

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUMMARY

RECENTLY PASSED BILLS IMPACTING K–12 EDUCATION

HB 1079 Remote Testing

Allows school districts to provide all students enrolled in online school programs the option to complete statewide standardized tests remotely, beginning in the 2027–28 school year and establishes policy and rulemaking duties for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

For more information, see the [OSPI online learning web pages](#).

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 49,000

HB 1121 Work Restrictions for Ages 16 and 17

Requires the Department of Labor and Industries to allow a 16- or 17-year-old in career and technical education (CTE) to work the same number of hours and days during the school year as would be permitted during school vacations or holidays.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

HB 1167 Maritime Careers Task Force

Requires the temporary statewide CTE task force to make recommendations for opportunities that lead or articulate to postsecondary education programs that award the standards of training, certification, and watchkeeping credentials.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

*Does not capture funds distributed to other agencies unless noted specifically.



HB 1273 Dual Credit Program Access

Extends a pilot program to increase CTE dual credit participation and credit attainment and charges the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), in consultation with OSPI, to report to the Legislature on the implementation of this bill and with recommendations for additional improvements to state dual credit policies. The preliminary report is due by December 10, 2026, and the final report is due by August 10, 2027.

The pilot program must be a continuation of the pilot program established in section [SB 5950](#), 601(47)(a), chapter 376, Laws of 2024.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

HB 1296 Public Education System

Prioritization of Student Well-Being: Requires that school district policies prioritize students' safety, access to a discrimination-free academic environment, access to the program of basic education, and privacy. This must be considered “an integral part” of school district policies and procedures. Expands the list of prohibited discrimination to include; ethnicity, gender identity, homelessness, immigration or citizenship status, and neurodivergence.

Statement of Student Rights: Establishes a formal statement of student rights, encompassing protections under the U.S. and Washington State Constitutions, including freedoms of speech, religion, and equal protection under the law. Requires educational institutions to develop and disseminate student-focused materials incorporating these rights and integrate them into the standalone high school civics course.

Oversight and Enforcement: Directs OSPI to establish a process for receiving and investigating complaints alleging willful noncompliance with certain state laws. Directs the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) to adopt rules that make a superintendent or chief administrator’s willful noncompliance with state law an act of unprofessional conduct and that they may be held accountable for such conduct.

Safeguards for School Employees: Provides protections for public school employees against adverse employment actions when they support students in exercising their legal rights or performing duties.

Parental and Guardian Rights: Amends a number of statutes to remove conflicts and confusion. Affirms parents' and legal guardians' rights to examine textbooks, curriculum, supplemental materials, and to inspect their child's educational records. Specific changes impacting districts include:

- Schools are required to provide copies of these records within a reasonable period of time not to exceed 45 days; and
- Schools must immediately notify parents or legal guardians if their child is involved in incidents such as being a victim of a crime, being detained for a serious issue, or being questioned by law enforcement on school property during the school day.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 1,358,000

HB 1314 Early Learning Facilities

Amends competitive criteria for project selection for Early Learning Facilities Program funding and establishes emergency grants to be awarded on an ongoing basis from the Early Learning Facilities Revolving Account.

More information on the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program can be found on the [Department of Commerce website](#).

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

HB 1351 Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) Age Requirements

Adjusts age requirements for accessing the early childhood education and assistance program. Children who turn 3 after August 31 of the school year are allowed to enroll in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), subject to available space and funding, when they otherwise meet all standard ECEAP eligibility criteria.

More information on ECEAP can be found on the [Department of Children, Youth and Families website](#).

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

HB 1393 Cultural Expression at High School Commencement Ceremonies

Requires school districts, charter schools, and state-tribal education compact schools to permit students to wear items or objects of cultural significance at high school commencements and other official graduation ceremonies and events.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

HB 1414 CTE Careers Workgroup

Directs the statewide CTE task force to recommend changes to laws and practices affecting the training, certification, and employment of 16- and 17-year-olds enrolled in or out of the program, expands the membership, and delays the reporting date.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 176,000

HB 1483 Right to Repair Digital Electronics

Supports the servicing and right to repair certain products with digital electronics in a secure and reliable manner to increase access and affordability for Washingtonians.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

HB 1497 Waste Material Management

Improves outcomes associated with waste material management systems by establishing and amending various requirements and programs related to food waste and wasted food, organic materials management, and solid waste collection and disposal.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

HB 1556 CTC Tuition Waivers for High School Completers

Eliminates the requirement that a student must be 19 years of age or older for governing boards of community and technical colleges to waive all or a portion of high school diploma or certificate course fees.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

HB 1587 Partner Promise Scholarships

Establishes Local Government Partner Promise Scholarship Programs within the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship Program.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

HB 1609 Board of Natural Resources

Allows the Superintendent of Public Instruction to appoint a designee to the Board of Natural Resources.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

HB 1651 Teacher Residency and Apprenticeships

Describes a teacher residency and establishes requirements for a teacher residency model of teacher preparation. It also establishes requirements for a teacher apprenticeship model of teacher preparation.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

HB 1709 Adrenal Insufficiency Care

Requires school districts to adopt policies governing the care of students with adrenal insufficiency, which include the possession of legal documents for parent-designated adults (PDAs) to provide care, if needed. Establishes eligibility, training, liability, and related provisions for PDAs.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

HB 1722 Emergency Medical Technician Training

Requires the Department of Health to create a process allowing 16-year-olds to begin emergency medical technician training, the State Fire Marshal's Office to assess age restrictions on its training programs and requires the Department of Labor and Industries not to prohibit minors with certain licensure or certifications from working in occupations with high risk of exposure to bloodborne and other infectious diseases.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

HB 1827 Basic Education Services for Justice-Involved Youth

Directs OSPI to examine one additional education delivery model in addition to the two outlined in the Joint Select Committee report. Moves the date that OSPI will be responsible for ensuring the effective delivery and administration of basic education services to justice-involved students from back one year to 2028. Requires additional stakeholder engagement in examining models.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

HB 1878 Young Driver Safety

Implements mandatory driver training education for persons 18 to 19 years old beginning January 1, 2027, with an ongoing incremental mandate for the next oldest cohorts every January 1st through the age of 21, requiring new driver's license applicants under the age of 25, beginning May 1, 2026, and until January 1, 2031, to pass an online work zone and first responder safety course, among other requirements.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

HB 1936 School Employee Postretirement

Extends the expiration of expanded eligibility for retirement benefits during specified employment in the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS), the School Employees' Retirement System (SERS), and the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS). It also permits

retirement benefits to continue for the first 1,040 hours per calendar year for specified TRS, SERS, and PERS members employed in specified positions with school districts until January 1, 2030.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

HB 2049 K–12 Education Funding

Increases the maximum per-pupil limit used for school enrichment levies gradually, over several years, up to \$5,035 in the 2031 calendar year, changes inflation for local effort assistance (LEA) from the Seattle Consumer Price Index to the Implicit Price Deflator, and requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to convene a K–12 funding equity workgroup to analyze options for revising K–12 funding formulas.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

SB 5004 School Emergency Response

Requires school districts to work collaboratively with public safety answering points in addition to local law enforcement agencies and safety and security staff to develop an emergency response system. Provides a list of what the systems should include and removes the encouragement for school districts to use OSPI model policy. School districts must submit another progress report by October 1, 2025. By December 1, 2025, OSPI must compile the information submitted by school districts and report to the Legislature on the types of emergency response systems used by school districts.

Funding was provided in the capital budget, which will be distributed via a grant opportunity.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 6,000,000

SB 5009 Student Transportation Vehicles

Accommodates multiple vehicle types for transporting students. Prohibits the use of the transportation distribution formula to mandate the type of vehicle to be used for pupil transportation, except existing zero-emission bus requirements. School districts are encouraged to use a vehicle type deemed by a district to be a safe and cost-effective manner of transporting its students, including using school buses and other vehicles, and may use transportation allocations for this purpose. Expands the school bus purchase and reimbursement statute, requires OSPI to develop rules for drivers transporting students in Washington State Patrol-inspected school vehicles other than school buses, and modifies the definition of school bus under the Uniform Commercial Driver's License Act.

*Does not capture funds distributed to other agencies unless noted specifically.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 236,000

SB 5025 Educational Interpreters

Requires the Professional Educational Standards Board (PESB) to identify both full and limited performance standards for educational interpreter assessments and must establish certificates for educational interpreters according to those performance standards. By the beginning of the 2027–28 school year, educational interpreters must have obtained a full or limited certificate with exceptions. By December 1, 2026, PESB must annually make data relating to educational interpreter certification publicly available and adopt rules as stipulated in the Legislation.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 74,000

SB 5030 Access to Vital Records

Prohibits the Department of Health and local registrars from charging a fee for issuing a birth certificate when it is requested by a parent or guardian if the child is a member of an assistance unit that is eligible for or receiving basic food benefits for the purposes of enrollment in an early learning or public school program. Eligibility for benefits can be proven through a benefits letter or other documentation sufficient to demonstrate eligibility.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

SB 5102 Public Risk Pool Records

Creates a public risk pool exemption for information used by public risk pools. Formulas and data public risk pools used to calculate rates for pool member contributions or assessments, and actuarial analyses and reports prepared by or for public risk pools are exempt from the PRA.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

SB 5106 Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha

Declares that Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha are recognized as nonlegal holidays.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

*Does not capture funds distributed to other agencies unless noted specifically.

SB 5142 Eminent Domain

Provides owners of real estate taken through eminent domain by school districts, or sold under threat of eminent domain, the opportunity to purchase the real estate back when it is not put to intended public use. However, the bill gives conditions or circumstances under what should happen and when.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

SB 5189 Competency-Based Education

Supports the implementation of competency-based education (CBE). By September 1, 2025, OSPI is directed to adopt rules to authorize full-time enrollment funding for students enrolled in CBE programs identified by the State Board of Education (SBE) in accordance with certain criteria. OSPI and SBE are directed to recommend a process for OSPI to create competencies aligned with the state learning standards, and identify costs associated with this process. Charges SBE with identification and designation of schools and school districts and makes recommendations by December 2025. Directs the Washington Interscholastic Athletics Association (WIAA) to consider barriers to students participating in CBE. OSPI is required to update the standardized high school transcript before the 2026-27 school year.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 350,000

SB 5192 School District Materials

Directs the prototypical model to present Materials Supplies and Operating Cost (MSOC) allocations a single sum per full-time equivalent (FTE) student, rather than disaggregated by category. The MSOC allocation amounts are increased to \$1,614.28 per

student for general MSOC allocations and \$214.84 per student for additional 9–12 grade allocations. The increased allocation amounts are intended to address growing material, supply, and operating costs and may not be expended for any other purpose. Beginning in the 2026–27 school year, each school district must annually report all MSOC expenditures, including but not limited to expenditures in the following categories, to OSPI: technology, including further disaggregation within this category for technology devices, technology support staff, software licensing, and technology or software maintenance and repair; election fees associated with school district board of directors elections; utilities; insurance; curriculum and textbooks not included under the technology category; library materials not included under the technology category; other supplies not included under other categories; nontechnology-related contracted instructional professional development for certificated and classified staff; facilities maintenance materials, supplies, and operating costs not funded by transfers from other funds; security and central office administration; dues and fees; and property and equipment not funded by transfers from other funds.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 81,391,852

SB 5253 Special Education Services

Requires special education and related services for students with disabilities be provided to the end of the school year in which a student with disabilities turns 22, or high school graduation, whichever occurs first. By October 30, 2026, OSPI, the Department of Social and Health Services, the Department of Services for the Blind, and any other appropriate state agency must collaborate to update the implementation plan for improving transition planning activities for students likely to become eligible for services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 29,000

SB 5263 Concerning Special Education Funding

Increases the special education multiplier to 1.16 and the tiered structure based on education setting is removed. The Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) funding multiplier is changed to align with the PreK multiplier of 1.2. The 16 percent enrollment funding cap is removed.

Beginning in the 2025–26 school year, the safety net eligibility threshold is reduced to 1.8 times the average per-pupil expenditure for the following school districts:

- School districts that have fewer than 1000 FTE students;
- School districts that have at least 60 percent of students directly certified or categorically eligible for free school meals; and

- School districts that have at least 60 percent of students enrolled in the transitional bilingual instruction program.

The safety net eligibility threshold for high-need students is reduced to two times the average per-pupil expenditure for all other school districts.

Beginning in the 2026–27 school year, OSPI must distribute safety net awards to school districts on a quarterly basis if the school district is a second-class school district or for students receiving services from an out-of-state authorized entity, if they have received safety net award for that student in the prior school year.

OSPI may reserve up to 0.006 of the excess cost allocations to use for the following statewide special education activities and annually report to the legislature:

- Annually review data from local education agencies to ensure there is not a disproportionate identification of students and provide technical assistance to school districts with disproportionate data;
- Require districts with disproportionate data to complete and submit, to OSPI, a self-assessment that includes an audit of student evaluations and individualized education programs (IEPs) and implement follow-up actions if needed;
- Continuing the inclusionary practices technical assistance network; and
- Providing a funding match to local education agencies that opt to allocate federal funding for coordinated, early intervening services.

OSPI is directed to develop and maintain a statewide online system for IEPs.

Modifies the allocation and cost accounting methodology to account for school district expenditures beyond those provided through the special education funding formula.

Following the given criteria, OSPI must award grants to up to 20 pilot schools to support school-wide centers of excellent for inclusionary practices, subject to appropriations.

Beginning December 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, OSPI must submit a report to the Legislature on the grant program with data on grant recipients, the amount of funding provided to each recipient, and the effectiveness of the grant funds in increasing staff training.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 295,562,867

*Does not capture funds distributed to other agencies unless noted specifically.

SB 5358 Career and Technical Education in 6th Grade

Provides that school districts may offer exploratory CTE courses to sixth grade students in middle school. Sixth grade middle school students enrolled in exploratory CTE programs may not be included in enrollment counts for purposes of CTE allocations. Middle and high school CTE courses must be treated as a single program when accounting for and calculating minimum expenditures, carryover amounts, and recovery amounts. This treatment is exclusively for accounting purposes and must not result in disparate program quality across grade levels.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

SB 5412 School Interfund Loans

Allows a school district in binding conditions or under enhanced financial oversight to take a temporary interfund loan from its capital projects fund, subject to conditions. A board of directors of a school district in binding conditions may request authorization from OSPI to sell district real property. OSPI may grant authorization if the school district demonstrates that the sale is necessary to restore financial stability and prevent adverse impacts to student learning. OSPI is directed to adopt rules as necessary to implement the new authorities.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

SB 5506 Residential Private Schools

Starting July 1, 2026, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families is to license living accommodations of residential private schools, unless exempted, as well as engage in negotiated rulemaking with the SBE and other affected interests. The due dates of the DCYF preliminary progress report and final report on the licensing and oversight of residential private schools are delayed to July 1, 2026, and July 1, 2027, respectively.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

SB 5509 Child Care Center Sites

Requires cities, towns, and code cities to allow childcare centers as outright permitted uses in all zones except industrial zones, light industrial zones, and open space zones.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

SB 5543 College-Bound Scholarships

Expands eligibility for the college-bound scholarships to students who have received a high school equivalency certificate.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

SB 5641 School Instruction on Blood Donation

Encourages school districts, charter schools, and state-tribal education compact schools, beginning in the 2025–26 school year, to offer instruction in awareness of blood donation in addition to awareness of bone marrow donation.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

SB 5655 Child Care Centers Occupancy Load

Requires the building official to calculate the occupancy load of a childcare center based only on the areas in the building where the childcare services are provided.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

SB 5769 Addressing Transition to Kindergarten Programs

Limits funding for Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) programs to amounts allocated in the operating budget. For the 2025–26 and 2026–27 school years funding is limited to 7,266 annual average FTE students statewide. Directs OSPI to prioritize funding for TTK programs already in operation over new TTK programs.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

2025–27 OPERATING BUDGET – NEW PROVISOS

Proviso Reference (SB 5167)

501(1)(c)

Provides funding to school districts for integrating financial literacy education into professional development for certificated staff and may also be used for the operational expenses of the financial education public private partnership.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 4,410,000

501(1)(p)

Provides funding solely for demonstration projects showcasing the processes and outcomes of building school-wide systems to support students in distress and prevent crisis escalation cycles that may result in restraint or isolation.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 4,000,000

501(1)(d)

Provides funding solely for school districts that have been removed from their insurance risk pool due to district financial trouble for the difference between the previous cost of insurance provided through the Washington schools risk management pool and the cost of purchasing private insurance in fiscal year 2026. Proactive and solutions-oriented regional and local technical and financial assistance for fiscal year 2027 is funded. Priority shall be given to the school district that has been in binding conditions for the longest period.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 2,763,000

509(11)

Provides funding solely for litigation costs for N.D. v. Reykdal, United States District Court for the Western District of Washington for fiscal year 2026.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 660,000

*Does not capture funds distributed to other agencies unless noted specifically.

523(1)

Provides funding solely for dual language grants to grow capacity for high quality dual language learning for fiscal year 2026. Grant funding may be used for new and existing dual language programs, heritage language programs for immigrant and refugee students, and indigenous language programs for native students, and specifies amounts to be used solely for tribal language grants in fiscal year 2026.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 1,500,000

523(2)

Provides funding solely for a statewide information technology academy program. This public-private partnership will provide educational software, as well as information technology certification and software training opportunities for students and staff in public schools.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 1,500,000

523(4)

Provides funding solely for OSPI to contract with a nonprofit organization to develop and provide a Latino youth-on-youth gang violence prevention program for students and may offer a parent coaching program.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 200,000

523(5)

Provides funding solely for a grant to the Pacific Science Center to increase hands-on learning opportunities for Title I K–5 students statewide by increasing access to science on wheels and virtual field trips for fiscal year 2026.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 500,000

523(6)

Provides funding solely for OSPI to contract with a nonprofit organization that supports Washington teachers in implementing lessons on the Holocaust for the expansion of comprehensive Holocaust and genocide education for fiscal year 2026.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 500,000

523(7)

Provides funding solely for grants to school districts for ninth grade success. Within the amounts in this subsection, funding is provided for the office to contract with an evaluator to conduct a yearly evaluation of the program's success for fiscal year 2026.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 1,500,000

523(8)

Provides funding solely for the Peninsula School District Aviation Academy to prepare students for diverse careers in the aviation industry for fiscal year 2026.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 179,000

1501(4)(zz)

Provides funding solely for one-time funding equal to \$50 per pupil to all school districts during the 2024–25 school year. Funding provided under this subsection is not part of the state's statutory program of basic education.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 0

2025–27 CAPITAL BUDGET – NEW PROVISOS

Proviso Reference (SB 5195)

Sec. 5001

West Sound Technical Skills Center Modernization Project

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 42 M

Sec. 5002

K–12 Capital Program Administration

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 6.3 M

Sec. 5003

School District Inventory & Condition (ICOS) Data Collection

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 1.36 M

Sec. 5004

School District Indoor Air Quality & Energy Efficiency. Grants for school districts to improve classroom and school building air quality through filtration enhancements, air quality improvements, and HVAC repairs/replacements.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 17.5 M

Sec. 5005

School District Health & Safety Grants:

- Emergency Repair Pool Grant (\$11 M)
- Urgent Repair Grant (\$15 M)
- ADA Equal Access Grant (\$5 M)

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 31 M

*Does not capture funds distributed to other agencies unless noted specifically.

Sec. 5006

Healthy Kids and Healthy Schools Grants for capital projects that are consistent with the healthiest next generation priorities. Includes physical health and nutrition grants. Also includes lead/water testing.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 13 M

Sec. 5007

Career Preparation and Launch Grants for districts to purchase select Career and Technical Education equipment.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 4 M

Sec. 5008

Small District Modernization Grant Program. Provides fully funded capital grants for school building repairs and modernizations to school districts with enrollments of one thousand students or less.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 202.35 M

Sec. 5009

School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) provides funding assistance to school districts that are undertaking a major new construction or modernization project. Projects must meet eligibility requirements.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 429.7 M

Sec. 5010

Skills Center Minor Works Projects

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 5.82 M

Sec. 5011

School Seismic Safety Grant Program provides grants to school districts and state-tribal education compact (STEC) schools to cover the costs of retrofitting or relocating schools located in high seismic areas or tsunami zones.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 151.45 M

Sec. 5012

Distressed Schools. Grants to school districts with demonstrated facility issues.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 14.96 M

Sec. 5013

Agricultural Science in Schools Grant to Future Farmers of America (FFA) Foundation

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 5.15 M

Sec. 5014

School Construction Assistance Program Revision (SCAPR) Transitional Projects

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 24.1 M

Sec. 5015

School Security and Preparedness Infrastructure Grants to increase the physical security of K–12 public school facilities and campuses.

New Funding* 2025–27 Biennium: \$ 6 M