

## **WSSDA Mid-Week Legislative Update: Senate Releases 2017-19 Operating Budget Proposal**

Most of you are aware on Tuesday the Senate released their proposed 2017-19 operating budget ([SSB 5048](#)) (note: Section 501-519 relate to K-12 Education). There was public hearing on the bill Wednesday afternoon in [Senate Ways and Means](#). Wednesday night, the Committee held an [Executive Session](#) early into Thursday morning, discussing several bills including the 73 (!) proposed amendments on SSB 5048 (they adopted about half of them). It is important to keep perspective on where we are in the process and remember that this is the next step in operating budget negotiations. The Senate's budget represents their initial negotiating position. It is not where negotiations will end. On Monday, 3/27 at noon, the House is expected to release their budget proposal and the [House Appropriations Committee](#) will host a public hearing on it that afternoon. Capital budgets are expected to follow soon as well.

Since policy makers are *in the midst* of the fundamental discussions and negotiations needed for basic education funding, districts are encouraged to stay at the highest level in your analysis of the budget and review/provide input on what you see on the "district impact" spreadsheets prepared related to the budget. WSSDA's [2017 Education Funding Proposal Web page](#) has been updated to include district impact spreadsheets for your review.

Here are a couple additional sources for digging in deeper to better understand the Senate's proposed budget:

- [2017-19 Budget Overview Presentation](#)
- [SSB 5048 "Highlights"](#) (pp. 4-6) and the ["Agency Detail"](#) (p. 9 and pp. 142-148) on the Legislative
- LEAP (fiscal.wa.gov) is a great source for accessing [budget comparison charts](#) and [overview documents](#)
- [WASA's This Week In Olympia Special Edition \(3/22/17\) Senate Budget Overview](#)

In addition, a "trailer" bill (SB 5875) amending a few of the components of SSB 5607 (the Senate GOP education funding proposal) was introduced Tuesday and passed out of committee last night. In the coming day's we'll be updating the Side-by-Side education funding proposal document to include updates from this bill.

[SSB 5875](#) adjusts SSB 5607 by:

- Reducing the basic per pupil guarantee from \$10,000 to \$9,200 in school year 2018-19. In future school years, the basic per pupil guarantee remains at the level otherwise provided under the bill.
- Lowering the maximum local effort levy rate from \$1.80 to \$1.55. Specifies that local taxing districts are guaranteed full reimbursement for any negative fiscal impacts to their levy authority due to the local effort levy.
- Modifying the \$12,500 minimum total per pupil funding threshold calculation by (1) excluding local revenues, (2) fixing the amount of federal revenues to federal revenues received in the 2017-18 school year, and (3) defining state revenues.
- Disallowing a reduction in the per pupil amounts when there is negative inflation.
- Modifying provisions related to extended-year supplemental contracts.

Again, WSSDA's [2017 Education Funding Proposal Web page](#) has been updated to include district impact spreadsheets for your review in relation to the impacts of SSB 5875 on your district.