

WOVE Legislative Update for Career and Technical Education

2025 Legislative Session | February 6, 2025

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This past week saw a full suite of bills being heard in various education committees from post-secondary education to K-12 & early learning, and Labor & Workforce. The “pace of play” is picking up as we finish week four of the legislative session. The operating budget request deadline came and went last week as lawmakers made last-minute decisions on spending requests for new, on-going and requested projects. As we work through the month of February, we will see several more budget deadlines approaching. This week constituents and lawmakers are scrambling to get Transportation Budget requests in before the Friday deadline followed by Capital Budget requests being due by February 21. These three budgets are the most important, and only required, portion of the legislation session.

WA-ACTE Executive Director Tim Knue testified on several bills this week including [HB 1121](#) in the committee on Labor and Workforce Standards. This bill requires the Department of Labor and Industries to allow 16- or 17-year-olds to work the same number of hours during the school year as would be permitted during school vacations or holidays ("non-school week hours") if the minor is enrolled in a career and technical education program and the work is performed for an employer approved by the program. This is to mimic what a 16/17-year-old Running Start Student currently is allowed to do. This bill was introduced by Rep. Stephanie McClintock of the 18th legislative district in Battle Ground.

Another bill that garnered testimony from the WA-ACTE team was [HB 1338](#), which is the house version of the MSOC bill. If you have been following along with the duelling MSOC bills, you will notice subtle, and not-so-subtle, language differences. The senate version is [SB 5192](#) authored by T’wina Nobles. From here the process will likely be to continue both pieces of legislation until it seems that one of the bills has secured the momentum to get across the finish line. Points of difference in these bills include the three-year rolling average for apportionment, staffing ratio for skills centers, and MSOC rates. The WA-ACTE legislative team is working with bill sponsors and committee members to accomplish our legislative priorities in which ever bill to ultimately pass into law.

Finally, Executive Director Tim Knue testified on [HB 1273](#) – concerning dual credit. We voiced concerns to the sponsor before the bill hearing and have continued to since then. We approach this bill with the best intentions and want to work with the bill sponsor to modify some aspects of it before offering our full support. We understand there will be a “substitute” bill scaling back on the original, which will likely ask for the pilot project to continue and expand slightly into one or two more ESD regions. You can join in on this on-going discussion by joining our weekly legislative huddle where this will be discussed further.

Special education funding is still being closely examined this legislative session. [HB 1310](#), sponsored by Rep. Gerry Pollet, and [HB 1357](#), sponsored by Rep. Monica Stonier, are both focused on addressing the fiscal needs of sped programs. Specifically, both bills propose increasing the "special education excess cost multiplier" to help cover the costs of providing necessary services for students with special needs.

[HB 1357](#) goes a step further by also targeting the Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) programs. This focus could help improve services for younger children, ensuring they have access to appropriate early interventions. Last week's work session provided some key insights into how these fiscal adjustments could impact public schools and their ability to meet the growing needs of students in special education programs.

Our friends over at the League of Education Voters sent out details last week surrounding action by the Senate. The Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee recently passed their preferred special education funding approach through [SB 5263](#). Sponsored by Sen. Jamie Pederson and Sen. John Braun. This bill aims to boost special education funding for ESIT, pre-K, and K-12 education, while also removing the enrollment cap for special education. [SB 5263](#) has been sent to the Ways & Means Committee. Ultimately, the Legislature will need to choose one bill to move forward, incorporating the best elements from other proposals for final passage. This process, where multiple bills are combined into one, is often referred to as a "Frankenstein Bill" or "Christmas Tree Bill," with amendments being added like ornaments on a tree.

As we go throughout the session you can follow along the [daily schedule of the legislature](#) and see the [Senate Floor Calendar](#) and the [House Floor Calendar](#).

[Bill Status](#) | [Upcoming Committee Meetings](#)

[2025 Session Cutoff Calendar](#)

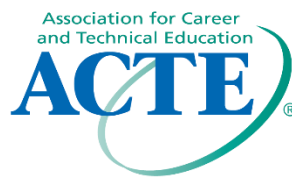
February 21	Policy Committee Cutoff: Last day to read in committee reports in house of origin, except House fiscal committee and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
February 28	Fiscal Committee Cutoff: Last day to read in committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees in house of origin.
March 12	House of Origin Cutoff: Last day to consider bills in house of origin (5 p.m.)
April 2	Policy Committee Cutoff – Opposite House: Last day to read in committee reports from opposite house, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
April 8	Fiscal Committee Cutoff – Opposite House: Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
April 16	Opposite House Cutoff: Last day to consider opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, matters necessary to implement budgets, matters that affect state revenue, amendments, differences, and business related to the interim or closing the session).
April 27	Sine Die: Last day allowed for regular session under the state constitution.

February is CTE Month!



CELEBRATE TODAY,
OWN TOMORROW!

Celebrate CTE Month! Career and Technical Education Month® is a public awareness campaign, hosted by ACTE and sponsored by National Association of Home Builders, that takes place each February to celebrate CTE, the accomplishments of CTE programs, and the importance of CTE for all students of all ages. We encourage you to use these [resources](#) to help us generate positive awareness of CTE!



Federal Legislation:

- [ACTE Advocacy Webpage](#)
 - [CTE Policy Watch Blog](#)
 - [Take Action](#)
 - [ACTE Policy Agenda](#)
 - [Advocacy Resources](#)
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WOVE...Representing the Career and Technical Education field through advocacy activities, which promotes the value of CTE and the policies that are needed to support CTE practitioners, advance the field, and improve student learning. To subscribe to the *WOVE Legislative Update* or to view past issues, [please click here.](#)