

# STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**HEARING TYPE:**       X   INFORMATION/NO ACTION

**DATE:**             JANUARY 25–26, 2007

**SUBJECT:**           **GOVERNOR’S BUDGET**  
                          **LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2007**

**SERVICE UNIT:**     State Board of Education  
                          Edie Harding, Executive Director

**PRESENTER:**         Edie Harding, Executive Director  
                          State Board of Education

## **BACKGROUND:**

Attached to this Tab is a memo outlining the proposed operating budget for 2007–09 that Governor Gregoire has submitted to the Legislature. The memo lists proposed expenditures by the following categories: Math and Science, Teacher Salaries and Funding, Assistance for Students, and Miscellaneous.

Following the budget information is a section on the Legislative Process and Leadership which includes information on the sessions key education policy issues for 2007, and the leadership for key committees dealing with education and the budget. We have also included our legislative handout we will use when we visit legislators.

We have also done a comparison of what is in our joint math action plan and what the Governor has requested in terms of dollars in her budget.

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** January 11, 2007  
**TO:** Board Members  
**FROM:** Edie Harding  
**RE:** The Governor's Budget and Legislative Session 2007

### I. Governor's Budget

Governor Gregoire released her two-year budget proposal on December 19<sup>th</sup> for the 2007 Legislature to consider. Her \$29.94 billion dollar budget request includes \$12.3 billion for K-12 education (which is 41% of the state general fund expenditures). K-12 education is the largest spending category of the budget. Following up on her Washington Learns report, the Governor proposes over a billion dollars for K-12 -- an increase of \$372 million plus \$923 for ongoing costs expected in maintenance level<sup>1</sup>.

A highlight for us is that she granted the State Board of Education its full budget request, including an enhancement of \$801,000, which includes one staff person.

Governor's 2007-09, K-12 operating education budget proposal details include:

Mathematics and Science: \$163 million
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- \$90.2 million to reduce middle school and high school mathematics and science classes to 25 students for each teacher.
- \$17.5 million to provide for specialized professional development (5 days per school), modeled after Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate classes, to allow enhanced rigor in mathematics and science classes.
- \$13.1 million to add 3 days of professional development for middle school and high school mathematics and science teachers.
- \$12.1 million to expand the Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER) program into 1,000 additional classrooms.
- \$8.9 million to provide professional development for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers in mathematics and science.

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<sup>1</sup> The "maintenance level" indicates the funding required to carry on the same activities from one biennium to the next, adjusted for inflationary changes, or caseload/enrollment changes.

- \$6.6 million to provide funding to expand the Alternative Routes to Teacher Certification Program for mathematics and science (\$5.8 million); establish a new Pipeline for Para-Educators Program to provide incentives for para-educators to achieve their AA degree and then transfer into the alternative routes program to pursue a mathematics endorsement (\$300,000); and establish the Retooling to Teach Mathematics Program to support certificated teachers in pursuing a mathematics endorsement (\$488,000).
- \$5.5 million to hire specialists at each Educational Service District to provide regional support for additional mathematics and science teacher professional development.
- \$5.4 million to provide for demonstration projects (25 people in 50 schools) to institute an instructional coaches program for mathematics and science teaching.
- \$3.3 million to fund the development of international science standards and curriculum. Funding would provide for the research and evaluation of science textbooks and other materials and for the development of WASL knowledge and skill learning modules.
- \$400,000 to fund grants to assist community-based programs, linked with schools, to assist in the provision of after-school mathematics programs.
- \$282,000 to allow 20 middle school and high school teachers per year to attend training and implement an integrated mathematics, science, technology and engineering program in their schools.
- \$100,000 to assist OSPI in adopting state standards in mathematics that reflect international content and performance levels.

Teachers Salaries and Funding: \$67 million
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- \$59.9 million to provide funding to begin addressing teacher, administrator and classified staff salary grandfathering. In addition to the K-12 cost-of-living adjustments required by Initiative 732 (3.4 percent in the 2007-08 school year and 2.6 percent in the 2008-09 school year), additional funding would be provided to begin reducing the salary gap between districts that are grandfathered and those that are not.
- \$7.5 million to provide a ten percent salary bonus to teachers who earn certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; plus another salary bonus for National Board certified teachers teaching in schools with students needing the most help; plus another bonus if the teacher is certified in mathematics or science (for a total bonus of \$15,000).
- \$20,000 to allow the Office of Financial Management to develop a new performance-based professional educator salary system.

Assistance for Students: \$129 million

- \$63.4 million to enhance Special Education funding. Funding would be provided for 3- and 4-year-olds, allowing schools to serve these students without being limited by the current Special Education cap (\$50.5 million). Additional funding would be provided (\$10 million) to add a new Safety Net category to assist districts that attract a large number of special needs students. Funding would be provided to eliminate the state deduction of school districts' federal Medicaid funding (\$2.4 million). Funding would also be provided to pay for additional safety net reviewers and trainers.
- \$41.6 million to expand all-day Kindergarten. Funding would be provided to begin phasing in voluntary all-day kindergarten, beginning first in schools with high-poverty levels.
- \$12.1 million to enhance the Promoting Academic Success (PAS) program adopted in 2006. Additional funding would be provided to allow last year's 11<sup>th</sup> graders to continue using the program in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- \$9.5 million to fund 10 demonstration projects using best practices to provide students in Kindergarten through third grade with varied experiences to develop their learning skills in reading, mathematics, science, art, social studies, and foreign language.
- \$2.2 million to identify essential competencies that all teachers need to assist English-language learners. Three pilot programs would be created to evaluate emerging best practices and provide time for bilingual education teachers and classroom teachers to coordinate.

Miscellaneous: \$13 million

- \$1.8 million to develop and implement a school financial health monitoring system.
- \$1.5 million to fund to expand the reduced-price student breakfast program to include more low-income students.
- \$1.4 million to fund Washington State Institute for Public Policy research on effectiveness.
- \$1.3 million to continue state funding of the Digital Learning Commons.
- \$1.3 million to assist WASA, AWSP and others, in establishing a Leadership Academy to provide leadership development and growth opportunities for school administrators.
- \$1.1 million to create a Washington Youth Academy, an alternative school, to assist at-risk youth who would otherwise not be enrolled in school.

- \$1 million to establish Health Career Academies. Funding would be provided to begin a grant program in 4 high schools (\$250,000 per school) offering 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders the opportunity to focus their studies and training on a health-related occupational field.
- \$811,000 to address the presumed impact on Local Effort Assistance (LEA or levy equalization), if a constitutional amendment allowing the simple majority passage of school district levies was adopted.
- **\$801,000 to fund the State Board of Education's work on accountability and meaningful high school diploma.**
- \$675,000 to allow 11<sup>th</sup> graders to voluntarily take a college readiness test.
- \$626,000 to allow the Professional Educator Standards Board to develop and pilot a statewide educator professional certification assessment and to cover the cost of the assessment for up to 500 candidates.
- \$280,000 to allow the Office of Financial Management to hire national experts to develop a new student transportation funding formula.

## **LEGISLATIVE PROCESS & LEADERSHIP**

The Senate and House of Representatives meets in regular session each year beginning on the second Monday in January to adopt operating and capital budgets, create new laws, and change existing laws. In the odd-numbered years (2007), the session lasts for a maximum of 105 days. In even-numbered years (2008) the session lasts a maximum of 90 days. The session this year is a long session and begins on January 8<sup>h</sup> and will end on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. If the Legislature needs to go beyond the time allotted for a regular session, the Governor may call for an extraordinary session (there is no limit to these). Extraordinary sessions last no more than 30 days. For details on the 2007 legislative schedule see: <http://www1.leg.wa.gov/legislature/calendar/>

When the Legislative session begins, legislators will begin reviewing Governor Gregoire's budget proposal. They will also begin developing and debating their own competing plans. In the 2007 session the Democrats control both the houses – in the Senate 32 Democrats to 17 Republicans and the House of Representatives 62 Democrats to 36 Republicans. While many of the key education faces (see the list below) remain the same there are a few key changes. In the Senate, higher education has split off from the K-12 committee. In the House there are new sub-appropriation committees including one for K-12, chaired by Representative Kathy Haigh.

The members of the House and Senate offer legislation, which is drafted into bills for consideration. The ideas for bills may originate from a particular issue such as charter schools or a legislator may want to address an issue that is specific to his or her constituents. The member then introduces the bill and it goes through a number of steps, which include review by a committee in the house in which the bill is introduced.

The majority of policy bills are heard in the House Education Committee or the Senate Education Committee. The budget bills are heard in the House Capital Committee, the Senate Ways and Means Committee, and House Appropriations Committees. The majority of bills heard do not pass out of committee. If a bill passes the committee, a majority in the House or Senate (this is known as floor action) must pass it. If the bill passes one of either the Senate or the House, it must pass the other one through the same process – committee hearing and floor action.

If the bill passes both the Senate and the House, it goes to the Governor for his/her signature. The Governor can choose to approve the bill, or veto the bill or a section of the bill. For more details on bills as they move through the different committees and the House and Senate floor action see:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>.

### **Key Education Policy Issues for 2007:**

Governor's Washington Learns Proposals

The Certificate of Academic Achievement requirements for the Classes of 2008 and beyond

The approval of school levies by a majority of voters (rather than 60%)

Rainy Day Reserve Fund

Kindergarten Readiness

Dropout Prevention to create a grant program for dropout prevention, intervention and retrieval

Joint Purchasing and Master Price Agreement (including textbooks)

Improved School Funding

Mathematics

Education Budget

## **STATE SENATE**

### **Early Learning & K-12 Committee**

Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe (Chair) – Bothell area  
Sen. Rodney Tom (Vice Chair) – Bellevue/Redmond area

### **Ways & Means Committee**

Sen. Magarita Prentice (Chair) – Seattle/Renton area  
Sen. Craig Pridemore (Vice Chair, Operating Budget) – Vancouver/Hazel Dell area  
Sen. Karen Fraser (Vice Chair, Capital Budget) – Olympia area

## **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Appropriations Committee**

Rep. Helen Sommers (Chair) – Seattle area  
Rep. Hans Dunshee (Vice Chair) – Snohomish Co. area

### **Appropriations Sub-Committee on Education**

Rep. Kathy Haigh (Chair) – Mason Co. area  
Rep. Pat Sullivan (Vice Chair) – Covington/Black Diamond area

### **Education Committee**

Rep. Dave Quall (Chair) – Mount Vernon area  
Rep. Don Barlow (Vice Chair) – Spokane area