

WASHINGTON STEM ADVOCACY COALITION NOTES

4/11/2025

Day 89 of the 2025 Legislative Session. Bills are passing their final steps (including HB 1273!) and it is all the budget and revenue. The session is scheduled to end April 27.

[Washington STEM Advocacy Website](#) and [Bill Tracker](#)

ACTION: Invite a colleague, changemaker, or leader. Please ask them to [sign up here](#) to join the 2025 Washington STEM Advocation Coalition, receive notifications and information about future policy calls, and get updates on Coalition efforts.

2025 WASHINGTON STEM LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Early Care and Education: Maintain investments in early care and education and; increase capacity for child care by providing additional funding to the Early Learning Facilities Fund. ([HB 1314](#)/ [SB 5297](#) for Early Learning Facilities)

P-12 STEM: Advance a shared vision and coordinated model across the P20 education system to support Washington students graduating STEM-literate and prepared for future careers by addressing persistent barriers in career and technical education (CTE) dual credit. ([2SHB 1273](#))

Pathways to Credentials and Careers: Maintain funding to the statewide education and employer network, Career Connect Washington, to build and sustain access to equitable career connected learning programs that increase postsecondary enrollment and boost credential attainment. ([Updated One Pager](#))

Data: Support modernization of P20W data systems to develop enhanced data resources and services to support legislative decision-making, state agencies, education providers, and community organizations serving students. ([Updated HS Graduate Outcomes from ERDC](#))

[View more information about our work and 2025-2027 Policy Platform on our website.](#)

PRIORITY UPDATES:

UPDATE: [2SHB 1273](#): Improving student access to dual credit programs. Sponsored by Rep. Paul (10th LD)

- **2SHB 1273 was passed UNANIMOUSLY from the Senate Floor Friday afternoon.** It now moves to the Governor for signature.
- *Thank you to everyone throughout the process for support, testimony, sign ins and more.*

Updates from Career Connect Washington (CCW) - Proposed Budget Impacts:

- As budget writers continue to negotiate, we are working to preserve as much of the funding as possible and sustain critical components through Career Connect Washington (CCW) and prevent loss of progress for students and employers. The House funding proposal for CCL includes more for the critical components.
- Critical components we are highlighting:

- **Grant Funds Scale What Works:** Grants through the Employment Security Department to regional and sector partners ensure access to high-quality experiences statewide—exploration, preparation, and paid work.
 - **Coordinators Drive Regional Impact:** Career Connected Learning Coordinators (CCLCs) in each of the nine educational service districts link K-12, higher education, and employers in their regions. They align programs into pathways that meet local employer needs. CCLCs catalyze new program creation through employer outreach and technical assistance to educators.
- **Impacts of Proposed Budgets: Budgets are NOT final.**

Proposed Funding in 25-27 Biennium

FERGUSON BUDGET	SENATE BUDGET	HOUSE BUDGET
<i>Maintains CCW funding across agencies at \$27.5 million</i>	<i>Cuts total CCW funding by 83%, from \$27.5 million to \$4.7 million</i>	<i>Cuts total CCW funding by 72%, from \$27.5 million to \$7.8 million</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains funding for Career Connected Learning Coordinators • Maintains funding for OSPI Career Connected Learning staff and Tribal Liaison • Maintains funding for Career Launch enrollments in K12 schools • Maintains funding for Career Launch enrollments at community and technical colleges • Maintains funding for Career Launch enrollments at 4-year public universities • Maintains funding for ESD grant pools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Results in net 30% reduction to grant pools, as federal funds are sunseting 6/30/25 ○ 30% cuts to Program Builders (estimate) ○ 30% cuts to Regional Networks (estimate) ○ 30% cuts to Sector Leaders (estimate) ○ 30% cuts to statewide staff and partners (estimate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% cuts to Career Connected Learning Coordinators • 100% cuts to OSPI Career Connected Learning staff and Tribal Liaison • 100% cuts to Career Launch enrollment funding for K12 schools • 100% cuts to Career Launch enrollment funding for community and technical colleges • 100% cuts to Career Launch enrollment funding for 4-year public universities • 70% cuts to ESD CCW grant pools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 100% cuts to Program Builders ○ 70% - 100% cuts to Regional Networks ○ 70% - 100% cuts to Sector Leaders ○ 70% - 100% cuts to statewide staff and partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains full funding for Career Connected Learning Coordinators • Provides new flexibility at OSPI and maintains 98% of current funding level (staffing, Tribal Liaison, Career Launch grants) • 100% cuts to Career Launch enrollment funding for community and technical colleges • 100% cuts to Career Launch enrollment funding for 4-year public universities • 80% cuts to ESD CCW grant pools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 100% cuts to Program Builders ○ 80% - 100% cuts to Regional Networks ○ 80% - 100% cuts to Sector Leaders ○ 80% - 100% cuts to statewide staff and partners

- We are grateful the legislature provided some funding. But we know these reductions will affect the program’s success creating hands-on learning opportunities and career pathways for young adults across our state.
- Washington is a national leader in career connected learning (CCL) thanks to strategic investments in programs, policy, and infrastructure. Students want real-world learning—job shadows, internships, apprenticeships—and employers need skilled talent. CCL bridges this gap.

What Can We Do?

- Contact your legislators using the resources below, and share specific stories to highlight the value of Career Connected Learning.
- Engage stakeholders like employers and students to share their impact with legislators. Guide them to use language like, “Because of ...” or “Without CCW.....”

Resources:

- Use the updated messaging provided in the [Legislative Brief](#) and [CCW Talking Points](#). Additional resources available to partners are [here](#), including talking points, form letters, and a one-pager.
- [Form letter tool](#): Share with students, employers, and others who want to support CCW funding by sending letters directly to legislators. Note: CCW-funded partners should email legislators directly.

Unified Messaging Ask:

Whether you're educating lawmakers, sending letters, holding meetings, or writing op-eds, it's critical we present a consistent message across all sectors and networks.

Early Care and Education:

- [HB 1314](#): Concerning the early learning facilities grant and loan program.
 - Passed unanimously from the Senate floor and was signed by Governor Ferguson on Monday.
- **Budget**: Check out [Start Early WA's budget analysis](#) for a comprehensive side-by-side of the House and Senate proposals across all things early care and education.

Updates from Olympia:

- Fiscal cutoff on April 8, now moving into long days and nights of floor action. Bills must be voted from the floor by April 16. Both House and Senate will be working on Saturday.
- Conference committee (House and Senate budget leaders) are working now on a final budget proposal. Budgets must be released at least 24 hours before a vote.
- House and Senate Democratic leadership shared in their press conference this week they are working on revised/modified revenue proposals. Those may be released next week.

House Democrats Proposed Revenue Bills: ([News Release](#)) Currently, as of 4/11

- [HB 2046](#)- Creating fairness in Washington's tax by imposing a tax on select financial intangible assets.
- [HB 2049](#)- Investing in the state's paramount duty to fund K-12 education and build strong and safe communities.
- [HB 2045](#)- Investing in Washington families by restructuring the business and occupation tax on high grossing businesses and financial institutions.
- **Updates on House Democrats Proposed Revenue Bills:**
 - [HB 2046](#), [HB 2049](#), [HB 2045](#):
 - First readings March 24, referred to Finance

Senate Democrats Revenue Proposal:

[News Release](#) & [Press Conference](#)

- [SB 5797](#)- Enacting a tax on stocks, bonds, and other financial intangible assets for the benefit of public schools.

- [SB 5796](#)- Enacting an excise tax on large employers on the amount of payroll expenses above the social security wage threshold to fund programs and services to benefit Washingtonians.
- [SB 5798](#)- Concerning property tax reform.
- [SB 5794](#)- Adopting recommendations from the tax preference performance review process, eliminating obsolete tax preferences, clarifying legislative intent, and addressing changes in constitutional law.
- [SB 5795](#)- Reducing the state sales and use tax rate.

FYI: State and Federal Agency Statements and Guidance in Response to Federal Executive orders:

- [Governor Bob Ferguson response to Trump threat to “withhold all federal funding”](#)
- [Superintendent Chris Reykdal’s Statement on the U.S. Department of Education’s Attempt to Control Washington Schools](#)

Take action on any bills here: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/>

Review committee schedules here: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/committeeschedules>

Key Session Dates

- ~~January 13: First Day of Session~~
- ~~February 21: Policy Committee Cutoff~~
- ~~February 28: Fiscal Committee Cutoff~~
- ~~March 12: House of Origin Cutoff~~
- ~~April 2: Policy Committee Cutoff—Opposite House~~
- ~~April 8: Fiscal Committee Cutoff—Opposite House~~
- April 16: Opposite House Cutoff
- April 27: Last Day of Session

UPCOMING WEEK SCHEDULE/ACTION ALERTS:

Saturday, April 12th 2025:

9:00AM: House Session/Caucus

9:30AM: Possible Senate Session/Caucus

Monday, April 14th 2025:

9:00AM: House Session/Caucus

10:00 AM: Senate Session/Caucus

Tuesday, April 15th, 2025:

9:00AM: House Session/Caucus

9:30AM: Senate Session/Caucus

Wednesday, April 16th, 2025:

9:00AM: House Session/Caucus

9:30AM: Senate Session/Caucus

Thursday, April 17th, 2025:

10:00 AM: House Session/Caucus

10:30 AM: Senate Session/Caucus

Friday, April 18th, 2025

8:00 AM: House Finance

Executive Session:

- [HB 2049](#) - Investing in the state's paramount duty to fund K-12 education and build strong and safe communities.

10:30AM: House Session/Caucus

9:30AM: Senate Session/Caucus

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/committeeschedules>

Schedules subject to change.

Washington STEM 2025-2028 Strategic Plan: Keystones and Barriers: Keystones are central principles or parts of a system on which all other parts of the system rely to thrive, often applied to architectural and ecological systems. We adopted this term to outline our long-term vision for the education system and to identify the key elements for its success. In addition to keystones, we have also recognized the barriers that Washington STEM is uniquely positioned to have influence to ensure the keystones of our education system serve all students.

- **Keystone #1: All learners have equitable access to high quality early care and education.**
 - Barrier 1: Lack of useful, population-specific data to guide decision making.
 - Barrier 2: Data capacity & use: when data is accessible, state and local leaders need support to use it for making changes in ECE policies, practices, and procedures.

- **Keystone #2: All learners graduate STEM literate, with the knowledge, skills, and sense of belonging to thrive in their chosen career path and to solve local and global problems.**
 - Barrier: Lack of cohesive approach and coordinated action towards STEM literacy.
- **Keystone #3: All learners have access to multiple, equitable and accessible pathways to credentials and careers; and all learners are supported as they bridge the high school to postsecondary transition.**
 - Barrier 1: Lack of cohesive pathways: Many institutions of higher education lack cohesive pathways from credentials to careers.
 - Barrier 2: Lack of cohesive career readiness approach: Our state lacks a cohesive approach to supporting students' postsecondary aspirations & transitions.

What's next?

- We will host Friday calls throughout the session and as always, will send comprehensive notes after.
- The **Bill Tracker and Weekly Notes** will be available on [Washington STEM's Advocacy page](#). Our tracker includes a wide swath of bills throughout the session that align with our shared goals. And are critical to creating the enabling conditions for students to thrive.
- **If you know a fellow changemaker, colleague, or leader- please invite them to these calls. Please use the sign-up form as this ensures we have the most up-to-date contact information.**
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Learn more on our website: <https://washingtonstem.org/advocacy>

The WA STEM Advocacy Coalition exists to collect and disseminate information pertaining to statewide education policy. We exist to provide feedback and evidence-based recommendations to the Legislature. *Joining our weekly informational sessions to hear updates on our policy and advocacy does not in itself constitute lobbying.*