

WEIAOB 2026 Legislative Advisory Committee: Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2025

11:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Attending (alphabetical by last name):

Collin Bannister, Jane Broom, Charles Knutson, Eleni Papadakis, and Dr. Terri Standish-Kuon.

Others attending (alphabetical by last name):

Joel Anderson (WSAC), Melissa Beard (COP), and Vanessa Ponce (WA Student Association).

Meeting called to order at 11:02 a.m.

Introductory Comments

Presenter: Joel Anderson

- The Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC) will review meeting minutes from September 5, debrief recent conversations with external stakeholders who may be able to help analyze WEIA expenditures, and continue discussing goals for the 2026 legislative session.
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Key Takeaways

- LEAP, JLARC, and WSIPP may all be able to help the Board analyze WEIA expenditures.
 - LAC members want to protect WEIA funds in the short term and prevent WEIA appropriations from supplanting other higher education funding in the long term.
 - A summary of LAC meetings and achievements to date will be presented at the October 9 Board meeting.
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Discussion: 2026 LAC Planning

Presenter: Joel Anderson

Material: 2026 LAC Planning

- Copies of WSAC's final decision package and agency request legislation, submitted to Gov. Ferguson's office and OFM on September 12, were shared with LAC members.
 - While this amendment was not included for now, no LAC members expressed concerns about preserving a requirement for WSAC to consult WTB when providing data to the Board. This will likely be pursued during the 2026 legislative session.
 - Gov. Ferguson's office and OFM asked not to be added to the Board due to conflict of interest concerns.
- Joel has met with three external stakeholders so far about possible opportunities for collaboration as the Board evaluates WEIA expenditures.

- The [Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program \(LEAP\) Committee](#) maintains budget data on fiscal.wa.gov and said that it has the data necessary to publish more thorough overviews of WEIA expenditures.
 - This work would likely be feasible within existing LEAP appropriations.
 - LEAP already provides detailed budget data online, but it does not disaggregate carryforward level expenditures from specific accounts.
- The [Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee](#) (JLARC) conducts performance audits of any state program or service, tax preference reviews, and sunset reviews.
 - This work would likely be feasible within existing JLARC appropriations.
- The [Washington State Institute for Public Policy](#) (WSIPP) conducts outcome evaluations, benefit-cost analyses, meta-analyses, evidence- and research-based inventories, and survey and qualitative analyses. Studies may be assigned by the Legislature or via contracts if they align with WSIPP’s mission.
 - This work usually requires new appropriations.
- Joel has a fourth meeting with the [Education Research and Data Center](#) on September 26 to discuss similar topics.
- Joel will follow up with Rep. Paul about potential legislation to require the creation of a WEIA expenditure dashboard by LEAP.
- Collaboration with LEAP, JLARC, and/or WSIPP would be pursued with the intent to better understand and track WEIA expenditures over time. Clarifying this information would then enable the Board to request evaluations of specific programs or interventions that receive significant appropriations from WEIA.
 - Any collaboration would likely require legislation or a budget proviso. Rep. Paul and Sen. Hansen were mentioned as legislators who may be interested in this work.
 - Some LAC members noted that having data on actual WEIA expenditures—not just original legislative appropriations—would also be helpful.
- LAC members discussed what effective oversight of WEIA expenditures may look like over the next year, three years, and/or five years.
 - Short-term goals should include protecting WEIA and urging the Legislature to only utilize the account for higher education expenditures.
 - Long-term goals should include urging the Legislature to not supplant other higher education funding with appropriations from WEIA.
- Some LAC members expressed interest in having the Board take broader stances in defense of higher education. Other LAC members wanted the Board to remain focused on WEIA expenditures.
- During the October 9 Board meeting, Joel will present a summary of LAC meetings and achievements to date.

Closing

Presenter: Joel Anderson

- The next LAC meeting is October 14 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:59 a.m.