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## **TVW's "Capitol Classroom" Connects Wenatchee High School to State Legislature**

*Teach with TVW*, the education resource offered by TVW, today held a second live webcast with students from Wenatchee High School for the pilot project "Capitol Classroom."

The Wenatchee High students participated in the 30-minute webcast as part of an ongoing class project to follow a bill through the state Legislature. Students study the bill; then participate in the legislative process by monitoring committee meetings, offering testimony, meeting with state legislators and working with their volunteer Olympia lobbyist – all over the web through TVW.

The Wenatchee High School students chose SB 5487, a bill establishing a certification program for commercial egg laying chicken operations and the legislation to monitor and endorse.

This week, the students had their second webcast report from Denny Eliason, a professional contract lobbyist volunteering to represent the class at the Capitol. Students also got to ask questions of Sen. Linda Evans Parlette, R-Wenatchee, and sponsor of SB 5487. Sen. Parlette and Eliason communicated with the students from TVW's studios in Olympia.

"Capitol Classroom has truly enhanced mine and my students' understanding of the Washington State legislative process," said Scott Benner, social studies teacher and Department Head at Wenatchee High School. "It has opened our eyes to the parts played by the many players involved, as well as giving us greater comprehension of the intricacies of this lawmaking system."

"This is the real thing," said Sen. Parlette. "Being involved in the legislative process is a great civics lesson for students. Capitol Classroom is a program I'm excited about and one in which I'm happy to participate."

"The concept of Capitol Classroom is clearly bringing the legislative process alive from my student clients" said Eliason, a graduate of Wenatchee High School. "They are thoroughly researching our issue before the Legislature, and thanks to TVW, will be active participants in the debate that surrounds the bill."

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A social studies class at Evergreen High School in Vancouver, Washington is also participating in the Capitol Classroom pilot project. For more information on Capitol Classroom and to view portions of webcasts, go to: <http://teachwithtvw.org/capitolclassroom>.

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“Capitol Classroom” is a new education program that lets students participate directly in the legislative process at the State Capitol via TVW video connection. The goal of “Capitol Classroom” is to provide a rich and immersive learning experience by investing students in the legislative process and connecting them directly with professionals in Olympia. “Capitol Classroom” is made possible, in part, by a generous grant from the Charlotte Y. Martin Foundation and the Henry M. Jackson Foundation.

TVW, often called the Washington state version of C-SPAN, provides unedited gavel-to-gavel television coverage of the Washington State Legislature, Supreme Court, executive branch, state boards and commissions, elections, and public policy events of statewide significance. Cable television carries TVW for free, reaching 99% of the cable households in Washington, representing about 55% of the state population. Viewers can also watch TVW programming on demand at [tvw.org](http://tvw.org).