

A photograph of the Washington State Capitol building, featuring a large central dome and classical columns. The building is set against a clear blue sky. In the foreground, there are bare trees. A blue diagonal graphic element is on the left side of the image.

2024 Legislative Session Review

*Washington STEM Advocacy
Coalition*

Washington STEM is a statewide, education nonprofit leveraging STEM for social change, removing barriers to credential attainment, and creating pathways to long-term economic security for systemically underserved students.

2024 WASHINGTON STEM LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Early Learning: Strengthen cross-agency coordination to expand access, use, and sustainability of early childhood education data.

K-12 STEM: Improve system infrastructure and increase access to actionable data statewide to support school districts, students, and families in the transition from K-12 to postsecondary.

Career Pathways: Increase funding to the statewide education and employer network, Career Connect Washington, to build and sustain access to equitable Career Connected Learning Programs, increase postsecondary enrollment and boost credential attainment.

EARLY LEARNING

Strengthen cross-agency coordination to expand access, use, and sustainability of early childhood education data.

RESULT: Early learning was filled with smaller policy bills informed by current data, building to a true cost of quality care proposal for 2025-2027.

Early Learning Legislation:

HB 2111: Clarifying requirements for subsidized childcare.

HB 2124: Supporting and expanding access to childcare and early learning programs.

HB 2195: Strengthening the early learning facilities grant and loan program by revising criteria and providing resources to the Ruth LeCocq Kagi early learning facilities development account.

HB 1916: Concerning funding for the early support for infants and toddlers program.

HB 1945: Streamlining and enhancing program access for persons eligible for food assistance.

SB 5774: Increasing the capacity to conduct timely fingerprint-based background checks for prospective childcare employees and other programs.

EARLY LEARNING PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

	Final Budget <i>As passed the Legislature (Governor has not signed)</i>	Senate Proposed	House Proposed	Governor Budget
Transition to Kindergarten Coordinated Recruitment & Enrollment	\$1.31M to DCYF FY 25 \$300K to OSPI FY 25	\$1.31M FY 25	\$1.31M FY 25	\$1.31M FY 25
ECEAP Enrollment	\$156.59M FY 25 (\$8.3M increase)	\$158.49M FY 25 (\$10M increase)	\$156.59M FY 25 (\$8.3M increase)	\$158.49M FY 25 (\$10M increase)
Working Connections Infant Care Rate Increases	\$6.2M FY 25	\$6.2M FY 25	\$2.6M FY 25	n/a
Early Learning Facilities	\$26.9M FY 24-25	\$8.8M FY 24-25	\$50M FY 25-25	n/a
Snohomish Early Learning Coalition	\$30KFY24, \$170K FY25	\$0	\$30KFY24, \$170K FY25	n/a
Spokane Childcare Pilot	\$250K FY 25	n/a	\$250K FY 25	n/a

K12 STEM EDUCATION

Improve system infrastructure and increase access to actionable data statewide to support school districts, students, and families in the transition from K-12 to postsecondary.

RESULT: Increased investments that support the system infrastructure in the transition from K12 to Postsecondary.

K12 STEM Education Legislation:

- ▶ **HB 1146:** Notifying high school students and their families about available dual credit programs and any available financial assistance.
- ▶ **HB 2110:** Reorganizing statutory requirements governing high school graduation.
- ▶ **HB 1228:** Building a multilingual, multiliterate Washington through dual and tribal language education.
- ▶ **HB 5882:** Increasing prototypical school staffing to better meet student needs.
- ▶ **SB 5180:** Concerning the licensure and employment of out-of-state teachers. (formerly Adopting the interstate teacher mobility compact)

K-12 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

	Final Budget <i>As passed the Legislature (Governor has not signed)</i>	Senate Proposed	House Proposed	Governor Budget
High School & Beyond Plan (SB 5243) (OSPI)	\$72K FY 24, \$4.633M FY 25	\$72K FY 24 and \$96K FY 25 <i>**Amendment adopted to increase FY25 to \$4.633M</i>	\$72K FY 24 and \$96K FY 25	\$72K FY 24 and \$96K FY 25
Skills Center Grants (OSPI)	\$1.4M FY 25	\$700K FY24 and \$1.4M FY 25	n/a	n/a
Rally for College (OSPI)	\$3M FY 25	\$3M FY 25	n/a	\$3M FY 25
Ninth Grade Success (OSPI)	\$3M FY 25	\$3M FY 25	n/a	n/a
STEM Programming (OSPI) <i>For a grant to an established network for a pilot project to provide opportunities for youth to see themselves in high demand science, technology, engineering, and math in the northwest and southeast regions.</i>	\$425K FY 25	\$425K FY 25	n/a	n/a
ESD 112 Teacher Residency (OSPI)	\$400K FY 25	n/a	n/a	n/a

CAREER PATHWAYS

Increase funding to the statewide education and employer network, Career Connect Washington, to build and sustain access to equitable Career Connected Learning Programs, increase postsecondary enrollment and boost credential attainment.

Result: \$1 million increase in Career Connected Learning grant programs. Governor Office directive re CCW Cross Agency Workgroup.

CAREER CONNECT WASHINGTON BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

	Final Budget <i>As passed the Legislature (Governor has not signed)</i>	Senate Proposed	House Proposed	Governor Budget
CCW Grant Pool (ESD) <i>Ask was for a \$2.7m increase to meet current demand.</i>	\$15.51M (\$1m increase)	\$15.51M (\$1m increase)	\$15.51M (\$1m increase)	\$15.51M (\$1m increase)
CTC Career Launch Enrollment (SBCTC) <i>Ask was for \$6.25m increase to meet current demand.</i>	\$8M (no increase)	\$9M (\$1m increase)	\$8M (no increase)	\$11.75M (\$5.25M increase)
Career Connected Learning Coordinators (OSPI) <i>Ask to increase by about \$780k</i>	\$2.7M FY 24-25 (no increase)	\$2.7M FY 24-25	\$2.7M FY 24-25	\$2.7M FY 24-25
Career Connected Learning Tribal Liaison (OSPI)	\$300k FY 24-25	\$300k FY 24-25	\$300k FY 24-25	\$300k FY 24-25

CAREER PATHWAYS LEGISLATION

- **SB 5904:** Extending the terms of eligibility for financial aid programs.
- **HB 2214:** Permitting beneficiaries of public assistance programs to automatically qualify as income-eligible for the purpose of receiving the Washington college grant.
- **HB 2025:** Modifying placement and salary matching requirements for the state work-study program.
- **HB 2019:** Establishing a Native American apprentice assistance program.
- **HB 2441:** Establishing a pilot program eliminating college in the high school fees for private not-for-profit four-year institutions.

- ***HB 2236:*** *Expanding and strengthening career and technical education core plus programs.*
- ***SB 6053:*** *Improving equitable access to postsecondary education.*

CAREER PATHWAYS OPERATING BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

	Final Budget <i>As passed the Legislature (Governor has not signed)</i>	Senate Proposed	House Proposed	Governor Budget
Financial Aid Outreach (SBCTC) <i>Funding is provided to expand the Student Aid Outreach and Completion Initiative pilot program in RCW 28B.50.940 to participating community and technical colleges located in Capital Region Educational Service District 113</i>	\$425K FY 25	\$850K FY 25	n/a	n/a
Shelton Promise Program (Evergreen)	\$223K FY 25	\$738K FY 25	n/a	n/a
Launch NW (Spokane) <i>For the development and implementation of a mentoring scholarship.</i>	\$500K FY 25	n/a	\$500K FY 25	n/a
North Central ESD 171 <i>Expand industry and education partnerships through career awareness, exploration, and preparation activities in Grant County.</i>	\$150K FY 24, \$200K FY 25	n/a	n/a	n/a
SB 5904 HB 2214	\$1.5M FY 25 \$239K FY 25	\$8.3M FY 25 n/a	n/a \$239K FY 25	\$1M FY 25 \$239K FY 25
College in the High School Fees (SB 5048)	SBCTC: \$6.479M FY 25 UW: \$2.683M EWU: \$4.512M CWU: \$5.709M			

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION ENGAGEMENT BY NUMBERS

- January – March (60 Days)
- Supplemental Operating, Transportation, Capital Budgets
- Nearly **1200** bills introduced, about only **340** passed.
 - 2023: over 2156 and 435 passed
- **Session Began: January 8**
- Chamber of Origin
 - Jan. 31 – Policy Committee
 - Feb. 5 – Fiscal Committee
 - Feb. 13 – House of Origin Floor
- Opposite Chamber
 - Feb. 21 – Policy Committee
 - Feb. 26 – Fiscal Committee
 - March 1 – Opposite House Floor
- **Sine Die – March 7**
- 170+ bills reviewed and tracked
- Over 75 touchpoints of support
 - Engagement by letters of support, sign in support, testimony
- Testified in committee → 2 times
 - Co-presented in committee work sessions
- Advocacy Engagement in Olympia
- Advocacy coalition → 150+ members

More info: <https://washingtonstem.org/advocacy>