



WASA NEWS

May 2019

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WASA Calendar of Events

- **WASA/WSSDA/AWSP Equity Conference: May 22, 2019, DoubleTree by Hilton, SeaTac. To register, go to www.wasa-oly.org/Equity19.**
- **WASA/AWSP Summer Conference: June 30–July 2, 2019, Spokane Convention Center, Spokane. Register at www.wasa-oly.org/summer19.**
- **WASA Incoming Superintendents Conference: July 22–23, 2019, Olympia. To register, visit www.wasa-oly.org/Incoming19.**
- **Budget and Bargaining Communications: May 14 (Capital Region ESD 113); May 20 (NEWESD 101); and May 29 (ESD 105). To register for a date and location, visit bit.ly/2WfmPS7.**
- WASA/OSPI Special Education Conference: August 1–2, 2019, Hotel Murano, Tacoma. The New Director Preconference will be held July 31. Registration will open on May 23.
- WASA Fall Conference: October 8, 2019, Four Points by Sheraton Seattle Airport South.

Legislative Report

- The Legislature adjourned its 2019 Regular Session on time, on April 28. Legislators adopted new, two-year Operating, Capital Construction, and Transportation Budgets before heading home. The 2019–21 Operating Budget spends \$52.5 billion, including \$1.9 billion in Policy Level increases. Of that increase, K–12 Education receives approximately \$616 million. This total, however, includes \$329 million to implement the new School Employees' Benefits Board (SEBB) insurance program, which will force unfunded mandates onto school districts. Removing the new SEBB funding the total K–12 increase falls to just \$287 million.
- The newly adopted 2019–21 Capital Budget is a \$4.9 billion package, funded by \$3.2 billion in General Obligation Bonds; the remainder comes from other funding and alternative financing. Public School Construction projects receive \$1.11 billion, including funds for School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) grants (\$1.04 billion), distressed schools (\$23 million), Small District Modernization Grants (\$20 million), and STEM grants (\$7.7 million). An additional \$12.9 million in grants is for CTE equipment, small repair, Skills Centers, Americans with Disabilities Act compliance, emergency repair, and Healthy Kids/Schools.
- Almost 500 bills, memorials, and resolutions were adopted by the 2019 Legislature. A great number of those bills had direct or indirect impacts on K–12 education. Key bills include: SB 5313, which increases local school district levy capacity and Local Effort Assistance, while implementing additional school district reporting requirements, providing additional auditing authority to the State Auditor, and enacting penalties for improperly spending levy dollars; SB 5091, which provides for a slight increase in the Special Education excess cost multiplier, reduces the safety net access threshold, and requires professional development on Special Education topics; and HB 1599, which “de-links” statewide assessments from high school graduation requirements and establishes a series of graduation pathways that align with students' High School & Beyond Plans.
- WASA's annual End of Session Summary is currently being prepared. The report will contain full details of the 2019–21 Operating Budget and the 2019–21 Capital Construction Budget, along with a comprehensive review of the many education-related bills the Legislature addressed this session. It will be emailed to all *TWIO* subscribers—and archived on the WASA website—as soon as it is available.

Other WASA News

- **WSSDA's Budget and Bargaining Manual:** WSSDA's [Budget and Bargaining Manual](#) is currently being disseminated to school board members at WSSDA regional meetings. Superintendents, you may hear of this resource from your board members.
- **New School District Levy Lid—ESSB 5313:** Foster Pepper has produced a “white paper” on ESSB 5313, the new levy/LEA bill. To view the document, click [A New School District Levy Lid ESSB 5313.pdf](#).
- **PESB Paraeducator Requirements :** Two days of professional development are now required for all instructional paraeducators (OSPI Bulletin No. 01–2019). A June 6 webinar has been scheduled. For more information, click [“Two Days of Professional Development Now Required For All Instructional Paraeducators.”](#)
- **TPEP—Related Changes (E2SHB 1139):** Among other changes, **teachers and principals must receive a comprehensive performance evaluation at least once every six years.** The TPEP office will be providing an FAQ shortly.
- **Students First: Policy, Leadership, and Practice for Positive Discipline Systems:** WASA, WSSDA, AWSP, and the ESDs have collaborated to produce a video and resources that will be widely distributed to all of our members. Compliance-related issues and implementation strategies are addressed in the video.
- **Communications Toolkit:** WASA has been working with several communications consultants during the past few months to develop a bank of resources that would assist school districts with communications related to budget and bargaining. The toolkit includes messaging resources, links to district websites, and other information that can be utilized to take control of the message and tell your district's story. The “Communications Toolkit” is now available—for WASA members only. The link to the toolkit is <https://wasa-oly.org/CommToolkit>.
- **WASA Budget and Bargaining Communications Workshop:** This workshop offers strategies for talking with your community about the practical—but important—aspects of school operations, with a focus on bargaining challenges from the routine to the extreme. Attendees will leave with a toolkit designed by WASA to enhance your district communication efforts. District teams, including employees involved in internal and external communications tasks, are encouraged to attend. There will be three regional opportunities to attend the workshop. To register for the workshop, visit bit.ly/2WfmPS7.
- **AASA 2020 State of the Superintendency Survey:** AASA recently launched its decennial superintendent pipeline study, an effort to detail the demographics, trends, and experiences of the nation's public school superintendents. An invitation to the survey was sent from AASA to all members. If you did not receive the invitation, the link is survey.k12insight.com/r/6g27yy. We encourage you to take the time to complete the survey. Questions may be directed to AASA policy analyst Chris Rogers (crogers@aasa.org).
- **School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB) Program FAQs:** The Health Care Authority has an FAQ for school administrators. Questions about the SEBB Program? Visit bit.ly/2VP20MN for further updates and answers to questions.