

# WFIS eMemo

April 2011

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## The Legislature Lurches to Completion

With the regular session of the Washington State Legislature rapidly coming to a conclusion, many fiscal issues remain up in the air. Since the last date for bills to be heard and passed out of the opposite house has come and gone, only bills deemed critical to reducing the state budget have survived and been included in each house's proposed biennial spending plan. Many fiscal issues are being considered in the 2011-13 Budget. There are proposed deep cuts to all discretionary spending including education, health, transportation, and government operations. This, coupled with a dismal forecast in revenue projections for the next two years, have legislators on both sides of the aisle wondering what to do next.

WFIS and our member schools have worked diligently to make our concerns and needs known to both Governor Gregoire and both houses of the legislature during this session. The only bill we were following which has survived the cut off dates is SSB 5639, the educational governance bill proposed by the Governor. This bill would establish a Department of Education to be overseen by a Secretary of Education appointed by the Governor. It would also eliminate several educational agencies, like the State Board of Education, the Early Learning Advisory Council and others. After a proposal to constitutionally eliminate the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction failed to resonate with lawmakers and voters alike, the Governor proposed to have the appointed Secretary of Education, the OSPI and the Early Learning Department work together (the Higher Education Coordinating Board was also eliminated). This has really confused many on the validity and the constitutionality of the Governor's plan, since the whole point for the change was to provide seamless collaboration from early childhood to career within the framework of our state constitution.

Initially, all previous private school representation was eliminated, but--due to quick action by WFIS--it was later included in the striker amendment from the House bill that passed the Senate Education Committee before its stall in Senate Ways and Means.

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**WFIS 2011 Calendar:**

**January 10, 2011**

**Legislative Session Begins**

**February 10, 2011  
Winter Dinner and Best of Washington Awards**

Even though this bill was not voted out of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, it has still been included as part of the Senate Budget and is therefore still a live bill. The House, however, did not include this bill language or fiscal implication in their version of the budget. Since both the House and Senate Budgets must be reconciled before it is sent to the Governor for signature, it is questionable that this bill will survive budget reconciliation. Governor Gregoire is adamant that this new Department of Education be included in any budget that she will sign, so if the legislature cannot come to agreement on how to proceed with this landmark change, the Governor has vowed to call a special session. We will keep you informed as the legislature proceeds to its finish.

Thanks to all who have written letters and e-mails, called your legislators and supported our efforts by testifying at hearings. Your voices have had a huge impact for private education in our state, and your membership in the Washington Federation of Independent Schools provides for this representation on your behalf.

Judy Jennings  
Executive Director

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## The Other Washington

In March I spent several days in Washington, D. C. at the annual State CAPE Network meeting. At our meeting, my counterparts from other states and I discussed a number of issues and concerns. We attended a number of briefings from members of Congress, legislative staff, the US Department of Education and some think tank analysts. Our discussions focused on tax credit legislation, the increasing presence of charter schools, educational spending and the re-authorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, currently titled NCLB. It appears that federal educational spending will either remain fairly flat or be reduced. The only consensus from those who spoke was that Title I will be unaffected. While our discussions about the impasse regarding this year's federal budget have been put to rest, the bigger battle continues to rage over next year's budget. Not only do most Republicans and Democrats fail to see eye-to-eye, there is also a rift in the Republican Party over the depth of spending cuts. Add President Obama's proposed budget to the mix and we currently have gridlock.

There is cautious optimism that the ESEA reauthorization will be completed this year. President Obama would like to see these changes enacted into law prior to the start of the 2011-12 school year. While this seems implausible to many, citing they see mostly smaller proposals passing that eliminate the most onerous parts of NCLB.

February 11, 2011  
Seattle Public Schools  
Federal Programs  
Workshop

April 14, 2011  
WFIS Board Meeting

June 2011  
Statewide Private  
Schools Conference

October 28  
WFIS/PSED Private  
Schools Workshop



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Judy Jennings

Private educators need to remain vigilant as this moves through Congress. Already many Title programs that benefit private schools have either been eliminated or decimated to the point of little benefit to students. Secretary Duncan and President Obama favor folding many of the Title programs into competitive grants which may not be available to the private school community. While it appears that the principle of equitable participation for private school students stands firm in Title I, all other programs are subject to change. If and when the time comes, it will be crucial that the private school community speaks as one, clear united voice.

WFIS will keep you informed!

Judy Jennings  
Executive Director

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## Private Schools Advisory Committee Meets in Olympia

On Wednesday, April 13, private school representatives from all constituency groups met with Martin Mueller, Assistant Superintendent for Private School Programs. The meeting was chaired by Don Johnson, Superintendent of Cascade Christian Schools. Highlights from the OSPI report include:

- Private School Approval forms will be e-mailed to all private schools on April 29. Forms must be completed and returned by June 14 for approval at the July SBE meeting.
- The Senate budget cuts 3% from teachers and changes reimbursement formula for public schools to an average daily attendance model, saving the state huge amounts of monies.
- E-Certification bill and appropriations are in place to move to a total electronic renewal system. The state has also developed an electronic warehouse where teachers can log all of their own clock hours.
- The National Common Core Standards are poised to be adopted by the state. This may impact curriculum for those schools that send students to public schools for their next level of education.
- The Zac Leistad Law regarding head injuries was passed and is being implemented by the WIAA. It defines who can clear a student and when they can be cleared to participate in sports after having a head injury.
- The new Core 24 high school graduation requirements have been approved, but will not be implemented until there is funding available

The remainder of the meeting was framed around a discussion about Early Learning, its impact and inconsistencies as they relate to

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The Washington Federation of Independent Schools (WFIS) is the umbrella organization for private education in Washington State. With seventy percent of the independent student population enrolled in member schools, WFIS is the only statewide vehicle for regular communication and strategic development between the many different constituencies. WFIS schools are affiliates of the Catholic dioceses in the state; the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI); the Christian Schools International (CSI); Lutheran Schools; Montessori schools; the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools (PNAIS); the Seventh-day Adventist Schools (SDA); and numerous other religious and independent institutions, including the Waldorf Schools, Hutterian Brethren, and those institutions with sponsorship within the Jewish and Islamic communities. The WFIS Board of Directors consists of eighteen school heads representing the major constituencies chosen regionally by their respective bodies. WFIS is networked with similar organizations in other states through the Council for American Private

private schools. Dr. Bette Hyde, Head of the Department of Early Learning and Superintendent Randy Dorn provided their perspective on this issue and listened to the needs and concerns of those private school constituencies around the table. The private schools were asked to make a list of all of the licensing disconnects and issues that negatively impact them. This list will be compiled by the PSAC and addressed by the DEL and OSPI.

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## WFIS Executive Board Holds Last Meeting for 2010-11 School Year

Hosted by Principal Dan Sherman at St. Madeleine Sophie School in Bellevue, the WFIS Board met to finalize the transition and communication plan for bringing on the new Executive Director on July 1.

The new Director will be replacing retiring Executive Director, Judy Jennings.

Other business included developing the next steps for the Long Range Plan, passing the 2011-12 Operations Budget and finalizing the Membership Plan for next year. With a new executive coming, the board decided to maintain the board and executive committee in its current configuration for next year.

Many thanks were expressed to the Search Committee, chaired by Trish King of the Island School, and Executive Committee as well as Board Chair, Briel Schmitz of the Spruce Street School for the thorough and successful process used to acquire the new director while at the same time moving the organization forward.

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## CAPE Update: Opportunity Scholarships Program Reauthorized (April 15, 2011)

The fiscal year 2011 spending bill that Congress approved yesterday and President Obama will sign into law today reauthorizes the program that allows low-income students in the District of Columbia to use federally funded scholarships to attend religious and independent schools.

The bipartisan budget plan includes the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) Act that the House approved as a stand-alone bill last month. Enactment of the legislation means that new students will be able to attend schools starting this fall using scholarships worth up to \$8,000 in grades K-8 and up to \$12,000 in grades 9-12. Priority will be given to students whose scholarships were rescinded when Congress closed the program to new students in 2009.

## Education (CAPE).

Inclusion of the SOAR Act in the compromise legislation came at the insistence of House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), a passionate and steadfast supporter of the program from the start. Its enactment offers a future full of hope for disadvantaged students, and perhaps not only in the nation's capital. An article in today's edition of The New York Times suggests that the legislation is helping to fuel the revival of school vouchers across the country.

The April 2011 issue of CAPE Outlook, a monthly newsletter from the Council for American Private Education, is available for download as a free PDF document by clicking [here](#) or by entering the following URL in your browser:

<http://www.capenet.org/pdf/Outlook364.pdf>

In Outlook this month:

- House Approves Opportunity Scholarships Bill
- Lawmakers Discuss Key Issues at CAPE Forum
- Governor Wise Talks to CAPE Leaders on Digital Learning
- New Book on Parental Choice and State Control
- Who Should Decide How Children Are Educated?
- And much more

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## Congratulations to Will Fisher of Spring Street International School!

The Professional Photographers of Washington are happy to announce the winner of the Student Photographer of the Year Scholarship. The \$2000 scholarship will be awarded to Will Fisher of Spring Street International School (Friday Harbor). Will is a senior graduating in 2011 and was selected from applications submitted by student photographers representing schools throughout Washington State.

Students applied for this scholarship, presenting an application, which included a portfolio of their work, a personal essay and two recommendations from teachers or mentors in photography. Members of the Professional Photographers of Washington juried the applicants.

To see samples of the top four finalists' work, go to <http://gallery.me.com/wm7n/100274>.

On this site, click on the download button to download a folder of all the photos which you can then use for publication.

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## Upcoming Workshops:

**SAVE THE NEW DATE! The WFIS/Puget Sound ESD Private Schools Workshop (previously scheduled for October 21) has been rescheduled for October 28, 2011**

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### Registration Opens May 2, 2011 for OSPI Private Schools Summer Conference

Focus: Differentiation and Assessment in Light of Brain Research

Presenter: Gayle Gregory

#### Dates:

Seattle Pacific University

Session 1: June 20-21

Repeat of Session 1: June 22-23

Gonzaga University

June 28-29

Time: 9:00 am - 4:00pm

Space is Limited

12 Clock Hours Available

Training Materials Provided

Continental Breakfast and Lunch provided

Free to all private school educators employed by State Board approved private schools

#### Contact

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The Bridges to Understanding board of directors will transfer Bridges' educational content and programs to [Teachers Without Borders](#), a Seattle-based nonprofit with the mission of "connecting teachers to information and each other to create local change on a global scale." With a worldwide community of teachers, TWB's outstanding education programs are "conceived, developed and led by teachers connected by information and each other in order to address demand-driven needs and ensure long-term impact." By transitioning Bridges' programs to this outstanding organization, they will be made available to many more teachers and students around the world.

## The Bulletin Board

Don't forget to check out the job postings at  
<http://wfis.org/educators/washington-state-private-schools-jobs.asp>

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### IAQ Tools for Schools Action Kit Download Updated Resources!

How do I put a comprehensive plan in place to reduce exposures to indoor pollutants? How do I form an effective and cooperative team that is committed to creating a healthy learning environment at my school? Check out the latest version of the *IAQ Tools for Schools Action Kit* to learn the answers to these questions! The Action Kit compiles resources, checklists and publications to assist school districts in identifying the actions they can take to successfully plan and implement successful IAQ strategies.

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### Invitation to Teachers and Administrators:

North Cascades Institute Open House: Thursday, May 12, 2011, 9am-4pm or Saturday, May 14, 2011, 9am-4pm  
Meet us at North Cascades National Park Headquarters, 810 State Route 20; Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Meet at 9am at our Administration office in Sedro-Woolley then travel up the Skagit River to our Environmental Learning Center (1.5 hours). Staff will lead you on a tour of our LEED certified facility and wilderness classroom. Thursday attendees will have the opportunity to observe the Mountain School program in action. We will provide a hotlunch in our Dining Hall featuring local, organic foods and will organize transportation to and from Sedro-Woolley. Kindly RSVP to Aneka Singlaub, (360) 854-2595 or [aneka\\_singlaub@ncascades.org](mailto:aneka_singlaub@ncascades.org)

North Cascades Institute's Mountain School program brings 4th through 12th grade students to our 92-bed Environmental Learning Center located in North



Cascades National Park on the shores of Diablo Lake for a learning experience of a lifetime. Visit our website for more details [www.ncascades.org/programs/school](http://www.ncascades.org/programs/school)

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#### **Puyallup Fair Opportunities:**

September 16-17, 2011: Private schools interested in hosting a (free) booth or providing entertainment on the Education Stage during Private School Days at the Western Washington State Fair, please contact Stan Cross, Education Building Superintendent, at 253.848.8883.

College Fair at the Fair will take place on September 25. School counselors should contact Stan Cross at 253.848.8883 to obtain passes for interested high school sophomores and juniors.

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**From WSAME:** Two concerts celebrating music, instruments and musicians from around the world. Concerts are free with museum admission. Arrive early, seating is limited. All families and community members are welcome!

Thursday, May 5, 2011, 7 - 8 p.m.  
Seattle Asian Art Museum - Garden Court  
1400 E. Prospect/Volunteer Park

Thursday, May 19, 2011, 7 - 8 p.m.  
Seattle Asian Art Museum - Garden Court  
1400 E. Prospect/Volunteer Park

For information contact WSAME: 206-522-5438 or  
[WSAME@mindspring.com](mailto:WSAME@mindspring.com)

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