



WEIAOB Meeting

Thursday, April 23, 2026
1:00-3:00 PM



Meeting Agenda

- Call to Order and Introductions (*15 min.*)
- 2026 Legislative Session and WEIA Appropriations Summaries (*45 min.*)
- 2026 Legislative Advisory Committee Summary (*20 min.*)
- Higher Education Legislative Caucus (*20 min.*)
- Public Comment (*5 min.*)
- Closing (*5 min.*)



WEIAOB Members

- Jane Broom (Co-chair)
- Rep. Dave Paul (Co-chair)
- Sen. T'wina Nobles
- Sen. Judy Warnick
- Rep. Alex Ybarra
- Ash Awad
- Charles Knutson
- Ruben Flores
- Nate Humphrey
- Dr. Terri Standish-Kuon
- Jeff Vincent
- Heather Kurtenbach
- Bill Lyne
- Maddy Thompson
- Collin Bannister
- Mollie Kuwahara
- *Two business representatives (vacant)*



2026 WEIAOB Meeting Dates

- **Thursday, April 23, 1-3 PM** (today)
- Thursday, July 23, 1-3 PM
- Thursday, October 22, 1-3 PM

All meetings will take place virtually.



Presentation and Discussion: 2026 Legislative Session Summary

Joel Anderson



Board Recommendations and Outcomes

Recommendation	Outcome(s)
Do not supplant additional higher education funding with appropriations from WEIA in 2025-27.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No additional funding was supplanted with appropriations from WEIA in 2025-27.
Reinvest in financial aid and maintain existing higher education investments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No restoration of cuts to state financial aid (SFA) programs (made in 2025).• No additional cuts to SFA programs.• Public IHEs all took new admin. cuts in FY27.• \$239.9 million (FY27, one-time) from public IHEs' capital project/building accounts was reallocated to prevent further cuts.
Protect and prioritize investments in equitable high-tech degree production and industry-aligned programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$250,000 from WEIA went to UW-Bothell's Center for Biotech Innovation and Training.• \$116,000 from WEIA went to CWU for mental and behavioral health degree programs.



Other Relevant Legislative and Budget Outcomes

Legislation	2026 Supplemental Operating Budget Provisos
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HB 2089—modifying taxes on loan interest; small positive impacts on WEIA revenue.• SB 5841—integrating FAFSA/WASFA completion status into OSPI’s High School and Beyond Plan.• SB 5963—guaranteeing maximum WA Grant awards to Passport to Careers-eligible students.• SB 6260—making cuts to multiple public education programs, including Running Start.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESD—conduct a higher education and workforce development landscape analysis.• SBCTC—recommend spending reductions to the Legislature by Dec. 1, 2026.• WSIPP—study state programs that have increased direct postsecondary enrollment.• WEIAOB—work with high-tech trade associations on recommendations for expanding industry-aligned, high-demand degree programs in 2026 legislative report.• GOV and Legislature—create a two-year committee on budget transparency and fiscal sustainability.



Presentation and Discussion: 2026 WEIA Appropriations Summary

Joel Anderson



New Appropriations from WEIA by Agency or Institution

Agency or Institution	Appropriations from WEIA
WSAC	\$140.3 million
EWU	\$3.3 million
CWU	\$2.8 million
WWU	\$320,000
SBCTC	\$142,000
WSU	-
TESC	(\$36,000)
UW	(\$27.2 million)
Special Approps. to the Governor	\$341,000
WTB	\$1,000
ESD	(\$26,000)
Total	\$119.9 million

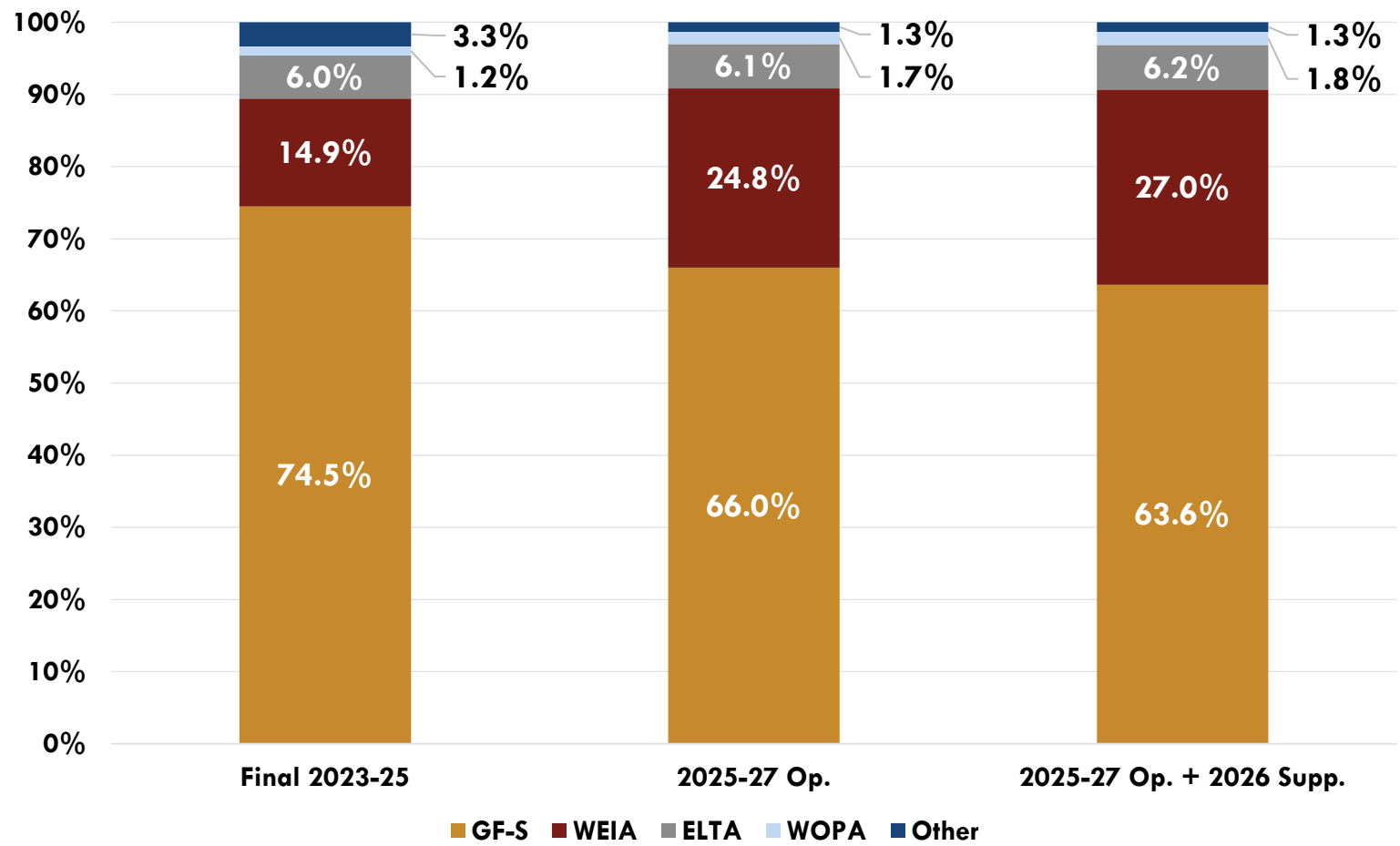


Largest New ML and PL Appropriations from WEIA

Maintenance Level (ML)	Policy Level (PL)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$140.3 million—WA Grant caseload adjustments (WSAC).• \$6.2 million—College in the High School enrollments:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>EWU</u>: \$2.6 million• <u>CWU</u>: \$2.6 million• <u>SBCTC</u>: \$702,000• <u>UW</u>: \$308,000• <u>WWU</u>: \$92,000• \$353,000—Rural Jobs State Match Account (GOV—Special Approps.).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$15 million—Center for Behavioral Health and Learning (UW).• \$2.1 million—collective bargaining agreements:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>SBCTC</u>: \$976,000• <u>EWU</u>: \$764,000• <u>WWU</u>: \$228,000• <u>CWU</u>: \$130,000



Higher Education Appropriations by Account



- The percentage of total appropriations for higher education from WEIA **still increased** despite no additional supplanting.



Presentation and Discussion: 2026 Legislative Advisory Committee Summary

Joel Anderson and Jane Broom



Summary of Work Completed

- Analyzed WEIA appropriations data (2019-21 to present).
- **Presented on WEIA** to the Joint Higher Education Cmte. (Dec. 3, 2025).
- Drafted and distributed the Board's:
 - **2026 legislative recommendations**
 - **2025 legislative report**
 - Legislation (**SB 5931**) to make administrative changes to **RCW 28B.77.310**.
 - **Feedback** on the House and Senate's 2026 supplemental operating budget proposals.
- Reviewed 2026 legislation related to higher education and WEIA.



Presentation and Discussion: Higher Education Legislative Caucus

Bill Lyne



Higher Education Legislative Caucus

- Higher education committee chairs (Rep. Dave Paul and Sen. T’wina Nobles) led the development of a **Higher Education Legislative Caucus** in 2026 to prioritize:
 - Protecting and restoring financial aid for college and workforce training.
 - Preventing further reductions to higher education programs and student support services.
 - Preserving dedicated WEIA funding for its intended higher education and workforce development purposes.
- **40 legislators** signed a **bipartisan letter of support** for higher education as part of 2026 supplemental operating budget negotiations.
- Rep. Shaun Scott (**HB 2612**) and Sen. Nobles (**SB 6276**) introduced legislation to protect WEIA funding.



Public Comment



Closing