

Chirp

March 5, 2026 (original)

March 6, 2026 (edited)

Call to Action!

Contact your representatives!

Campus closure included in House Budget language

The Washington State House of Representatives has included a **potential closure of ONE UNSPECIFIED community college campus** within its budget proposal language. *Please see the next page for the specific language.* The AFT is trying to get this language removed from the final reconciled budget.

Find your representatives by following [this link](#), and use the provided language* below to make your voice heard!

I am a (faculty or staff) teaching/working at {college}. I am writing to ask you to oppose including in the final budget any language that assumes we must close a college campus. Without a neutral, data-driven review of the colleges and without engaging stakeholders, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges cannot draw meaningful conclusions about our colleges. To do so is short-sighted and will harm our communities, impact our future workforce, and close off opportunity for our students.

If the Legislature wants to examine efficiencies or system structure, that review should be transparent, open-ended, and grounded in student access and long-term stability. It should include stakeholders among faculty, staff, students, and the community. It should not begin with a mandated reduction in a budget proviso.

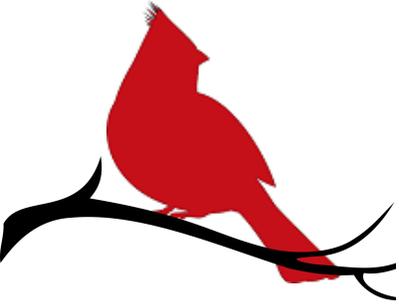
Please oppose including any language that assumes a college must be closed in the final budget and support our colleges and the students and communities they serve.

*Language provided by Courtney Marabetta, AFT Communications Specialist.

What's a Chirp?

A Chirp is a quick update or announcement posted between the official publications of each issue of *The Redwing*. I will use Chirps as a method to distribute information about events or important developments involving the union as I see fit. If you'd like to post a Chirp, please email me at awellsdepaz@gmail.com. If you'd like chirps delivered directly to your personal email account, please click [this link](#) to subscribe to *The Redwing*.

Your Secretary,
Amanda Wells



This language is from Washington HB 5998, which can be found by [clicking this link](#).

This excerpt is taken from lines 17-30 on page 449.

17 (44) The state board for community and technical colleges shall
18 examine the current number of community and technical colleges and
19 make a recommendation for the reduction of at least one institution
20 in the system. By November 1, 2026, the board, pursuant to RCW
21 43.01.036, must submit a report to the governor and appropriate
22 committees of the legislature. The report shall include any
23 recommendations for consolidation that may reduce redundancy and
24 expenses that do not directly correlate to student success. The state
25 board shall also consider locations of current colleges by regions,
26 districts that have more than one campus and other regional
27 considerations where reduction and proximity may not substantially
28 impact access to postsecondary education institutions. The state
29 board shall include a review of the district structure and how it
30 impacts campus operations and student success.