

WSCA Legislative Report

After several days of working until sunrise to complete its work for the session, the Legislature adjourned just before midnight Sunday, which was the last day allowed for the legislative session. Long sessions have only ended on time twice since 1980, and the last long session lasted until nearly August. In addition to finishing on time this year, all essential work was completed, including a 2019-21 operating budget, transportation and capital budgets, and several policy issues requiring action by the Legislature at the direction of the courts. Here's a brief run-down on where things landed.

A nearly \$53 billion budget was approved by lawmakers in the final hours of the session, representing a 17% increase in spending over the previous two-year budget. Approval of the operating budget was delayed Sunday evening as some legislators threatened to withhold their votes until their own bills were approved, and the delays almost pushed the Legislature into a special session. The Senate finally approved the bill around 11:30 p.m.

The Legislature adopted tax proposals which will raise more than \$830 million over the next two-year budget period, including taxes on banks, oil companies, small businesses and tech companies, as well as changes to Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET), which were converted from a flat tax to a graduated rate. Lawmakers also approved legislation that increases local school levy flexibility, allowing school districts to exceed the levy cap adopted by the 2017 Legislature.

Unfortunately, the final operating budget adopted by lawmakers doesn't include a significant investment for school counselors. However, it does include a provision to provide targeted school counselor support at the state's twenty lowest scoring elementary and middle schools as part of the Washington School Improvement Framework. The counselor/student ratio at these schools will be 1:250 for middle schools and 1:500 for elementary, and **schools will only be eligible to receive this additional funding if they achieve and maintain these ratios**. WSCA supports this step in the right direction and hopes to build on this success in 2020.

The budget also includes funding to implement E2SHB 1599, which will remove testing requirements for high school graduation. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Monica Stonier (D-Vancouver) removes requirement that students receive a certificate of academic achievement to graduate, beginning with the class of 2020. It also modifies provisions relating to high school and beyond plans, replaces certain graduation requirements with pathway framework, and extends, through the class of 2020, an expedited appeal process for waiving assessment requirements. WSCA strongly supported this bill.

The budget also includes funding to implement SSB 5082, legislation to expand and continue the work of the Social Emotional Learning task force at OSPI, 2SSB 5903, the Children’s Mental Health bill, and increases funding for special education students. Overall K-12 education funding will be increased by almost 20%.

Here’s a summary of where the rest of WSCA-tracked bills ended up this year:

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
<p>Certificates of achievement</p> <p><u>HB 1089</u> (Dead)</p> <p>Concerning certificates of academic and individual achievement.</p> <p>Discontinues certificates of academic achievement and certificates of individual achievement as graduation requirements.</p>	H Rules 3C	MacEwen
<p>Operating budget</p> <p><u>ESHB 1109</u> (SB 5153)</p> <p>Making 2019-2021 biennium operating appropriations and 2017-2019 biennium second supplemental operating appropriations.</p>	S Pres Signed	Ormsby
<p>High school graduation reqs</p> <p><u>HB 1121</u> (Dead) (SSB 5146)</p> <p>Concerning flexibility in high school graduation requirements.</p> <p>Modifies certain common school provisions regarding flexibility in high school graduation requirements; individual student circumstances; and other circumstances that directly compromise a student's ability to learn. Requires a student to: (1) Decide before the end of the first term of his or her last year of high school whether to receive credit for completed high school courses; and (2) If he or she chooses to receive high school credit, decide before the end of the first term of his or her last year of high school whether to have the credit as a grade or as pass or no pass. Requires the state board of education to convene and lead a competency-based education work group by June 1, 2019, for the purpose of facilitating student access to relevant and robust pathways aligned to their personal goals for their career and further education as reflected in their high school and beyond plans. Provides a March 1, 2021, expiration date for the work group.</p>	H Education	Dolan
<p>Learning assistance program</p> <p><u>SHB 1182</u> (Dead)</p> <p>Modifying the learning assistance program.</p>	H Approps	Santos
<p>School notifications</p> <p><u>SHB 1191</u> (Dead)</p> <p>Concerning school notifications.</p>	H Rules R	Goodman
<p>School safety & well-being</p> <p><u>2SHB 1216</u></p> <p>Concerning nonfirearm measures to increase school safety and student well-being.</p>	Del to Gov	Dolan

Youth suicide/crisis plans H Education Orwall

Improving crisis planning in schools to prevent youth suicide.

Finds that: (1) Youth suicide is an urgent public health problem in the country; (2) Mental health issues are one of the strongest predictors among adolescents for engaging in self-harm and suicidal behavior; and (3) Reliance on traditional models of mental health service delivery will not ameliorate the problem of youth suicide, pointing to the need for school-based approaches. Imposes requirements on the following to improve crisis planning to prevent youth suicide: School district staff including school nurses, counselors, social workers, psychologists, parents, and guardians; educational service districts; public schools; regional and local systems of behavioral health care services and supports; forefront suicide prevention at the University of Washington; the office of the superintendent of public instruction; the mental health promotion and suicide prevention program; mental health referral networks; the state institute for public policy; and the professional educator standards board's training program on youth suicide screening and referral.

[HB 1221](#)
(Dead)

[SHB 1240](#) **Suicide review teams** H Approps Mosbrucker
(Dead) Concerning suicide review teams.

[SHB 1265](#) **School counselor access** H Approps Ortiz-Self
(Dead) Increasing student access to school counselors.

[ESHB 1355](#) **CTC counselor staffing** Del to Gov Ortiz-Self
Concerning staffing standards and ratios for counselors in community and technical colleges.

High school grad. supports H Education Sells
Revising academic supports associated with high school graduation requirements.

[HB 1467](#)
(Dead)

Requires a school district to: (1) Prepare a student learning plan; and (2) Notify the parent or guardian about the information in the plan that includes, if applicable, the student's individualized education program team. Requires the student learning plan to include achieving educational and career goals established in the student's high school and beyond plan. Requires the superintendent of public instruction to implement, for the graduating classes of 2014 onward, an expedited process for authorizing eligible students who have not met the state standard on one or more assessments to satisfy the unmet requirements by demonstrating that they possess the skills and knowledge necessary for postsecondary success.

[SHB 1479](#) **Student mental health** H Approps Senn
(Dead) (SB 5777) Building capacity within the educator workforce to improve student mental health and well-being.

[E2SHB 1599](#) **High school graduation reqs.** Del to Gov Stonier
Promoting career and college readiness through modified high school graduation requirements.

[E2SHB 1874](#) **Adolescent behavioral health** Del to Gov Frame
(SSB 5904) Implementing policies related to expanding adolescent behavioral health care access as reviewed and

recommended by the children's mental health work group.

	Children's mental health Concerning children's mental health.	H Approps	Frame
<u>SB 1876</u> (Dead)	Establishes a partnership access line for schools pilot program. Expands child and adolescent psychiatry residencies at the University of Washington and the Washington State University. Requires the health care authority to develop a state plan for implementing coordinated specialty care programs and ensure coordinated specialty care teams are operating in regional service areas by specified dates. Requires the department of children, youth, and families to deliver infant and early childhood mental health consultation. Requires the health care authority to provide online training for behavioral health providers related to parent-initiated treatment and other treatment options.		
<u>HB 1925</u> (Dead)	Adverse childhood exps. Informing new parents about adverse childhood experiences.	H Approps	Dolan
<u>ESHB 2140</u>	K-12 education funding Concerning K-12 education funding.	S Pres Signed	Sullivan
<u>SB 5069</u> (Dead) (2SHB 1424)	CTE course equivalencies Concerning access to state career and technical course equivalencies. Increases access to state career and technical course equivalencies.	S EL/K-12	Zeiger
<u>2SSB 5082</u>	Social emotional learning Promoting and expanding social emotional learning.	Del to Gov	McCoy
<u>2SSB 5141</u> (Dead)	School resource officers Concerning school resource officer mandatory training and policies.	S Rules 3	Wellman
<u>SSB 5146</u> (Dead) (HB 1121)	High school graduation reqs Concerning flexibility in high school graduation requirements.	S Ways & Means	Wellman
<u>SB 5153</u> (Dead)	Operating budget 2019-2021 Making 2019-2021 biennium operating appropriations. Makes 2019-2021 biennium operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Rolfes
<u>2SSB 5315</u> (Dead)	Student support staff Increasing student support staff in the prototypical school funding model.	S Rules X	Wellman
<u>2SSB 5317</u>	School safety & well-being	S Rules X	Wellman

(Dead) Concerning nonfirearm measures to increase school safety and student well-being.

[SSB 5343](#) **High school success** S Ways & Means Mullet
(Dead) Facilitating high school success.

[ESSB 5389](#) **Telehealth program/youth** S Rules 3 Becker
(Dead) Establishing a telehealth training and treatment program to assist youth.

[SSB 5465](#) **Public education funding** S Ways & Means Wellman
(Dead) Concerning public education funding.

Teacher prep. skills assess. S Rules X McCoy
Concerning basic skills assessments for approved teacher preparation programs.

[SB 5512](#)
(Dead) Requires an applicant for admission to an approved teacher preparation program to: (1) Take the basic skills assessment, or an alternative or equivalent basic skills assessment, as determined by the professional educator standards board; and (2) Report the results to the state and the approved teacher preparation program.

[SSB 5548](#) **High school diploma pathways** S Rules X Wellman
(Dead) Providing multiple pathways to a meaningful high school diploma.

[2SSB 5572](#) **School modernization grants** S Rules 3 Honeyford
(Dead) Authorizing modernization grants for small school districts.

Behav. health professions S Rules 3 Brown
Expanding opportunities for students to pursue mental and behavioral health professions.

[SB 5635](#)
(Dead) Extends the opportunity grant program to ninety credits for students in an opportunity grant-eligible program of study, including required related courses, that result in a certificate or degree required for employment in a behavioral health profession, which is defined as a psychiatrist, psychologist, psychiatric nurse, chemical dependency professional, social worker, or other mental health professional. Limits extended opportunity grant funding to no more than a total of ninety credits or for more than four years from initial receipt of grant funds.

[SSB 5689](#) **Harassment, etc./schools** Del to Gov Lias
Concerning harassment, intimidation, bullying, and discrimination in public schools.

[SSB 5801](#) **Teacher postretirement empl.** S Rules X Wellman
(Dead) Concerning teachers' postretirement employment options.

[2SSB 5903](#) **Children's mental health** Del to Gov Darneille

(SHB
1876)

Concerning children's mental health.

	Adolescent behavioral health	S Rules X	Warnick
	Implementing policies related to expanding adolescent behavioral health care access as reviewed and recommended by the children's mental health work group.		
<u>SSB 5904</u> (Dead)			
	Expands parent-initiated treatment provisions relating to outpatient treatment. Allows a mental health professional to disclose mental health treatment information of an adolescent to a parent without consent in certain circumstances. Allows a parent or adolescent to consent to disclosure of information to a treatment provider. Provides liability protection for mental health professionals related to the disclosure of an adolescent's mental health information.		
<u>ESSB 6004</u>	Travel agents & tour ops/tax	H Spkr Signed	Rolfes
	Concerning the taxation of travel agents and tour operators.		
<u>SB 6005</u> (Dead)	Revenue T.O.	S Ways & Means	Rolfes
	Relating to revenue.		
<u>SB 6006</u> (Dead)	Education T.O.	S Ways & Means	Rolfes
	Relating to education.		
<u>SB 6007</u> (Dead)	Cigarette tax	S Ways & Means	Keiser
	Increasing the tax on cigarettes.		
