

WSCA Legislative Report

February 13th (Week 5)

The legislative session has reached the halfway point. Both the Senate and House now allow twice as many members on the floor with just a few voting remotely. Lawmakers are now spending long days and nights in caucus and voting on the floor to meet the February 15, 5 p.m. deadline for bills to be voted out of their house of origin. Saturday, the House worked until 1:40 Sunday morning, and were back on the floor again Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Last week Governor Inslee held a press conference to announce the end of the outdoor mask mandate on February 18. He also foreshadowed a press conference coming next week where he is expected to announce a date to lift the indoor mask mandate. Hours later, Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal announced he plans to recommend to Inslee and the Department of Health that the mask mandate for K-12 students be dropped and the decision for the option returned to local public health officials. The Washington Education Association however urged a cautious approach, citing staffing shortages resulting from current exposures. The Randall (D-26) Emergency Powers Bill, SB 5909, has not yet been heard on the Senate floor.

On Thursday, the House passed 2SHB 1664 (Rule, D-42), legislation to fund additional school counselors, nurses, social workers and psychologists. The bill passed 73-23 after several poignant speeches about the importance of school counselors, and a special House floor shoutout about School Counselor Week by Rep. Monica Stonier (D-49). This bill increases minimum allocations for nurses, social workers, psychologists, and counselors within the prototypical school funding model. The bill also direct OSPI to adopt rules that require school districts to prioritize funding allocated for physical, social, and emotional support staff who hold a valid educational staff associate certificate appropriate for the provider's role. The bill is estimated to cost \$174 million.

Legislation to expand the number of schools that offer free meals to all students passed the House on Thursday. HB 1878 (Riccelli, D-3) requires and provides funding for schools to participate in the USDA's Community Eligibility Program (CEP) if eligible under USDA rules. CEP allows schools with a certain percent of students whose households receive assistance to apply for community eligibility which provides funding to serve free meals to all the students at that school. This bill would expand the program to an additional 626 schools and over 92,000 students and requires the state to cover excess costs of implementing the program. The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.

This week the Senate passed several bills that supporters hope will help improve career pathways. SB 5892 (Brown, R-8) establishes pilot projects to address the nursing workforce shortage and promote nursing careers in rural hospitals by using high school student certified nursing assistant (CNA) programs. The bill received unanimous support. SB 5764 (Randall, D-26), one of the apprenticeship bills, also passed off the Senate floor this week and now heads to the House.

Important Dates:

February 15 – House of Origin Floor Cutoff

February 24 – Opposite House Policy Cutoff

February 28 – Opposite House Fiscal Cutoff

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March 4 – Opposite House Floor Cutoff

March 10 – Sine Die

Upcoming Events

Children, Youth & Families (House) - Virtual - 2/16 @ 8:00am

- [SSB 5883](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning an unaccompanied homeless youth's ability to provide informed consent for that minor patient's own health care, including nonemergency, outpatient, and primary care services, including physical examinations, vision examinations and eyeglasses, dental examinations, hearing examinations and hearing aids, immunizations, treatments for illnesses and conditions, and routine follow-up care customarily provided by a health care provider in an outpatient setting, excluding elective surgeries.

Early Learning & K-12 Education (Senate) - Virtual - 2/16 @ 10:30am

- [SHB 1759](#) - Public Hearing - Requiring school districts and other public education entities to make information from the department of health about substance use trends, overdose symptoms and response, and the secure storage of prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and firearms and ammunition, available through their websites and other communication resources.

- [HB 1834](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning student excused absences for mental health reasons.

- [SHB 1867](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning dual credit program data.

Behavioral Health Subcommittee to Health & Long Term Care (Senate) - Virtual - 2/16 @ 6:00pm

- [SHB 1800](#) - Public Hearing - Increasing access to behavioral health services for minors.

- [2SHB 1890](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the children and youth behavioral health work group.

Education (House) - Virtual - 2/17 @ 1:30pm

- [SSB 5376](#) - Public Hearing - Promoting awareness of the governor's office of the education ombuds.

Early Learning & K-12 Education (Senate) - Virtual - 2/18 @ 8:00am

- [HB 1611](#) - Public Hearing - Advancing equity in programs for highly capable students.

- [SHB 1941](#) - Public Hearing - Prohibiting active shooter scenarios for school safety-related drills.

Behavioral Health Subcommittee to Health & Long Term Care (Senate) - Virtual - 2/18 @ 10:30am

- [SHB 1800](#) - Exec Session - Increasing access to behavioral health services for minors.

- [2SHB 1890](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the children and youth behavioral health work group.

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<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
HB 1149 (Dead)	Public health education Concerning the public health knowledge of students in public school.	H Education Pollet
2SHB 1162 (Dead)	High school graduation Concerning high school graduation credit and pathway options.	H Rules R Stonier
HB 1182 (Dead) (SB 5209)	Crisis response services Enhancing and expanding behavioral health and suicide prevention crisis response services.	H HC/Wellness Orwall
HB 1266 (Dead)	Basic education salaries Concerning basic education salary review and rebase.	H Approps Sullivan
HB 1318 (Dead) (E2SSB 5194)	Comm. & technical colleges Providing for equity and access in the community and technical colleges.	H Coll & Wkf Dev Pollet
HB 1338 (Dead)	School resources/COVID-19 Preserving public school resources during the COVID-19 emergency.	H Civil R & Judi Harris
HB 1404 (Dead)	Highly capable student prgs. Concerning programs for highly capable students.	H Approps Vick
HB 1419 (Dead)	Certificated staff/factors Adjusting experience factors for certificated instructional staff.	H Approps Dolan
HB 1420 (Dead)	School empl/COVID-19 vaccine Ensuring that critical school employees receive priority for receipt of the COVID-19 vaccine.	H HC/Wellness MacEwen
HB 1422 (Dead)	Sexual health ed./dates Extending comprehensive sexual health education compliance dates by one year.	H Education MacEwen
HB 1444 (Dead)	Student supports/COVID-19 Providing trauma-informed counseling and supports to students who were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.	H Education Rule

<u>SHB 1590</u> (SSB 5563)	Enrollment stabilization Concerning enrollment stabilization funding to address enrollment declines due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	H Passed 3rd	Dolan
<u>HB 1601</u>	Student homelessness pilot Expanding the students experiencing homelessness and foster youth pilot program.	H Approps	Leavitt
<u>HB 1611</u>	Highly capable students Advancing equity in programs for highly capable students.	S EL/K-12	Dolan
<u>2SHB 1664</u>	Schools/support funding Concerning prototypical school formulas for physical, social, and emotional support in schools.	S Ways & Means	Rule
<u>ESHB 1699</u>	Work in retirement/schools Permitting individuals retired from the public employees retirement system, the teachers retirement system, and the school employees retirement system additional opportunities to work for a school district for up to 1,040 hours per school year while in receipt of pension benefits until July 1, 2025.	S Ways & Means	Bergquist
<u>SHB 1746</u>	Students/COVID-19 pandemic Updating the 2015 report and recommendations for supporting student success through measuring and mitigating community risk and protective predictors since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic.	H Passed 3rd	Ortiz-Self
<u>SHB 1759</u>	School websites/drug info. Requiring school districts and other public education entities to make information from the department of health about substance use trends, overdose symptoms and response, and the secure storage of prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and firearms and ammunition, available through their websites and other communication resources.	S EL/K-12	Callan
<u>E2SHB 1760</u>	Dual credit program access Expanding access to dual credit programs.	H Passed 3rd	Paul
<u>SHB 1791</u>	Prof. educator reprimands Concerning reprimands for professional educators.	H 2nd Reading	Harris
<u>SHB 1800</u>	Behavioral health/minors Increasing access to behavioral health services for minors.	S Health & Long T	Eslick
<u>HB 1805</u> (SB 5797)	Opportunity scholarship prog Concerning the opportunity scholarship program.	S Higher Ed & Wor	Paul

<u>HB 1834</u>	Student absences/mental hlth Concerning student excused absences for mental health reasons.	S EL/K-12	Callan
<u>HB 1836</u>	Scholarships/disadv. groups Awarding academic scholarships to members of underprivileged or disadvantaged groups.	H Civil R & Judi	Shewmake
<u>SHB 1867</u>	Dual credit program data Concerning dual credit program data.	S EL/K-12	Paul
<u>HB 1883</u>	Youth lifeline Establishing a lifeline for youth and young adults who have experienced or are at risk of entering into public systems of care.	H Children, Yout	Chopp
<u>2SHB 1890</u>	Children behavioral health Concerning the children and youth behavioral health work group.	S Health & Long T	Callan
<u>HB 1900</u>	Schools/discrimination, etc. Improving school districts' responses to complaints of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying.	H Education	Senn
<u>SHB 1941</u>	Active shooter drills Prohibiting active shooter scenarios for school safety-related drills.	S EL/K-12	Walen
<u>HB 1985 (2SSB 5595)</u>	Schools/support funding Concerning prototypical school formulas for physical, social, and emotional support in schools.	H Education	Dolan
<u>HB 2000</u>	OSPI basic education funds Clarifying the duty of the superintendent of public instruction to distribute federal and state basic education funds.	H Approps	Rule
<u>HB 2011</u>	Skill center funding Funding for skill center students for classes in sending school districts with less than 3,000 students and significant participation in skill centers.	H Approps	Rule
<u>HB 2014 (SB 5905)</u>	Outdoor school Establishing the outdoor school for all program.	H Education	Rule
<u>HB 2041</u>	Health care for minors Concerning greater consistency in the provision of health care services for minors under the age of 16.	H HC/Wellness	Walsh

<u>HB 2053</u>	Behavioral health work group Creating a behavioral health work group to study the root causes of rising behavioral health issues in Washington communities.	H HC/Wellness	Dent
<u>HB 2056</u>	K-12 instructional materials Promoting academic transparency in public schools.	H Education	Steele
<u>2SHB 2078</u> (SB 5925)	Outdoor learning grant prg. Establishing the outdoor school for all program.	H Passed 3rd	Rule
<u>HJR 4200</u> (Dead)	School district bonds Amending the Constitution to allow a simple majority of voters voting to authorize school district bonds.	H Cap Budget	Stonier
<u>SB 5043</u> (Dead)	School employee housing Providing housing to school district employees.	S 3rd Reading	Salomon
<u>2SSB 5147</u> (Dead)	Learning stabilization, etc. Exploring alternative school calendars.	S Rules X	Hawkins
<u>SB 5153</u> (Dead) (ESHB 1113)	School attendance Concerning school attendance.	S EL/K-12	Wilson
<u>SB 5209</u> (Dead) (HB 1182)	Crisis response services Enhancing and expanding behavioral health and suicide prevention crisis response services.	S Behavioral Hea	Dhingra
<u>2SSB 5327</u>	Youth safety tip line Creating a confidential youth safety and well-being tip line.	S Rules X	Brown
<u>SSB 5376</u>	Education ombuds awareness Promoting awareness of the governor's office of the education ombuds.	H Education	Wilson
<u>SB 5464</u> (Dead)	In-person learning option Requiring the option of in-person learning unless prohibited by the governor, secretary of health, or a local health officer.	S EL/K-12	Wilson

<u>SB 5536</u>	Collaborative school govern. Establishing a collaborative school-based governance model.	S EL/K-12	Hasegawa
<u>SSB 5537</u>	Compulsory school attendance Changing compulsory school attendance requirements for children five, six, and seven years of age.	S Ways & Means	Wellman
<u>SSB 5553</u>	Early STEM metrics Providing data regarding early STEM metrics in the STEM education report card.	H Children, Youth	Wilson
<u>SSB 5563</u> (SHB 1590)	Enrollment stabilization Concerning enrollment stabilization funding to address enrollment declines due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	S Rules 2	Wellman
<u>SSB 5594</u>	Bone marrow donation aware. Concerning public school instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation.	H Education	Short
<u>2SSB 5595</u> (HB 1985)	Schools/support funding Concerning prototypical school formulas for physical, social, and emotional support in schools.	S Rules 2	Wellman
<u>SB 5596</u>	Health info. disclosure Conforming disclosure restrictions for mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, and social workers to the requirements of the Uniform Health Care Information Act.	H HC/Wellness	Trudeau
<u>E2SSB 5600</u>	Apprenticeship programs Concerning the sustainability and expansion of state registered apprenticeship programs.	S Passed 3rd	Keiser
<u>SB 5601</u> (HB 1986)	School district boards Empowering school district boards of directors.	S EL/K-12	Short
<u>SB 5630</u>	Early learning/basic ed. Expanding the statutory program of basic education to include the basic education program of early learning.	S EL/K-12	Hasegawa
<u>SSB 5638</u>	Mental health prof. licenses Concerning expediting approval for applicants for an associate license as a social worker, mental health counselor, or marriage and family therapist.	H HC/Wellness	Wagoner
<u>SSB 5644</u>	Behavioral health coresponse Concerning providing quality behavioral health co-response services	S Passed 3rd	Wagoner

<u>SSB 5719</u>	Dual credit costs Concerning dual credit costs.	S Ways & Means	Mullet
<u>2SSB 5720</u>	Student financial literacy Providing student financial literacy education.	H Education	Mullet
<u>SB 5735</u>	Async. instructional hours Counting asynchronous instructional hours towards those required by the instructional program of basic education.	S EL/K-12	Dhingra
<u>SB 5777</u>	COVID-19 vaccine/children Addressing the vaccination for COVID-19 requirement for children attending schools or day care centers.	S EL/K-12	Braun
<u>SB 5820</u>	Superintendent, appointing Appointing the superintendent of public instruction.	S EL/K-12	Carlyle
<u>SB 5854</u>	Faculty duties/ethics Concerning ethical performance of faculty duties.	H Coll & Wkf Dev	Randall
<u>SB 5858</u>	Education/parent rights Establishing parents' bill of rights related to their child's public education.	S EL/K-12	Dozier
<u>SSB 5883</u>	Homeless youth/health care Concerning an unaccompanied homeless youth's ability to provide informed consent for that minor patient's own health care, including nonemergency, outpatient, and primary care services, including physical examinations, vision examinations and eyeglasses, dental examinations, hearing examinations and hearing aids, immunizations, treatments for illnesses and conditions, and routine follow-up care customarily provided by a health care provider in an outpatient setting, excluding elective surgeries.	H Children, Youth	Trudeau
<u>SB 5902</u>	High school grad. credits Concerning the implementation of high school graduation credit requirements.	S EL/K-12	Wellman
<u>SB 5905 (HB 2014)</u>	Outdoor school Establishing the outdoor school for all program.	S EL/K-12	Hunt
<u>SB 5922</u>	K-12 education funding Concerning K-12 education funding.	S EL/K-12	Braun

