

2024

Legislative

Review



2024 LANDSCAPE

Fast-Paced Supplemental
Session

60 Days

Tracked nearly 950 bills;

155 were enacted

Election Year

Initiatives Filed



2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Provide professional, livable wages for classified Education Support Professionals (ESPs)



Provide professional, livable wages for adjunct faculty



Support students struggling with behavioral challenges



Fully fund Special Education



Ensure every district has the resources it needs to recruit & retain educators



Ensure every school & college has the resources it needs to provide engaging learning opportunities

*As determined by the WEA
Legislative Strategy
Committee and WEA Board*

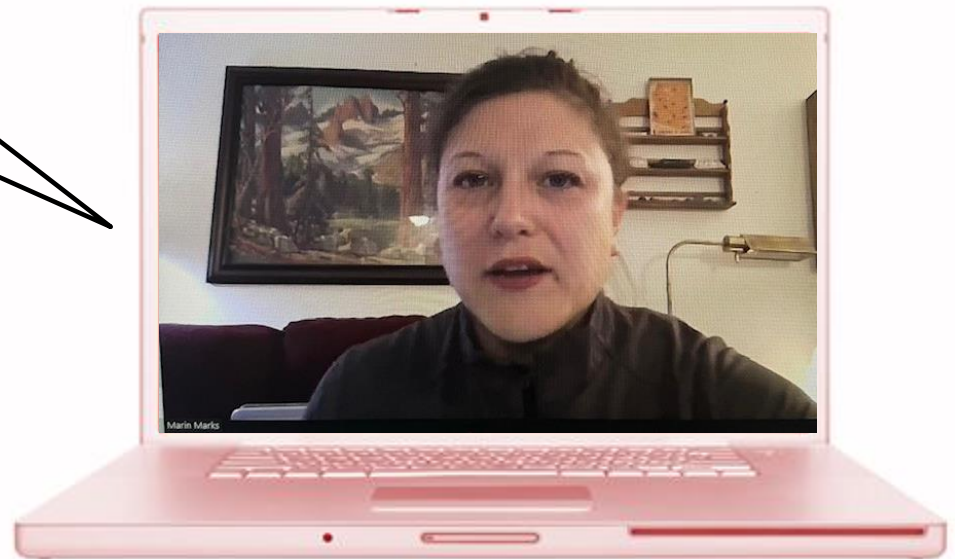
MEMBER
VOICES
MATTER



30 members testified



Over 3,000 emails sent



TAKE AWAYS

Achieved millions
for education in a
short session

First steps in a
multi-year effort

Inclusive curriculum
protections put in
place




Key Supplemental Budget Investments

- **Paraeducator and Office Support Staffing – \$72 M**
- **Special Education Funding – \$20 M**
- **MSOC - Materials, Supplies, Operating Costs – \$44 M**

K-12 COMPENSATION

Cost of living increase for 2024-25 SY: 3.7%

 COLA now uses prior calendar year Implicit Price Deflator (IPD), which is a known number for state and district budgeting

\$1.8 million added to the budget to smooth changes from **experience mix** rebase

Plan I COLA for Retirees (SHB 1985) provides a 3% increase on July 1st, up to \$110 per month



SB 5882
Prototypical School Staffing
(Paraeducators and Office Support)

\$72 million increase in the Supplemental Budget



Funds can be used to increase staffing, prevent layoffs, or increase salaries for paraeducators, office support, and noninstructional aides.

Special Education

Special Education Funding
Cap Raised to 16%

Adds \$20 million for special
education students



Higher Education -

**Provide Professional,
Livable Wages For
Adjunct Faculty**

**HB 1950 -
Public Service Loan
Forgiveness**

+

5.8% COLA (fully funded)



WEA Teacher Residency Program:

\$3.5 million

Emergency Substitute Teacher
Support:

\$621,000





Engaged Learning Opportunities and Inclusive Curriculum

HB 2331: Districts must adopt policy and procedure to review supplemental instructional materials. Districts cannot ban materials that discriminate against a protected class.

SB 5462: Districts must adopt inclusive curricula and instructional materials and amend policies and procedures by Oct 1, 2025.

WINS WITH LABOR ALLIES

- **SB 5778** – Captive Audience – Rights of workers to refrain from attending meetings or listening to employer’s speech on political or religious matters
- **SSB 6060** – PERC digital cards for new organizing petitions
- **ESHB 1248** – Health benefit parity for contracted school bus drivers
- **ESSB 5891** – Trespassing on a public school bus as a misdemeanor offense (worker protection for bus drivers)



School Capital Construction

Preserved the School Construction Assistance Program and increased per square foot state allocation from \$271 to \$375



Secured \$45 million for indoor air quality and HVAC assessment, replacement and upgrades.

Our work helped stop many bad policies this session including efforts to:

- Account for every 15 min a student spends in special education
- Reduced time for special education evaluations
- Restrict the use of “room clears”
- Gut School Construction Program
- Create new graduation requirements

