

AGENDA

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW GLARUS
POLICY, COMMUNICATION & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER, ROOM 183 JOIN ZOOM MEETING USING
LINK
HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/85085077746?PWD=TZML4K5VLAATW3K2JTBY
GG41YZUNFR.1 BY PHONE USING 1-646-568-7788 MEETING ID 850 8507 7746 &
PASSWORD 342104
1701 2ND STREET
NEW GLARUS, WISCONSIN 53574
6:45 AM**

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Legislative Update**

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WASB Legislative Update

Chris Kulow & David Martin
*WASB Government
Relations Team*

Agenda

Setting the Stage

- **General Legislative Session Updates**
- **Major Financial Challenges**
- **Recent Good News**
- **Review of Party Priorities**

Legislation Review

- **New Laws Passed This Session**
- **What's Been Vetoed**
- **What's Still Brewing**
- **Mandates**

DCF: Get Kids Ready Program

Federal Updates

How to Stay Updated





Setting the Stage



General Legislative Session Updates

- February 10-19 & March 17-19 are the last reserved general floor periods until 2027.
- As of now, the Assembly plans to conclude work February 19.
- The Senate plans to work through March, although their overall action has been limited compared to Assembly.

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General Legislative Session Updates

- After March ends, legislators:
 - Continue interim study committees
 - Return to district for election season
 - Begin crafting policies for next session
- Gives a window of opportunity to meet with legislators, invite them to your schools, etc.



Financial Challenges: Property Taxes

- One of the largest conversations this winter has been the large rise in property taxes statewide.
- Allowed revenue limit increases combined with no increase in general aid has left taxpayers in a tight spot.
- Partys are pointing the fingers at each other, meanwhile schools are left receiving much of the blame.

Financial Challenges: Special Education Funding

- 2025-27 State Budget Targets: 42% in 25-26, 45% in 26-27
- DPI announced in November, *initial* reimbursement level = 35%
- This initial payment is a conservative payment while districts final prior year costs are finalized.
- Still, this highlights the need for sum sufficient funding model.





Possible Relief or False Hope?

- Governor Evers and Department of Revenue announced that **actual tax collections have come in around \$1.5 billion over original projections**
- Could this be used to relieve special education funding and property tax challenges?
- Divided government means this money is most likely not going anywhere.
- Governor has proposed a 1.3 B property tax relief package.
- Legislature has requested he help undo his "400-year" veto before any action on this.

Comparing Party Priorities: Republicans

Assembly

- Dual Enrollment Regulation Updates
- Act 20 for Math
- Consolidation Incentives
- Student Discipline Proposals
- Curtailing Referenda
- Student Protections Against Grooming Behaviors
- Eliminating the Governor's 400-Year Veto

Senate

- Student Protections Against Grooming Behaviors
- Eliminating the Governor's 400-Year Veto
- Have not laid out definitive education priorities
- **Slim Majority Margins Mean Actions are Limited**

Comparing Party Priorities: Democrats

Legislative DEMS

- Increases to general aid to match inflationary changes
- Moving SPED funding to Sum-Sufficient, provide additional funding for current biennium
- Providing property tax bill line for voucher/ind. charter school funding
- Universal free school meals
- Voucher school accountability package

Governor

- Invest the necessary funding to achieve agreed-upon percentages for special education funding of 42 percent in 2025-26 and 45 percent in 2026-27, or make the appropriation sum sufficient
- Property tax relief proposal with new tax revenue, including general aid for schools and some tax credits

Comparing Party Priorities

- With divided government and differing priorities, it is unlikely that many things will make it into law with the remainder of session.
- What this does do is set up election talking points and campaign priorities.



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Legislation Review

New Laws Passed This Session

Act 42

- Generally, prohibits device usage during instructional time.
- Provides exceptions for healthcare, IEP's/504 Plans, if a teacher deems it necessary, and emergencies

Act 57

- Generally, requires a parent to be notified by the end of the day if their child was a victim of an alleged sexual misconduct.
- Includes provisions if allegation is received outside the business day

Act 79

- **Allows** school board to schedule one day for some federal youth organizations to enter the school building and distribute recruitment materials.

Act 80

- Amends academic excellence scholarship designation process to allow more students from small high schools (1-80 pupils) to receive the scholarship.

Bills Vetoed

Reverting "Cut Score"
Changes Made by DPI

Requirement to Allow
Residents to Inspect
School Materials

Requiring Higher Ed
Institutions to Collect
and Report More Data
on Cost vs. Outcomes

Requiring Military
Recruiters More
Access to School
Common Areas and
Events

Allowing Summer
School Programs to
Count as a Semester
of Student Teaching

What's Still Brewing?

230

The WASB is tracking over 230 bills that have yet to pass the legislature.

These cover a broad range of topics.



Not everything “brewing” will make it into law, or even out of the legislature.

As we go through the bills look for the below icons to see whether a particular “brew” could hit shelves still this session.



Likely



Maybe



Unlikely

Referenda Restrictions



Requiring Additional Information on the Ballot

- AB-60 / SB-58
- Estimated property tax impact to a median valued home.
- The estimated interest rate and amount of the interest accruing on the bonds.
- Any fees that will be incurred if the bonds are defeased.

Eliminating Recurring Referenda

- AB 71 / SB 81
- Would eliminate the ability for districts to seek a recurring referenda.
- Limits all referenda to a 4-year term maximum.

Excluding Referenda Revenue from Shared Cost

- Two different proposals on this issue.
- One would eliminate referenda revenue over \$50 million from shared cost (AB-81/ SB-61).
- One would eliminate **all** referenda approved revenue from shared cost (AB-792/ SB-781).

Requiring DPI Certification of Financial Compliance

- AB-457/ SB-451
- Requires DPI to certify that all financial reporting requirements have been met before a district can seek a referendum.



Sexual Grooming Protection Bills

Creating a Crime of Grooming

- AB-677 / SB-671
- Generally, makes it a crime for an adult to condition, seduce, solicit, lure, or entice a child for the purpose of engaging in sexual intercourse or sexual contact

Requiring School Board Policies

- AB-678 / SB-673 (ASA 1)
- Bill was amended to apply requirements to ALL schools.
- Requires policies and annual trainings on appropriate communication between staff/volunteers and children both inside and outside the school district.

School Bus Legislation



AB-126/SB-136

- Allows for school buses to be equipped with back-up lights.

AB-393/SB-393

- Eases a few regulations for school bus certification, particularly for drivers over 70.

AB-392/SB-392

- Requires drivers ed to include instruction on student crossings, school bus lights, and stopping for school buses.

AB-395/SB-391

- Allows school buses to be equipped with audiovisual recording devices, if a school board adopts a policy.



Consolidation Package



AB-644: Raises Main Consolidation Aid

AB-645: School Feasibility Study Grants



AB-646: Statewide Consolidation Study

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AB-647: Whole Grade Sharing Grants

AB-648: Supplemental Aid to Ease Levy Difference



Mandates: What to Watch Out For



Cardiac
Emergency
Response Plans



Blood and Organ
Donation



Human
Trafficking and
Sextortion
Prevention



Sexual Abuse
Prevention



Human
Trafficking
Posters



School Meal
Ingredients

21



Mandates: Others Out There

Inclusions to Human Growth and Development

Spend 70% of Budget "In the Classroom"

Display National Motto & Only Certain Flags

Clean Water Management Plans and Testing

Name and Pronoun Change Policies

Installing Changing Tables

Posting Salaries of Job Openings

Requiring State Health Insurance Plan for Teachers

Serving Butter

22
Math Screeners

Voter Registration & Education

Cursive Education

Civics Education

Suicide Prevention

1 Hour of Recess



Rehired Annuitants Legislation

Bipartisan Legislation

- **SB 170/AB 170** – Allows who retiree to return to work without suspending annuity
- Retains 75-day break in service
- Employer pays into system

Where it Stands

- Both chambers held public hearings in committee
- Assembly Committee scheduled a vote, but canceled it
- Senate Committee has yet to schedule a vote

Your Help is Needed!

- We are hearing that some in the legislature are concerned about “double dipping” or the legislation causing mass retirements.



Department of Children and Families' Get Kids Ready

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*For a more in-depth review attend
the breakout session by DCF
Secretary Jeff Pertl this afternoon at
1:45pm in Room 201 A/B*

Get Kids Ready: What is it?

- New program to provide per-pupil payments to DCF licensed private child-care providers using 4k curriculum.
- Payment is 60% of Low Revenue Ceiling + Per-Pupil Aid
 - \$7,045 per pupil maximum in 2026
 - Payments are prorated if \$65 million appropriated isn't enough. Anymore than 9,226 kids, and payments start to decrease.
- Cannot have a contract with a school district to provide 4k instruction.
 - Contracts with school districts for other services are allowed.
- Must provide 437 hours of instruction per year.



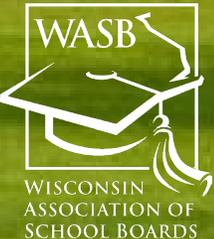
DCF: Get Kids Ready

- Childcare providers have until February 1 to indicate they will participate in the program and how many slots will be made available.
- Feb. 15, DCF posts on website a list of participating providers and **per-child payment range.**
- Changes no education or licensing requirements for providers.
- School districts with a contract to provide community 4k in childcare centers will likely see these centers evaluating the value of the contract.

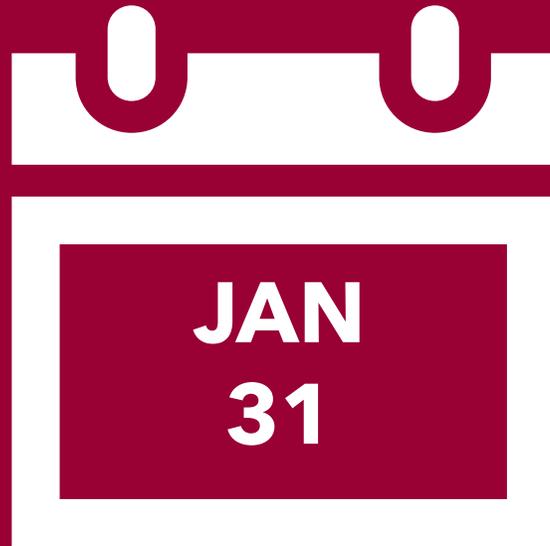




Federal Updates



Federal Appropriation Challenges Remain



Deadline for partial government shutdown including education funding



The last government shutdown resolved with only 3 of 12 appropriations bill receiving full fiscal year approval. The remaining 9, including the bill funding education received a short-term continuing resolution until end of January.

Department of Education Shake-Ups



How to Stay Informed with WASB

Stay Informed!

Monthly Legal & Legislative Webinars

Federal Updates Page

Legislative Update Blog

VoterVoice

Bill Tracking Chart

Thank You!

ANY QUESTIONS?

III. **Adjourn**

PURSUANT TO APPLICABLE LAW, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A QUORUM OR A MAJORITY OF THE NEW GLARUS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS MAY ATTEND THIS MEETING. INFORMATION PRESENTED AT THIS MEETING MAY HELP FORM THE RATIONALE BEHIND FUTURE ACTIONS THAT MAY BE TAKEN BY THE NEW GLARUS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD.

UPON REQUEST TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE, SUBMITTED TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS IN ADVANCE, THE DISTRICT SHALL MAKE REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL IN AN ALTERNATIVE FORMAT FOR A DISABLED PERSON TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.