



Legislative Agenda for 2014 Session

The 2014 legislative session is a “short” session and is scheduled for 60 days. Given the relative stability of the economy and the impending 2014 elections, most indications are that the session will indeed end on time and any new budget expenditures (other than transportation) will be slight.

Many expect a quiet session. The League of Education Voters (LEV) will not be quiet.

LEV’s overarching goal is to ensure ample, equitable, and stable funding that supports the best P–16 public education system in the United States and ensure progress addressing vexing issues that keep low-income students and students of color from succeeding in school.

We will continue to work to prepare our earliest learners to enter the K–12 system ready to learn; build an accountable, responsive K–12 system; support policy and programs that close the opportunity gap; establish the requirement for a meaningful high school diploma; and support programs that ensure students’ ability to succeed in technical, 2-year, or 4-year colleges. During short sessions budget work is typically minor, so most effort is in the policy arena.

Specifically, we will work on:

- Increasing access, affordability, and effectiveness of high-quality early learning programs through support for previous legislation
- Implementing full-day kindergarten
- Supporting programs to close the opportunity and achievement gaps (i.e., discipline reform, culturally responsive instruction, academic supports, ELL certifications, and extended learning opportunities)
- Protecting student aid and expanding access to quality post-secondary opportunities
 - Supporting the Dream Act
 - Expanding access to four-year degrees at regional universities and two-year colleges
 - Increasing coordination between K–12 and regional community and technical colleges (STEM/Course Equivalency/Career and College Ready)
 - Building support for the College Bound Scholarship program
 - Expanding options to earn college credits in high school
- Creating a college- and career-ready high school diploma
- Ensuring Washington state maintains its waiver from No Child Left Behind
- Supporting effective implementation of TPEP as a tool to improve instructional practices and educational outcomes for all students, especially students of color, low-income students, and other students who traditionally are underserved by the public school system.

Other areas of effort

LEV is a leader and partner on other initiatives in Olympia. LEV will continue to support:

- Addressing remediation in our community and technical colleges
- Efforts to address our regressive tax code to create a more equitable and stable tax system for Washington state