
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5918

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Wellman, Conway, Hasegawa, Nobles, Riccelli, Slatter, Stanford, and C. Wilson; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction)

READ FIRST TIME 02/04/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to funding for school materials, supplies, and
2 operating costs; amending RCW 28A.150.260; and creating a new
3 section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that inflation has
6 reduced the purchasing power of Washington's school districts,
7 limiting their ability to fund essential materials, supplies, and
8 operating costs. Current state allocations for materials, supplies,
9 and operating costs have not kept pace with actual costs. Therefore,
10 it is the intent of the legislature to support students, school
11 districts, and basic education by increasing materials, supplies, and
12 operating costs funding.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.150.260 and 2025 c 334 s 1 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 The purpose of this section is to provide for the allocation of
16 state funding that the legislature deems necessary to support school
17 districts in offering the minimum instructional program of basic
18 education under RCW 28A.150.220. The allocation shall be determined
19 as follows:

1 (1) The governor shall and the superintendent of public
2 instruction may recommend to the legislature a formula for the
3 distribution of a basic education instructional allocation for each
4 common school district.

5 (2)(a) The distribution formula under this section shall be for
6 allocation purposes only. Except as may be required under subsections
7 (4)(b) and (c), (5)(b) and (c), (8), and (9) of this section, chapter
8 28A.155, 28A.165, 28A.180, or 28A.185 RCW, or federal laws and
9 regulations, nothing in this section requires school districts to use
10 basic education instructional funds to implement a particular
11 instructional approach or service. Nothing in this section requires
12 school districts to maintain a particular classroom teacher-to-
13 student ratio or other staff-to-student ratio or to use allocated
14 funds to pay for particular types or classifications of staff.
15 Nothing in this section entitles an individual teacher to a
16 particular teacher planning period.

17 (b) To promote transparency in state funding allocations, the
18 superintendent of public instruction must report state per-pupil
19 allocations for each school district for the general apportionment,
20 special education, learning assistance, transitional bilingual,
21 highly capable, and career and technical education programs. The
22 superintendent must report this information in a user-friendly format
23 on the main page of the office's website. School districts must
24 include a link to the superintendent's per-pupil allocations report
25 on the main page of the school district's website. In addition, the
26 budget documents published by the legislature for the enacted omnibus
27 operating appropriations act must report statewide average per-pupil
28 allocations for general apportionment and the categorical programs
29 listed in this subsection.

30 (3)(a) To the extent the technical details of the formula have
31 been adopted by the legislature and except when specifically provided
32 as a school district allocation, the distribution formula for the
33 basic education instructional allocation shall be based on minimum
34 staffing and nonstaff costs the legislature deems necessary to
35 support instruction and operations in prototypical schools serving
36 high, middle, and elementary school students as provided in this
37 section. The use of prototypical schools for the distribution formula
38 does not constitute legislative intent that schools should be
39 operated or structured in a similar fashion as the prototypes.
40 Prototypical schools illustrate the level of resources needed to

1 operate a school of a particular size with particular types and grade
 2 levels of students using commonly understood terms and inputs, such
 3 as class size, hours of instruction, and various categories of school
 4 staff. It is the intent that the funding allocations to school
 5 districts be adjusted from the school prototypes based on the actual
 6 number of annual average full-time equivalent students in each grade
 7 level at each school in the district and not based on the grade-level
 8 configuration of the school to the extent that data is available. The
 9 allocations shall be further adjusted from the school prototypes with
 10 minimum allocations for small schools and to reflect other factors
 11 identified in the omnibus appropriations act.

12 (b) For the purposes of this section, prototypical schools are
 13 defined as follows:

14 (i) A prototypical high school has 600 average annual full-time
 15 equivalent students in grades nine through 12;

16 (ii) A prototypical middle school has 432 average annual full-
 17 time equivalent students in grades seven and eight; and

18 (iii) A prototypical elementary school has 400 average annual
 19 full-time equivalent students in grades kindergarten through six.

20 (4) (a) (i) The minimum allocation for each level of prototypical
 21 school shall be based on the number of full-time equivalent classroom
 22 teachers needed to provide instruction over the minimum required
 23 annual instructional hours under RCW 28A.150.220 and provide at least
 24 one teacher planning period per school day, and based on the
 25 following general education average class size of full-time
 26 equivalent students per teacher:

	General education average class size
29 Grades K-3.	17.00
30 Grade 4.	27.00
31 Grades 5-6.	27.00
32 Grades 7-8.	28.53
33 Grades 9-12.	28.74

34 (ii) The minimum class size allocation for each prototypical high
 35 school shall also provide for enhanced funding for class size
 36 reduction for two laboratory science classes within grades nine
 37 through 12 per full-time equivalent high school student multiplied by
 38 a laboratory science course factor of 0.0833, based on the number of
 39 full-time equivalent classroom teachers needed to provide instruction

1 over the minimum required annual instructional hours in RCW
2 28A.150.220, and providing at least one teacher planning period per
3 school day:

4 Laboratory science
5 average class size
6 Grades 9-12. 19.98

7 (b) (i) Beginning September 1, 2019, funding for average K-3 class
8 sizes in this subsection (4) may be provided only to the extent of,
9 and proportionate to, the school district's demonstrated actual class
10 size in grades K-3, up to the funded class sizes.

11 (ii) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
12 develop rules to implement this subsection (4) (b).

13 (c) (i) The minimum allocation for each prototypical middle and
14 high school shall also provide for full-time equivalent classroom
15 teachers based on the following number of full-time equivalent
16 students per teacher in career and technical education:

17 Career and technical
18 education average
19 class size
20 Approved career and technical education offered at
21 the middle school and high school level. 23.00
22 Skill center programs meeting the standards established
23 by the office of the superintendent of public
24 instruction. 19.00

25 (ii) Funding allocated under this subsection (4) (c) is subject to
26 RCW 28A.150.265.

27 (d) In addition, the omnibus appropriations act shall at a
28 minimum specify:

29 (i) A high-poverty average class size in schools where more than
30 50 percent of the students are eligible for free and reduced-price
31 meals; and

32 (ii) A specialty average class size for advanced placement and
33 international baccalaureate courses.

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

	Elementary	Middle	High
	School	School	School

1	Principals, assistant principals, and other certificated building-level			
2	administrators.	1.253	1.353	1.880
3	Teacher-librarians, a function that includes information literacy, technology,			
4	and media to support school library media programs.	0.663	0.519	0.523
5	Paraeducators, including any aspect of educational instructional services			
6	provided by classified employees.	1.012	0.776	0.728
7	Office support and other noninstructional aides.	2.088	2.401	3.345
8	Custodians.	1.657	1.942	2.965
9	Nurses.	0.585	0.888	0.824
10	Social workers.	0.311	0.088	0.127
11	Psychologists.	0.104	0.024	0.049
12	Counselors.	0.993	1.716	3.039
13	Classified staff providing student and staff safety.	0.079	0.092	0.141
14	Parent involvement coordinators.	0.0825	0.00	0.00

15 (b) (i) The superintendent may only allocate funding, up to the
16 combined minimum allocations, for nurses, social workers,
17 psychologists, counselors, classified staff providing student and
18 staff safety, and parent involvement coordinators under (a) of this
19 subsection to the extent of and proportionate to a school district's
20 demonstrated actual ratios of: Full-time equivalent physical, social,
21 and emotional support staff to full-time equivalent students.

22 (ii) The superintendent must adopt rules to implement this
23 subsection (5)(b) and the rules must require school districts to
24 prioritize funding allocated as required by (b)(i) of this subsection
25 for physical, social, and emotional support staff who hold a valid
26 educational staff associate certificate appropriate for the staff's
27 role.

28 (iii) For the purposes of this subsection (5)(b), "physical,
29 social, and emotional support staff" include nurses, social workers,
30 psychologists, counselors, classified staff providing student and
31 staff safety, parent involvement coordinators, and other school
32 district employees and contractors who provide physical, social, and
33 emotional support to students as defined by the superintendent.

34 (c) The superintendent shall develop rules that require school
35 districts to use the additional funding provided under (a) of this
36 subsection to support increased staffing, prevent layoffs, or
37 increase salaries for the following staff types in the 2024-25 school

1 year: Paraeducators, office support, and noninstructional aides. The
2 superintendent shall collect data from school districts on how the
3 increased allocations are used.

4 (6) (a) The minimum staffing allocation for each school district
5 to provide district-wide support services shall be allocated per one
6 thousand annual average full-time equivalent students in grades K-12
7 as follows:

	Staff per 1,000 K-12 students
8 Technology.	0.628
9 Facilities, maintenance, and grounds.	1.813
10 Warehouse, laborers, and mechanics.	0.332

11
12
13 (b) The minimum allocation of staff units for each school
14 district to support certificated and classified staffing of central
15 administration shall be 5.30 percent of the staff units generated
16 under subsections (4) (a) and (5) of this section and (a) of this
17 subsection.

18 (7) The distribution formula shall include staffing allocations
19 to school districts for career and technical education and skill
20 center administrative and other school-level certificated staff, as
21 specified in the omnibus appropriations act.

22 (8) (a) ~~(i)~~ Except as provided in ~~((b))~~ (a) (ii) and (iii) of this
23 subsection, the minimum allocation for each school district shall be
24 \$1,614.28 per full-time equivalent student for materials, supplies,
25 and operating costs, to be adjusted annually for inflation beginning
26 in the 2026-27 school year. ~~((For purposes of this subsection,~~
27 ~~"inflation" means the implicit price deflator for the previous~~
28 ~~calendar year as of the beginning of the school year, using the~~
29 ~~official current base, compiled by the bureau of economic analysis,~~
30 ~~United States department of commerce.~~

31 ~~(b))~~ (ii) In addition to the amount provided in (a) (i) of this
32 subsection, each school district shall receive a minimum allocation
33 of \$214.84 for each full-time equivalent student in grades nine
34 through 12 for materials, supplies, and operating costs, to be
35 adjusted annually for inflation beginning in the 2026-27 school year.
36 ~~((For purposes of this subsection, "inflation" means the implicit~~
37 ~~price deflator for the previous calendar year as of the beginning of~~
38 ~~the school year, using the official current base, compiled by the~~
39 ~~bureau of economic analysis, United States department of commerce.~~

1 ~~(e))~~ (iii)(A) Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, in addition
2 to the amount provided in (a)(i) of this subsection, each school
3 district shall receive a minimum allocation of \$100 per full-time
4 equivalent student for materials, supplies, and operating costs, to
5 be adjusted annually for inflation from the 2026-27 school year.

6 (B) Any school district receiving less than \$100,000 under
7 (a)(iii)(A) of this subsection, to be adjusted annually for inflation
8 from the 2026-27 school year, shall receive an additional allocation
9 to bring total funding under this subsection (8)(a)(iii) to \$100,000,
10 to be adjusted annually for inflation from the 2026-27 school year.
11 Additional allocations provided under this subsection (8)(a)(iii) may
12 not be included in calculations under RCW 28A.150.390, 43.216.580, or
13 28A.300.072.

14 (C) The increased allocation amounts provided under this
15 subsection (8)(a)(iii) are intended to address growing materials,
16 supplies, and operating costs and may not be expended for any other
17 purpose.

18 (iv) For purposes of this subsection (8)(a), "inflation" means
19 the implicit price deflator for the previous calendar year as of the
20 beginning of the school year, using the official current base,
21 compiled by the bureau of economic analysis, United States department
22 of commerce.

23 (b) The increased allocation amounts of \$35.27 per full-time
24 equivalent student provided under (a)(i) of this subsection and \$4.69
25 per full-time equivalent student in grades nine through 12 provided
26 under ~~((b))~~ (a)(ii) of this subsection are intended to address
27 growing materials, supplies, and operating costs and may not be
28 expended for any other purpose.

29 ~~((d))~~ (c)(i) Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, each school
30 district shall annually report all expenditures for materials,
31 supplies, and operating costs including, but not limited to,
32 expenditures in the following disaggregated categories, to the office
33 of the superintendent of public instruction:

34 (A) Technology, including further disaggregation within this
35 category for technology devices, technology support staff, software
36 licensing, and technology or software maintenance and repair;

37 (B) Election fees associated with school district board of
38 directors elections;

39 (C) Utilities;

40 (D) Insurance;

1 (E) Curriculum and textbooks not included under the technology
2 category;

3 (F) Library materials not included under the technology category;

4 (G) Other supplies not included under other categories;

5 (H) Nontechnology-related contracted instructional professional
6 development for certificated and classified staff;

7 (I) Facilities maintenance materials, supplies, and operating
8 costs not funded by transfers from other funds;

9 (J) Security and central office administration;

10 (K) Dues and fees; and

11 (L) Property and equipment not funded by transfers from other
12 funds.

13 (ii) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
14 report additional categories as determined necessary to meet other
15 state and federal reporting requirements.

16 (9) In addition to the amounts provided in subsection (8) of this
17 section and subject to RCW 28A.150.265, the omnibus appropriations
18 act shall provide an amount based on full-time equivalent student
19 enrollment in each of the following:

20 (a) Exploratory career and technical education courses for
21 students in grades seven through 12;

22 (b) Preparatory career and technical education courses for
23 students in grades nine through 12 offered in a high school; and

24 (c) Preparatory career and technical education courses for
25 students in grades 11 and 12 offered through a skill center.

26 (10) In addition to the allocations otherwise provided under this
27 section, amounts shall be provided to support the following programs
28 and services:

29 (a)(i) To provide supplemental instruction and services for
30 students who are not meeting academic standards through the learning
31 assistance program under RCW 28A.165.005 through 28A.165.065,
32 allocations shall be based on the greater of either: The district
33 percentage of students in kindergarten through grade 12 who were
34 eligible for free or reduced-price meals for the school year
35 immediately preceding the district's participation, in whole or part,
36 in the United States department of agriculture's community
37 eligibility provision, or the district percentage of students in
38 grades K-12 who were eligible for free or reduced-price meals in the
39 prior school year. The minimum allocation for the program shall,
40 except as provided in (a)(iii) of this subsection, provide for each

1 level of prototypical school resources to provide, on a statewide
2 average, 2.3975 hours per week in extra instruction with a class size
3 of 15 learning assistance program students per teacher.

4 (ii) In addition to funding allocated under (a)(i) of this
5 subsection, to provide supplemental instruction and services for
6 students who are not meeting academic standards in qualifying
7 schools. A qualifying school, except as provided in (a)(iv) of this
8 subsection, means a school in which the three-year rolling average of
9 the prior year total annual average enrollment that qualifies for
10 free or reduced-price meals equals or exceeds 50 percent or more of
11 its total annual average enrollment. A school continues to meet the
12 definition of a qualifying school if the school: Participates in the
13 United States department of agriculture's community eligibility
14 provision; and met the definition of a qualifying school in the year
15 immediately preceding their participation. The minimum allocation for
16 this additional high poverty-based allocation must provide for each
17 level of prototypical school resources to provide, on a statewide
18 average, 1.1 hours per week in extra instruction with a class size of
19 15 learning assistance program students per teacher, under RCW
20 28A.165.055, school districts must distribute the high poverty-based
21 allocation to the schools that generated the funding allocation.

22 (iii) For the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years, allocations under
23 (a)(i) of this subsection for school districts providing meals at no
24 charge to students under RCW 28A.235.135 that are not participating,
25 in whole or in part, in the United States department of agriculture's
26 community eligibility provision shall be based on the school district
27 percentage of students in grades K-12 who were eligible for free or
28 reduced-price meals in school years 2019-20 through 2022-23 or the
29 prior school year, whichever is greatest.

30 (iv) For the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years, a school providing
31 meals at no charge to students under RCW 28A.235.135 that is not
32 participating in the department of agriculture's community
33 eligibility provision continues to meet the definition of a
34 qualifying school under (a)(ii) of this subsection if the school met
35 the definition during one year of the 2019-20 through 2022-23 school
36 years, or in the prior school year.

37 (b)(i) To provide supplemental instruction and services for
38 students whose primary language is other than English, allocations
39 shall be based on the head count number of students in each school
40 who are eligible for and enrolled in the transitional bilingual

1 instruction program under RCW 28A.180.010 through 28A.180.080. The
2 minimum allocation for each level of prototypical school shall
3 provide resources to provide, on a statewide average, 4.7780 hours
4 per week in extra instruction for students in grades kindergarten
5 through six and 6.7780 hours per week in extra instruction for
6 students in grades seven through 12, with 15 transitional bilingual
7 instruction program students per teacher. Notwithstanding other
8 provisions of this subsection (10), the actual per-student allocation
9 may be scaled to provide a larger allocation for students needing
10 more intensive intervention and a commensurate reduced allocation for
11 students needing less intensive intervention, as detailed in the
12 omnibus appropriations act.

13 (ii) To provide supplemental instruction and services for
14 students who have exited the transitional bilingual program,
15 allocations shall be based on the head count number of students in
16 each school who have exited the transitional bilingual program within
17 the previous two years based on their performance on the English
18 proficiency assessment and are eligible for and enrolled in the
19 transitional bilingual instruction program under RCW
20 28A.180.040(1)(g). The minimum allocation for each prototypical
21 school shall provide resources to provide, on a statewide average,
22 3.0 hours per week in extra instruction with 15 exited students per
23 teacher.

24 (c) To provide additional allocations to support programs for
25 highly capable students under RCW 28A.185.010 through 28A.185.030,
26 allocations shall be based on 5.0 percent of each school district's
27 full-time equivalent basic education enrollment. The minimum
28 allocation for the programs shall provide resources to provide, on a
29 statewide average, 2.1590 hours per week in extra instruction with
30 fifteen highly capable program students per teacher.

31 (11) The allocations under subsections (4)(a), (5), (6), and (8)
32 of this section shall be enhanced as provided under RCW 28A.150.390
33 on an excess cost basis to provide supplemental instructional
34 resources for students with disabilities.

35 (12)(a) For the purposes of allocations for prototypical high
36 schools and middle schools under subsections (4) and (10) of this
37 section that are based on the percent of students in the school who
38 are eligible for free and reduced-price meals, the actual percent of
39 such students in a school shall be adjusted by a factor identified in

1 the omnibus appropriations act to reflect underreporting of free and
2 reduced-price meal eligibility among middle and high school students.

3 (b) Allocations or enhancements provided under subsections (4),
4 (7), and (9) of this section for exploratory and preparatory career
5 and technical education courses shall be provided only for courses
6 approved by the office of the superintendent of public instruction
7 under chapter 28A.700 RCW.

8 (13)(a) This formula for distribution of basic education funds
9 shall be reviewed biennially by the superintendent and governor. The
10 recommended formula shall be subject to approval, amendment or
11 rejection by the legislature.

12 (b) In the event the legislature rejects the distribution formula
13 recommended by the governor, without adopting a new distribution
14 formula, the distribution formula for the previous school year shall
15 remain in effect.

16 (c) The enrollment of any district shall be the annual average
17 number of full-time equivalent students and part-time students as
18 provided in RCW 28A.150.350, enrolled on the first school day of each
19 month, including students who are in attendance pursuant to RCW
20 28A.335.160 and 28A.225.250 who do not reside within the servicing
21 school district. The definition of full-time equivalent student shall
22 be determined by rules of the superintendent of public instruction
23 and shall be included as part of the superintendent's biennial budget
24 request. The definition shall be based on the minimum instructional
25 hour offerings required under RCW 28A.150.220. Any revision of the
26 present definition shall not take effect until approved by the house
27 ways and means committee and the senate ways and means committee.

28 (d) The office of financial management shall make a monthly
29 review of the superintendent's reported full-time equivalent students
30 in the common schools in conjunction with RCW 43.62.050.

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