



# 2021 SESSION REVIEW

## Education

### Key changes

- Multiple “equity” policies were the focus in education policy this year including required trainings for all school board members and staff.
- Some policies were passed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic including a mechanism to grant emergency graduation waivers and greater flexibility in funding for school districts.
- Schools will need to balance all of this new legislation while also recovering from the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Background

Going into session this year, the biggest question from students and parents was when schools would open back up for in-person instruction after most schools were still operating remotely due to COVID-19. Despite attempts from Republicans to push the subject, Democrats chose to focus on other education policy areas. Additionally, Democrats continue to fail students and families who choose (or want) to be in a charter school. No further charter schools can be established and equitable funding for charter schools was stripped from the final budget.

### Bills

- ✓ [House Bill 1028](#) (Bergquist/McCaslin) – **Removing the Performance Assessment for Teacher Candidates (edTPA).** Removes the state requirement for teacher candidates to pass the edTPA. The Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) may not adopt rules requiring that candidates for residency teacher certification take or pass a uniform, statewide performance assessment of teaching effectiveness. The policy is retroactive for teacher candidates who failed to pass the edTPA prior to the bill passing. *Passed House 96-0-2. Signed by Governor. Effective May 5, 2021.*
- ✓ [House Bill 1121](#) (Santos/Ybarra) – **Graduation Requirement Waivers During an Emergency.** Authorizes the State Board of Education to permit public and private schools to grant individual student emergency waivers from credit and subject area graduation requirements, graduation pathway requirements, or both, due to a significant disruption from a local, state, or national emergency. Makes students in the graduating class of 2020 and subsequent classes eligible for the emergency waiver program. *Passed House 85-11-2. Signed by Governor. Effective March 2, 2021.*
- ✓ [House Bill 1139](#) (Pollet) – **Mitigating Lead in Drinking Water in Schools.** Requires public schools with buildings built, or with all plumbing replaced, before 2016, to have drinking water outlets tested for lead contamination and to communicate those test results with students’ families and staff and take specific actions if the result exceed five parts per billion including shutting down the outlet and adopting a school action plan to fix the outlet. Requires the Dept. of Health to conduct lead testing of drinking water in public elementary and secondary schools. *Passed House 91-5-2. Signed by Governor. Effective July 25, 2021.*
- ✓ [House Bill 1176](#) (Paul) – **Prohibiting Schools from Withholding Transcripts or Grades Due to Unpaid Fines and Fees.** Removes the authority for school districts to withhold grades and transcripts from students who are responsible for damaging school property, or property belonging to a contractor of the district, an employee, or another student.

Removes the authority of public and private schools to withhold a transferring student's official transcript due to: an unpaid fine or fee for damaging school property or property belonging to other specified parties; or unpaid tuition, fees, or fines at an approved private school. *Passed House 58-40. Signed by Governor. Effective July 25, 2021.*

- ✓ [House Bill 1208](#) (Santos/Steele) – **Changing the Allowable Uses for the Learning Assistance Program (LAP)**. Requires that school districts budget and expend LAP funds: (1) immediately and temporarily, to identify and address the academic and nonacademic needs of students resulting from and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and (2) at the end of the Governor-declared state of emergency due to COVID-19 or beginning September 1, 2025, whichever is later, using the framework of the Washington Integrated Student Supports Protocol (WISSP). It also expands the Extended Learning Opportunity Program to ninth and tenth graders. *Passed House 93-5. Signed by Governor. Varying effective dates. See Final Bill Report for effective dates.*
- ✓ [House Bill 1214](#) (Senn) – **Expanding Requirements for School Safety Staff**. Specifies policy and procedure requirements for safety and security staff (including the role of the security staff, a complaint process related to security staff and communication of the role and responsibilities to students and their families). Provides minimum requirements for safety and security staff agreements (including an evaluation process, and involvement of students and the community in the agreement's review and adoption). Requires specific training be completed in order to work on school property when students are present including the existing classroom training that school resource officers (SROs) already have had to take, and two days of on-the-job training with experienced safety and security staff, within the first year of working at a school. Safety and security staff who are not SROs must complete at least six check-in trainings with experienced staff within the first year of working at a school. *Passed House 67-30-1. Signed by Governor. Effective July 25, 2021.*
- ✓ [House Bill 1295](#) (Callan) – **Increased Support for Institutional Education**. Establishes new and modified duties for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), and the State Board of Education to educate youth in or released from secure facilities, including duties related to education access and delivery (credit/dropout reengagement), student supports (IEPs/other services), data collection and reporting, and facility policies (attendance/lockdowns). Requires one day of professional development for institutional ed staff annually. Directs OSPI and DCYF to jointly develop recommendations by November 1, 2022, for the establishment, implementation, and funding of a reformed institutional education system. *Passed House 96-0-2. Signed by Governor. Effective July 25, 2021.*
- ✓ [House Bill 1356](#) (Lekanoff) – **Prohibiting Use of Native American Logos, Mascots, and Team Names**. Prohibits public schools from using Native American names, symbols, or images as school mascots, logos, or team names. Schools can be exempted if they consult with the applicable local tribe or tribes in their area and receive authorization from the tribes. Allows for the phasing out of uniforms or other materials bearing Native American names, symbols, or images as mascots, logos, or team names and creates a grant program for schools to implement the transition. *Passed House 90-8. Signed by Governor. Effective July 25, 2021.*
- ✓ [House Bill 1365](#) (Gregerson) – **Computers and Technology Support for Students and Staff**. Directs OSPI to develop and administer a technology grant program to help schools attain a universal 1:1 student to learning device ratio and to support staff, students, and families in using technology to support student learning. Requires each educational service district to provide technology consultation, procurement, and training to local public schools. Requires a report to the Legislature with technology levy information. Directs OSPI to establish a grant program to support media literacy and digital citizenship and to convene two regional conferences on this topic. *Passed House 61-36-1. Delivered to Governor. Effective July 25, 2021.*
- ✓ [House Bill 1426](#) (Santos) – **Requiring a Proportion of Teacher and Administrator Continuing Education to Include Certain Equity Training**. To renew an administrator certificate on or after July 1, 2023, continuing education must meet the following requirements: 10% must focus on equity-based school practices; 10% must focus on the national professional standards for education leaders; and 5% must focus on government-to-government relationships with

federally recognized tribes. To renew a teacher certificate on or after July 1, 2023, 15% of continuing education must focus on equity-based school practices. *Passed House 74-24. Signed by Governor. Effective July 25, 2021.*

- ✓ [Senate Bill 5044](#) (Das) – **Requiring All School Board Members and Staff to Take Training on Cultural Competence, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (CCDEI)**. Directs the school directors' association (WSSDA) and the educator standards board (PESB) to separately develop standards on CCDEI, to collaborate to align the standards, and to separately review the standards every 10 years. Requires each member of a board of directors to complete a governance training program aligned with the CCDEI standards, provided by WSSDA, at least once every four years beginning with the 2022 calendar year. In the 2021-22 school year, districts must use one of the state-funded professional learning days to train all school staff on CCDEI. Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, school districts are required to use one of the state-funded professional learning days every other year to provide a variety of opportunities for training, professional development, and professional learning aligned with the CCDEI standards of practice developed by the PESB, which must include training on multicultural education and principals of language acquisition. Requires alignment of paraeducator and educator preparation and development programs to the CCDEI standards. *Passed House 57-40-1. Signed by Governor. Effective July 25, 2021.*
- ✓ [Senate Bill 5299](#) (Wellman) – **Waiving a Math or Science Credit for Computer Science**. Allows students, upon approval, to substitute a computer science course for a third-year mathematics or science course in order to meet graduation requirements. Specifies that the substituted computer science course must align with the student's High School and Beyond Plan and that the student be made aware of the impact on postsecondary opportunities. *Passed House 75-23. Delivered to Governor. Effective July 25, 2021.*
- ✗ [House Bill 1195](#) (Dolan) – **Extending the Timeline to Establish New Charter Schools**. This would have extended the timeframe for establishing up to 40 total charter schools by five years to April 3, 2026 (currently there are less than 20). *Died in the House Education Committee.*

## Budget information

Significant funding is provided to school districts from state and federal resources. Approximately \$1.7 billion in federal ESSER funds are provided to districts, with portions set aside for learning loss. Certain districts are backfilled for enrollment-related funding declines that were not otherwise offset by federal grants. The budget includes funding for learning devices, an increase to MSOC allocations in the school funding formula, the elimination of school lunch copays, paraeducator training, and additional special education supports include services for students with disabilities.

**K-12 spending by school year (state + federal ESSER only) under the conference budget:**

	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
<b>Total State + Federal ESSER</b>	\$13.56 billion	\$14.60 billion	\$15.73 billion	\$14.47 billion	\$14.69 billion
<b>Enrollment</b>	1,103,195	1,060,601	1,113,083	1,116,583	1,120,838
<b>State Per Pupil</b>	\$12,277	\$12,563	\$12,620	\$12,956	\$13,103
<b>State + Federal ESSER Per Pupil</b>	\$12,294	\$13,770	\$14,129	\$12,956	\$13,103