

Navigating the State Legislature
&
Understanding the Legislative Process

Agenda

- Student Issues
- Advocating For Your Community
- WASEN's Role in State Legislature
- Educating Lawmakers & Increasing Student Profiles
- Navigating the Legislature
- Legislative Process & Budget Process

Issues Faced by Students

- Cost of Attendance
- Available Class
- Faculty Availability
- Diversity, access, and retention
- Safety
- Limited access mental health services
- Minimum wage
- Financial Aid (State Need Grant)
- Access to Child Care
- Undocumented student challenges
- Affordable Housing
- Food security
- Sexual Assault on and off campus
- Transportation and Parking
- Job Prospects
- Normative Time to Degree
- Teaching Assistant Pay
- Advisor and Grad Student Relationships

WA Student Engagement Networks

Why do we educate Legislators? Why in Olympia?

- Conversations about your future happen with or without you, it is important to be present for those conversations
- Bring together students from diverse backgrounds to the center of policy making for Washington State
- Identify student leaders who can inspire and activate delegations of students
- Provide training and knowledge on political process

Advocating in Your Community

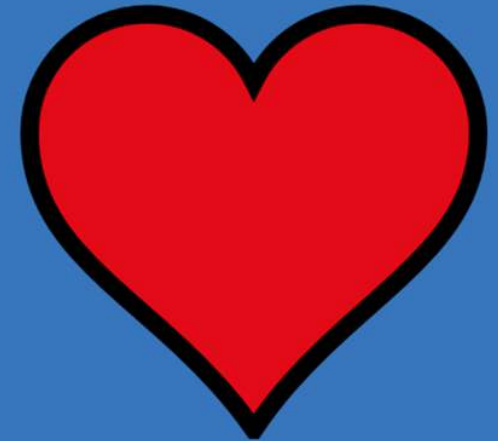
Who



How



Why



WA-SEN's goal is to organize students from across Washington state to educate lawmakers on the importance of college attainment and to fight to fully fund critical financial aid programs

Educating Lawmakers and Increasing Student Profiles



- Bring students to the capitol in Olympia who are most impacted so they can share personal testimonies and stories.
- Effectively outreach to Legislators to accurately represent populations who cannot make it to the capitol.

Navigating the State Legislature as Youth

- Student and youth narrative is sometimes missing from the legislative process
- Puts a face to the numbers and issues
- Issues impacting youth are often not prioritized or are left as discretionary funding items
- Youth voter turnout is low compared to other demographics
- Student schedules often do not allow for physical presence in the capital
- Advocate for those who are unable to be present.
- At the end of the day you are the expert on student issues because you are the student!

Navigating the Legislature as a Student of Color

- The political systems that we are operating in and seeking to influence change in, were not inherently built for us
- Nor do these systems tend to welcome and outreach to our communities, our families, or seek our input
- Cultural differences with civic engagement
- Mistrust in the political system
- Risk of having yourself and the ones you care about targeted

Dynamics in Washington D.C

- Communities of color, LGBTQ+, students with disabilities, undocumented students, youth, low income, and more are under attack by the current administration
- Entering the world of political advocacy today may feel risky given the political climate
- Higher education is not a priority for elected officials at the federal level

Dynamics in Olympia, WA

- Higher education still remains unaffordable for many
- Critical financial aid programs like the State Need Grant are not being fully funded by the state
- Funding for critical student support and retention services

It is on **all of us** to create a safe space, free of sexual harassment, but it is especially the responsibility of men to change the power dynamics that have been at play in Olympia and hold one another accountable.

Positives of Engaging in the Legislative Process

- Students and youth are a refreshing face on the capitol!
- Student voices are authentic and don't speak for special interests
- Your voice and your message echoes in the halls of Olympia; people listen
- We do have legislative champions and partner organizations fighting for racial and social justice in Olympia
- We inspire new generations of student advocates
- When you get a seat at the table make sure to pull up a chair for someone else
- Once you become active, it is hard to stay away
- At the end of the day students are constituents with a lot at stake during the legislative and budget process and your voice is vital



Idea
Into
Language



Idea Into
Language



Introduction and
Committee
Assignments



Idea Into
Language



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Legislative
Committee
Process



Idea Into
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Legislative
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House
of
Origin
Votes



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House of
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Repeat Committee
and Floor Process
in Opposite House



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Governor's Desk

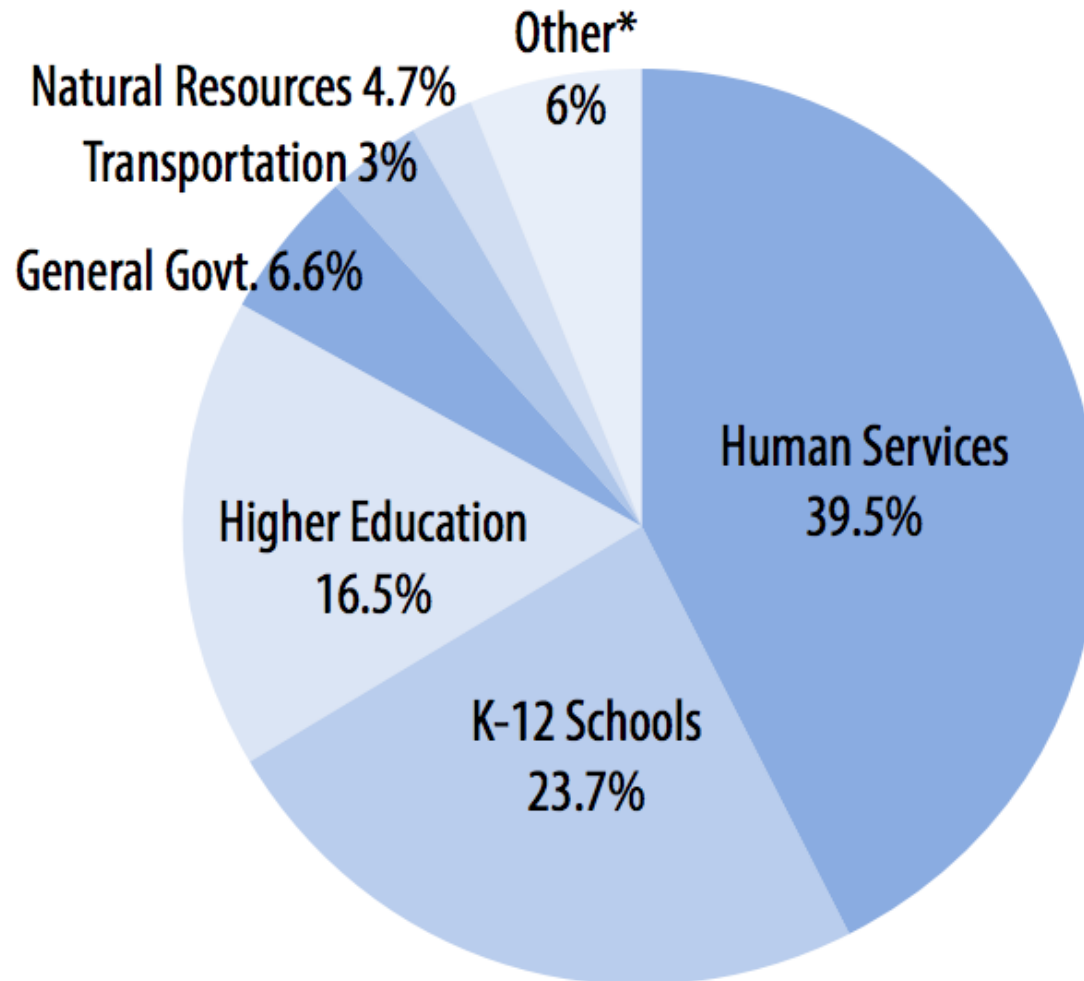


Repeat Committee
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House of
Origin
Votes

Total Budget Breakdown: 2017-19 Biennium (two year budget cycle)





Agency Request Budget

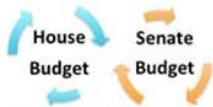
OFM Budget
Compilation
&
Gov's Budget

- May through September
- Unique processes for each agency
- Contains new funding requests, maintenance level needs, and budget reduction exercises





OFM Budget
Compilation
&
Gov's Budget



Legislature
Develops
Budget



OFM Budget Compilation & Governor's Proposed Budget

- October through December
- Evaluation of state agency requests, revenue forecast, & caseload estimates
- Released in mid-December as advisory budget for the Legislature
- Commonly known as the "Book 1 Budget"



OFM Budget
Compilation
&
Gov's Budget



Legislative Budget Process

- January through April (105 or 65 days)
- Re-evaluation of all state agency budget requests, revenue forecast, & caseload estimates through committee hearings
- Senate & House develop separate proposed budgets then negotiate through conference committee of both chambers



OFM Budget
Compilation
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Gov's Budget



Legislature
Develops
Budget



Enacted Budget

- Set on a Biennial (2-year) timeline
- 2-year budget established in odd-numbered years & revisited for a supplemental budget in even numbered years
- Supplemental budget process is supposed to address only emerging issues
- The Governor can veto funding by line item or accept the funding as passed by the Leg.