

## Week 9, Sine Die: March 11, 2018

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Sine Die Tree in the spring...

"Believe me, the reward is not so great without the struggle."

~Wilma Rudolph

**Note:** On mobile devices, some hyperlinks to TVW archived recordings may not link to the exact location indicated.

## SESSION CONTEXT & NEXT STEPS

[2018 Sine Die](#) took place on-time Thursday, 3/8 for the first time since 2014. Throughout the session the Legislature certainly did what it took to get through key bills and issues at an unprecedented pace. This session started out fast and furiously with the volume and complexity of bills that were introduced. While last year's Legislature resembled an ultra-marathon with Sine Die finally taking place after three special sessions in late July, this year's Legislature resembled a sprint. Just ask friends and family of legislators and those close to the action...who barely saw their loved ones come up for air.



With Democrats holding a slim majority in both chambers and the Governor's office, there was a lot of energy to address issues that have ended in stalemate over the past several years (i.e., breakfast after the bell and voting rights act). [Check out this NW News Network article](#) that provides a good summary of the most significant issues that passed (and did not) this session. One issue that emerged and was fast-tracked to the Governor's desk late in the session was related to public records disclosure and exemptions for the legislative branch ([SB 6617](#)). While the Legislature passed the bill, there was so much heat from the public that many legislators changed their insistence on the need for this bill this session and encouraged the Governor to veto it. TVW's [The Impact from Wednesday 3/7](#) focuses on SB 6617 and an interview with a long-time public records reporter and attorney shed light on this issue that will certainly be re-invigorated in the 2019 session.

WSSDA's comprehensive [Bill Watch List](#) provides a listing of bills this session that were adopted by the Legislature, as well as those that did not make it through the process. While some bills (such as specific bills to address school safety and security issues) did not pass, they may have received some funding in the supplemental operating budget as a stand-alone, one-time proviso. See the listing later in this report.

The next step in the process of the bills that passed the Legislature to become law is for Governor's office staff to thoroughly review the bills and confirm stakeholder opinions on them. This information is used to inform any decisions regarding full, or partial, vetoes by the Governor prior to his signature. It is important to note that bills that were delivered to the Governor more than **more than five days before the Legislature adjourned** must be acted on within **five days**; bills that were delivered **fewer than five days before the Legislature adjourns** have **20 days** to be acted on by the Governor. All days count in this calculation except Sundays. Finally, anyone is welcome to attend a bill's signing ceremony. To stay apprised of this schedule, check out [Governor Inslee's Bill Action Web page](#).

In the coming weeks, WSSDA staff will be reviewing key policy bills and their implications for school districts. Details will be provided in our final Session Summary later this month, so stay tuned!

In the meantime, it is important to reach out and welcome legislators home, thank them for their efforts, and begin the process of helping them understand opportunities, implications, and needs remaining in anticipation of the 2019 105-day Legislative Session that will begin January 14, 2019.

## SINE DIE WEEK UPDATES & ISSUES

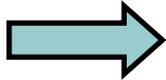
**2017-19 supplemental capital budget adopted:** Late last week, a Conference Committee was appointed and consisted of lead capital budget negotiators from all four caucuses. The committee was responsible for ironing out the final minor adjustments needed prior to adoption of the supplemental capital budget. When the final bill, [ESSB 6095](#) was brought to the floors of both chambers on Tuesday (House) and Thursday (Senate), it was adopted almost unanimously with only two dissenting votes in the House. Final investments in this budget to note include:

- ⇒ An additional \$15.8 million in bonds for school construction assistance. This reflects the state match needed for the list of school projects released by OSPI in July, 2017 and the anticipated list of school projects to be released by the OSPI in July, 2018. It also provides additional funding for nine school projects for escalated costs due to delays in school construction in fiscal year 2018.
- ⇒ A total of \$24.3 million provided to three school districts for Distressed School grants (Toledo, Seattle, and Highline).
- ⇒ An additional \$6 million provided for Small, Rural District Modernization Grants. This includes \$4.2 million for the competitive grant program and additional funding designated toward specific projects in Damman School District near Ellensburg and Wishkah Valley School District near Aberdeen. It is also important to note that three additional districts (South Bend, Lopez Island, and Mount Adams) received targeted funding through this program in the 2017-19 capital budget adopted earlier this session.

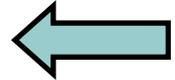
*Sine Die Week Updates & Issues, continued...*

**Strong steps toward “fixing” EHB 2242 (aka “McCleary”) = Supplemental Operating Budget Provisions (ESSB 6032) + Basic Education Funding Modifications (E2SSB 6362):** This last week of the session budget negotiators assigned from all four caucuses worked together in a “conference committee” to negotiate the differences between the Senate and House proposed budgets and to come to an agreed upon final supplemental budget. Sine Die kicked off with both chambers being presented with the [Conference Report](#) and adopting the final 2017-19 supplemental operating budget ([ESSB 6032](#)). The final vote in both chambers was solidly along party lines.

This quick action early in the day set the stage for final debate on [E2SSB 6362](#) (the McCleary “fix” bill) regarding modifications needed for [EHB 2242](#) (July 2017) in response to concerns from school districts with implementing the new basic education policies and funding associated with meeting the Supreme Court’s McCleary order. After an afternoon and evening of debate on the new (and final) striking amendment proposed in the House, the bill was adopted along party lines.



***If you want to cut-to-the-chase, check out [WSSDA’s side-by-side summary](#) of the final supplemental budget (ESSB 6032) and related policy components contained within the final E2SSB 6362.***



However...if you are interested in “final day” debate on the bill, read on....Thursday afternoon a [new striking amendment](#) proposed by Rep. Dolan was brought to the House Floor for debate. The House debated the bill and adopted it with a couple of amendments. [Skip to 1:08:09 – 1:35:10 in the recording](#) to hear the full debate on amendments and the bill’s final passage.

Thursday evening the bill, as amended by the House, was sent to the Senate for their concurrence, where, after much (sometimes contentious) debate, they voted to concur (on a party line vote of 25 yea, 24 nay, 1 absent). There was very little time for the full chambers to discuss the changes or try to make any additional adjustments on the final bill; and unfortunately the tenor of the discussion in both chambers ending the session divided on partisan lines.

To watch the full Senate deliberations [skip to 2:20 – 2:56 in the recording](#). The comments from several Senators provide some insight as to their perceptions and concerns regarding the lack of time to review the striking amendment. Below you will find some of the comments from the Senate’s deliberations.

**Concerns expressed:**

- [skip to 2:26:18 for comments from Sen. Braun](#) on his insights regarding the three key changes that he had hoped to have included in the final bill remaining in the bill) and [to 2:32:52](#) for his description of the issues not addressed in the amended bill
- [skip to 2:28:30 for comments from Sen. Zeiger](#)
- [skip to 2:42:53 for comments from Sen. Short](#)
- [Skip to 2:44:41](#) for the request by Sen. Becker to defer debate so that each caucus could review and discuss the bill in its new state and the response from the President (at 2:47:45)

**Support expressed:**

- [skip to 2:30 for comments from Sen. Conway](#)
- [skip to 2:36:47 for comments from Sen. Ranker](#)
- [skip to 2:39:24 for comments from Sen. Wellman](#)

[Skip to 2:48:42 – 2:56 for comments from Sen. Fain](#) and final comments leading to final passage of the bill.

In all of the discussions, it is worth noting that many legislators acknowledged the progress made on the bill throughout the session based on a much more transparent and open process than what took place with the final basic education policy bill in 2017. Many legislators also expressed their interest and intent to continue discussion on several issues that still need to be worked on in future sessions, including regionalization and levy and local effort assistance policy. Be sure to stay connected with your legislators over the interim as to how things progress in your districts!

*Continued on p.3...*

## THE MONTHS AHEAD: PREPARING FOR WSSDA’S LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Now that the Legislative Session has ended and we are all taking stock of (and recovering from) the past 60 days, it is time to turn our attention toward preparing for the next phases of the annual advocacy cycle. For school directors, this means engaging with your districts to consider new and continuing legislation and how its working in your district. It also means getting involved in submitting proposals for new legislative positions to be considered by WSSDA’s Legislative Assembly in September.

Here the key dates in this process:

- ⇒ March 15: Position proposal submission window opens
- ⇒ March 16 (12 - 1pm): [Informational Webinar: Get Ready for WSSDA’s Legislative Assembly](#) (join live or view the recording to learn about the process and things to consider).
- ⇒ April 30 (5pm): Position proposal submission window closes
- ⇒ June & July: WSSDA’s Legislative Committee reviews and refines positions for consideration by the assembly
- ⇒ Mid to Late August: Regional outreach sessions to help boards get ready for the assembly
- ⇒ September 21 & 22: Legislative Assembly in Spokane, WA



*Sine Die Week Updates & Issues, continued...*

**Additional K-12 investments funded in supplemental operating budget (ESSB 6032):** Many of the additional investments made by the Legislature to fund bills passed this session and to continue existing work are easily overshadowed by efforts to finally fulfill the state's basic education obligations. Below you'll find a quick snapshot of several of the new investments. Note, more details as to implementation implications for districts are forthcoming in WSSDA's final Session Summary later in March.

- **High School Pre-apprenticeships** – Funding is provided for the implementation of [SHB 2685](#) (high sch. preapprenticeships) which, among other provisions, requires OSPI to convene a workgroup.
- **Dyslexia Disability and Screening** – Funding is provided to implement [E2SSB 6162](#) (dyslexia). This bill requires public and charter schools to screen all children for dyslexia in Kindergarten through grade 3. OSPI must reconvene a Dyslexia Advisory Council, identify dyslexia screening tools, and collect screening data from the schools.
- **Suicide Prevention Training** – Funding is provided for training to help school staff recognize and respond to distress in students, including suicide prevention.
- **College Bound Outreach** – Funding is provided to add a regional officer focused on College Bound student success to serve the coastal and peninsula regions. Washington's College Bound program provides support and guidance for low-income students as they progress through high school and into the College Bound Scholarship.
- **Science Standards Professional Learning** – Funding is provided for grants to school districts and Educational Service Districts to support professional learning in the Next Generation Science Standards to include training on climate change literacy.
- **Sexual Abuse Prevention** – Funding is provided for the implementation of [SHB 1539](#) (sexual abuse of students) which, among other provisions, requires OSPI to implement a prevention program, coordinate curricula review, and provide a report to the Legislature.
- **Children's Mental Health Services** – Funding is provided for the delivery of mental health instruction in two high school pilot sites (consistent with [ESSB 2779](#) (children mental health serv.).
- **Career and College Readiness** – Funding is provided for the implementation of [E2SHB 1600](#) (career and college readiness) which, among other provisions, requires OSPI to convene a temporary Work-Integrated Learning Advisory Committee.
- **Dual Language - Bilingual Educator Initiative** – Funding is provided to the Public Educator Standards Board (PESB) to cover costs for a Bilingual Educator Initiative pilot program. Pilot projects will be implemented in one or two districts on each side of the state and support students from middle school through college on their paths to become educators. Additionally, funding is provided to increase the current funding for the Dual Language Grant Program created in 2017 ([SHB 1445](#)).
- **Sexual Health Education** – Funding is provided to meet statutory obligations related to the provision of medically and scientifically accurate, age-appropriate and inclusive sexual health education as authorized by the 1988 AIDS Omnibus Act and the 2007 Healthy Youth Act.
- **Holocaust Education Resources** – Funding is provided for programs to combat bias to include an online encyclopedia of local holocaust education resources and to expand current anti-bias programs to twelve public schools across Washington state.
- **School Safety Grants** – Funding is provided to expand regional safety, multi-tier threat assessment system, and notification to schools to address student safety.
- **Equity in Student Discipline** – Funding is provided for additional staff at OSPI to develop and implement a targeted technical assistance and monitoring process to address concerns about equity in student discipline around the state. Additional program staff will provide support to districts to implement evidence-based practices to eliminate these disparities.
- **Civic Education Grant** – Funding is provided for the civic education travel grant program pursuant to [RCW 28A.300.480](#).
- **E-Rate Programs** – Funding is provided to enable more student access to digital learning through the e-rate program.
- **OSPI Office of Native Education** – Funding is provided to the OSPI to increase services to tribes. This includes providing assistance to implement Since Time Immemorial, convening the Washington state Native American education advisory committee, and extending professional learning.
- **Special Ed Paraeducator Training** – Funding is provided to the PESB to provide oversight to procure or develop professional special education and transitional bilingual instructional program paraeducator specialty certificates. This is one-time funding.
- **Pupil Transportation Study** – Funding authority is provided for activities related to a study of the current state pupil transportation funding formula.
- **Civics Learning** – Funding is provided for the implementation of [2SHB 1896](#) (civics education) which, among other provisions, requires OSPI to expand its civics education teacher training program.
- **Legislative Youth Advisory Council (LYAC)** – Funding is provided for the legislative youth advisory council. The council advises legislators on issues of importance to youth.
- **Student Meals & Nutrition** – Funding is provided to implement [2ESHB 1508](#) (student meals and nutrition). This bill requires high-needs schools to offer breakfast to students after the start of the school day.
- **School Meal Payments** – Funding is provided for the implementation of [ESHB 2610](#) (school meal payment) which, among other provisions, requires OSPI to collect, analyze, and promote best practices in local meal charge policies.
- **Financial Literacy Public Private Partnership (FEPPI)** – Funding is provided for OSPI to promote the financial literacy of students. The effort will be coordinated through the financial literacy public-private partnership.
- **Junior Achievement** – Funding is provided for grants to implement a program that provides hands-on education in financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship.

*Sine Die Week Updates & Issues, continued...*

**Property tax relief approaches debated and final bill adopted:** [SB 6614](#) (regarding funding for common schools and property tax relief) – this bill was debated by the Senate on Wednesday, 3/7. When the bill was brought to the Senate floor for discussion, several amendments were offered. The [striking amendment](#) proposed by Ways & Means Committee Chair, Senator Rolfes, created quite a bit of a stir as it creates a one-year state property tax reduction and adjusts contribution to the state's rainy day fund, the Budget Stabilization Account (BSA). [Watch the recording from the start through 1:14:33](#) to hear the Senate's debate on the bill.

Thursday, 3/8, the House Finance Committee hosted the final public hearing and committee vote of the session. The [Bill Report for ESSB 6614](#) provides a good summary of the policy, as does the committee's questions of committee staff during the bill's introduction ([minutes 3:39 – 9 in the recording](#)). The one person who spoke to the bill was a representative from the State Treasurer's office testifying with strong cautions against the bill as to the precedent it could set for future actions related to the BSA. [Skip to minutes 9:30 – 23 in the recording](#) to hear his testimony and discussion with the committee. After the committee's passing vote (on party lines), the bill was then fast-tracked to the House floor for debate and a vote ([skip to minutes 2:18 – 26:10 in the recording](#)).

The Washington Research Council followed this issue closely and has a [series of legislative updates from this week](#) that provide a good summary of the issue and debate on this policy.



## STAY CONNECTED

WSSDA and other education partners in the state are committed to developing and sharing resources to help our members learn about these issues and to communicate about them effectively.

### WSSDA Resources:

- [WSSDA Legislative Updates & Bill Watch](#)
- [School Board Legislative Representatives](#)—Resources for Leg. Reps to help navigate the legislative process
- WSSDA's [2018 Legislative Committee](#)
- Online [Advocacy & Learning Resources](#) for School Board Directors

### WA State Legislature

- [2018 Legislative Contact Roster](#) (updated 3/1/18)
- [Legislative Information Center](#)
- [Bill Information and Tracking](#)

**TWV** - TWV's weekly programming is a great way to stay connected with broad legislative issues: *Inside Olympia*, *The Impact*, daily and weekly [Legislative Review](#), and live and archived recordings of committee hearings and work sessions.



## UPCOMING EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### Register Today!

**March 15—April 30:** WSSDA legislative position solicitation process (new and continuing positions) Informational Webinar to be held **March 16, 12-1pm**. [Click here for more information](#).

**September 21 & 22:** WSSDA Legislative Assembly (Spokane)

**March 31:** [Policy Governance Networking Summit](#)

**March—May:** [WSSDA Spring Regional Meetings](#)

**May 23:** [WSSDA/WASA/AWSP Equity Conference: From the boardroom to the classroom](#)

