader in the majority caucus, the position oversees the full House and a speaker must be elected by the full body). It is unclear how much this will change how the House operates and what bills will be allowed to come to the Floor, but it is likely many controversial issues that died silent deaths under Chopp’s cautious directing of the House could move forward under a more open and progressive leader. That could include a Capital Gains Tax—which has been proposed for several years, but has never been voted on in the House. Jinkins has sponsored legislation to implement a Capital Gains Tax, so she might be inclined to have a full Floor debate. Similarly, legislation regarding gun control, sex education, and criminal justice issues could see the light of day in the full House.

The Senate continues to be controlled by Democrats, but the liberal wing of the Caucus may have less of a fight from moderate-leaning members in their Caucus. After the 2019 Session, Guy Palumbo (D-Maltby) resigned to return to the private sector. While he was only one senator in a 28-member strong Caucus (versus 21 Republicans), he
was known to join with other moderate Democrats, often frustrating the plans of his leadership. One area where he did not always see eye-to-eye with his Caucus was K–12 education—which many times was beneficial for us. His moderate voice, however, has been replaced by one of his former seatmates in the House, Derek Stanford (D-Bothell), who will be more apt to fall in line with the direction of his leadership.

One of the most difficult political dynamics for educators this year will be the not-so-subtle avoidance of K–12 education, especially in regards to funding. For the last few years we have been dealing with legislators who have the so-called “McCleary fatigue.” There is fairly clear evidence in the 2019–21 Operating Budget that legislators shifted their focus away from education and it appears that will continue—if not increase. While legislators may shy away from overtly expressing their weariness with dealing with education, Governor Inslee has no problem stating it outright. When introducing his 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget request in December (details below), he plainly stated the Legislature has made “great success” to fully fund education and to “fulfill our constitutional obligation” to K–12 education. And because of these “major achievements in education” it is “time for the State of Washington to turn our attention” to the homelessness crisis. Now, most citizens would likely agree that homelessness is a growing problem that needs to be addressed; however, legislators and the governor should not be ignoring the state’s paramount duty—especially given that most educators would question whether basic education is fully funded.

It will likely be an uphill battle to keep K–12 education on the radar screen and achieve success in the 2020 session; as noted, legislators are weary of focusing on our issues. Unfortunately, public opinion is starting to shift as well. The most recent Crosscut/Elway Poll asked voters the open-ended question, “What are the most important issues the Legislature should focus on during this session?” Thirty-three percent responded “Social Services” (with thirty-one percent specifically indicating “Homelessness”). Only ten percent of respondents mentioned “Education.” Education fell to sixth place, below “Social Services,” “Taxes,” “Economy,” Environment,” and “Transportation.”

Clearly, it will be difficult to successfully achieve our goals in the 2020 Session, given the State’s fiscal constraints and the current political dynamics; however, we encourage all administrators to be fully engaged in the legislative process, as we will have NO opportunity to succeed if educators are not engaged in the fight.

**Governor Inslee’s 2020 Budget Request**

On November 20, 2019, the state’s Economic & Revenue Forecast Council issued their final quarterly revenue forecast for 2019. As seen in previous updates over the year, revenues again were above projections from proceeding forecasts (November predictions were $299 million greater than September projections), leaving an anticipated Beginning Balance in the General Fund of almost $2.0 billion, with a projected Ending Fund Balance in 2019–21 of $802 million. Add to that significant revenues in the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA or “Rainy Day Fund”) of $2.2 billion and the projected Total Reserves for 2019–21 increases to $3.0 billion.

At first blush, these numbers indicate Washington’s economy continues to grow and legislators will have plenty of money to spend in the 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget. True, revenues continue to grow, but if you look deeper into the revenue forecast report, revenue growth is slower than in previous years and is projected to further slow in the future—while required expenditures continue to climb. Additionally, projected Maintenance Level spending (that is, required spending to provide currently authorized services, including adjustments—up or down—in entitlement caseloads or enrollment and other mandatory expenses, such as inflation) is projected to be $903 million ($517 million for the remainder of 2019–21 and $386 million in 2021–23). Before the game even begins, much of the available revenue in the Beginning Balance
will be gobbled up by required Maintenance Level spending. Finally, while there are significant revenues available in the BSA, those funds are difficult to access, requiring a 60 percent supermajority vote of the Legislature to use. Unless there is a real, catastrophic emergency, it is unlikely Republicans would be willing to provide their votes to Democratic budget-writers, allowing them to reach the necessary 60 percent threshold so they can further expand spending.

With that backdrop, we can discuss Governor Inslee’s 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget proposal. By law, the governor is required to release a budget proposal to the Legislature by mid-December. Complying with the law, Inslee unveiled his budget proposal on December 18. As described in the budget highlights, Inslee proposed “mostly modest changes” and would only increase current General Fund spending by 0.6 percent (after required Maintenance Level expenditures were made).

In total, the governor requests $834 million in increased General Fund spending. This includes $478 million in required Maintenance Level spending and $336 in Policy Level increases (funding for either new or expanded programs). This does not tell the full story, however. His “full” budget request is an increase of $1.15 billion. As noted above, Inslee believes it is time to address the homelessness crisis. He proposes to spend $319 million on the following:

- Funding for the Home Security Fund Account, “to provide sufficient funding for homeless response program expenditures” ($280.7 million);
- Funding for the Housing Trust Fund, “to provide sufficient funding for additional homeless shelters and enhancements to existing shelters” ($30.0 million); and
- Funding for the Model Toxics Control Operating Account, “to provide sufficient funding to remove solid, hazardous, and infectious waste generated by vacated homeless encampments” ($8.0 million).

Because Governor Inslee believes these programs need funding immediately, he has proposed that the required $319 million come from the Budget Stabilization Account, rather than suggesting a tax increase. As noted above, it will be extremely difficult to achieve the necessary 60 percent vote to access BSA funds—even though most legislators in each Caucus have stated that addressing the homelessness crisis is necessary. Democratic leaders have already publicly stated they support much of Inslee’s proposals, but have suggested that using BSA funding is unlikely. (This proposal is outside the budget and has been introduced as a stand-alone bill, SB 6167.)

For K–12 Education, Inslee’s budget is very minimal. Total requested K–12 funding is $143.2 million. A significant portion of that request—$106.6 million—is for required Maintenance Level funding. Only $36.6 million is proposed in Policy Level spending (suggesting this is a “modest” investment is an understatement). To get a quick visual understanding about the size of Inslee’s K–12 proposal, take a look at Inslee’s “Education” highlights. Those K–12 highlights comprise about a quarter of the page, while “Human Services” highlights take up a full four pages; and “Natural Resources” highlights are four pages long. Budget adjustments for the state’s paramount duty, however, are described in four bullet-points.

To put Governor Inslee’s K–12 budget proposal in context, compare it to State Superintendent Chris Reykdal’s budget request (for details, see TWIO Special Edition, Oct. 23, 2019). Reykdal’s request includes Policy Level increases of $65.97 million (which does not include approximately $400–500 million for an initial “down payment” of the six-year phase-in of increased staffing allocations in the Prototypical School Funding Model).
It should be noted that, while Inslee’s K–12 funding request totals $143.2 million, included is a proposed $86.3 million transfer of a program (Early Support for Infants & Toddlers or “ESIT”) from OSPI to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. This would be a revenue neutral shift in the overall budget; however, it would result in a $86.3 million reduction in the K–12 portion of the budget. Which means Inslee’s budget proposal for K–12 education is really $62.6 million in total—and is actually a Policy Level reduction of $49.7 million. Modest, indeed.

Line-item details of the K–12 education portion of the budget follow below. Full details of the governor’s entire budget proposal are available on the Office of Financial Management’s budget website. Included are the highlights of the budget, complete agency recommendation summaries, and the actual budget bills.

This afternoon, the House Appropriations Committee will hold a public hearing on the governor’s budget, introduced as HB 2325. Tomorrow afternoon, the Senate Ways & Means Committee will hold a public hearing on the Senate-introduced budget, SB 6168, along with the governor’s proposed BSA funding for homelessness programs, SB 6167. This year, the House is scheduled to start the legislative budget process; however, if tradition holds, they will likely not unveil the first legislative proposal until after the February revenue forecast is released. The Economic & Revenue Forecast Council is scheduled to provide its first quarterly update on February 19.

**K–12 Education Budget Details**

**Pupil Transportation Adjustment—$39.0 million**
Governor Inslee requests funding to incorporate an increase in the prior year pupil transportation base over the amount that was assumed in the 2019–21 budget. A significant portion of pupil transportation expenditures are due to compensation costs.

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The governor’s budget requests funding for the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to support the Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors’ effort to re-purpose an elementary school into a Community Early Learning Hub. The Hub is one centralized access point for all services supporting families with children from birth through age three. One-time funding would be provided to help coordinate between community partners delivering early learning educational services, child care, parent services, home visiting, and public assistance programs.

Central Services Changes—$658,000
The governor’s budget requests a series of funding adjustments for all state agencies, including OSPI. While OSPI’s share of the funding enhancements or reductions would be minimal, the total adjustments impact the overall funding level of the K–12 portion of the budget; agency adjustments result in a net increase of $658,000.

- **Archives/Records Management**—$1,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of state archiving and state records center costs from the Secretary of State’s Office.

- **Attorney General**—$29,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of legal service charges from the Attorney General’s Office.

- **Administrative Hearings**—$525,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of administrative hearings charges from the Office of Administrative Hearings.

- **DES Central Services**—$7,000
  Adjustments are made to reflect each agency’s anticipated share of charges from the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) for campus rent, utilities, parking, and contracts; capital project surcharges; financing cost recovery; public and historic facilities; real estate services; risk management services; personnel service rates; the Perry Street Child Care Center; small agency services; and the Department’s enterprise applications.