

Episode 22 Show Notes: Legislative Session: School Funding and Special Education.

In this episode of Seattle Hall Pass, Christie and Jane delve into the developments shaping K-12 education in the 2024 Washington State Legislative Session. Tune in for a clear breakdown of legislative developments and a preview of what to expect in the coming week. Topics covered include special education, school lunch, and more.

Testify or Note Your Support for a Bill

- To testify or register your position for the legislative record, go to [this link](#), select senate or house, search for the committee, and then the bill.

Legislative Calendar

- [2024 Session Cutoff Calendar](#)

Find your legislator

- To find your legislator and let your voice be heard, use [this tool](#).

Legislature Committees

Links below include info on committee members, meetings, agendas, documents, and more

- [House Education Committee](#)
- [House Finance Committee](#)
- [House Appropriations Committee](#)
- [Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee](#)
- [Senate Ways & Means](#)

Bills

Links below include links to bill text, supporting documents, and videos of legislative work sessions and meetings

- [House Bill 1239: Establishing a simple and uniform system for complaints related to, and instituting a code of educator ethics for, conduct within or involving public elementary and secondary schools.](#)
- [House Bill 1914: Improving the education of students with varying abilities by enhancing special education services.](#)
- [House Bill 2058: Increasing student access to free meals served at public schools.](#)
- [House Bill 2092: Concerning school construction assistance program funding for preschool and before-and-after school care program enrollments.](#)
- [Senate Bill 5770: Providing state and local property tax reform.](#)
- [Senate Bill 5873: Providing adequate and predictable student transportation.](#)
- [Senate Bill 5882: Concerning the burden of proof for special education due process hearings.](#)
- [Senate Bill 5966: Concerning restraint or isolation of students in public schools and educational programs](#)
- [Senate Bill 6014: Increasing the special education enrollment funding cap.](#)
- [SJM 8007: Requesting Congress to fully fund 40 percent of the costs of IDEA.](#)

Education Law Center's 'Making the Grade' School Funding Study

- Making the Grade analyzes the condition of public school funding in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Using the most recently available data from the 2019-20 school year, the report ranks and grades each state on three measures to answer the key question: How fair is school funding in your state? (Source: [Education Law Center](#))
 - The three fairness measure are:
 - Funding Level – cost-adjusted, per-pupil revenue from state and local sources; Washington State got a C.
 - Funding Distribution – the extent to which additional funds are distributed to school districts with high levels of student poverty; Washington State got a D.
 - Funding Effort – funding allocated to support PK-12 public education as a percentage of the state's economic activity (GDP); Washington State got an F.

Governor Inslee's 2024 Supplemental Budget Proposals

- In his proposal, Inslee opens the "Supporting educators and students section" with, "Funding for K-12 education in Washington has doubled in the past 10 years and remains the largest share of the state's budget. Washington teachers are now among the best paid in the nation." (Source: [Washington State Governor's Office](#))

Prototypical school model

- The state's Prototypical School Model for funding is encoded in state law. Here's the definition of a Prototypical School from the [RCW 28A.150.260](#) state law.
 - (i) A prototypical high school has six hundred (600) average annual full-time equivalent students in grades nine through twelve;
 - (ii) A prototypical middle school has four hundred thirty-two (432) average annual full-time equivalent students in grades seven and eight; and
 - (iii) A prototypical elementary school has four hundred (400) average annual full-time equivalent students in grades kindergarten through six.

(5)(a) The minimum allocation for each level of prototypical school shall include allocations for the following types of staff in addition to classroom teachers:

	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Principals, assistant principals, and other certificated building-level administrators. . . .	1.253	1.353	1.880
Teacher-librarians, a function that includes information literacy, technology, and media to support school library media programs. . . .	0.663	0.519	0.523
Teaching assistance, including any aspect of educational instructional services provided by classified employees. . . .	0.936	0.700	0.652
Office support and other noninstructional aides. . . .	2.012	2.325	3.269
Custodians. . . .	1.657	1.942	2.965
Nurses. . . .	0.246	0.336	0.339
Social workers. . . .	0.132	0.033	0.052
Psychologists. . . .	0.046	0.009	0.021
Counselors. . . .	0.660	1.383	2.706
Classified staff providing student and staff safety. . . .	0.079	0.092	0.141
Parent involvement coordinators. . . .	0.0825	0.00	0.00