Friends and Colleagues,

During these extraordinary times, I suspect legislative matters are not foremost in your thinking. The reality is, however, that legislative issues and funding challenges will likely have a greater impact on your district than ever before. The planned transformation of your schools for next year, uncertainty about student enrollment, and a significant economic downturn is the perfect storm when considering the potential impact on school district budgets for the next two to three years. Legislators have a huge problem to solve, with projected deficits approaching eight billion dollars for the next biennium.

WASA’s 2021 Legislative Platform is set for Board adoption on June 3. Shortly thereafter, we will initiate a roll-out of the platform with outreach to you, legislators, partners, and the media. Having the 2021 Platform finalized and adopted by the Board at this early date provides an opportunity to get a jump start on legislative advocacy work. We will also be well-positioned to engage with purpose and substance if the Legislature is called to a special session this summer.

It will take our best efforts, individually and collectively, to ensure that K–12 education is protected from deep budget reductions and policy detrimental to the mission of schools and school districts. It will take our best efforts to stay on point with a common and consistent message to ensure that reductions are fair and equitably distributed among all school districts.

I urge you to review the WASA Legislative Platform once it is released later this week. Superintendents may want to consider sharing it with their school boards. WASA members who are not superintendents should familiarize themselves with the platform as well. Basic knowledge of the key issues and priorities is the first step to effective legislative advocacy.

Relationships are the fundamental building blocks upon which teachers engage students, and leaders work with staff. Relationships are fundamental when working with legislators as well. We hope you will consider reaching out to legislators during the summer months to initiate or strengthen relationships with them. Summertime provides an excellent opportunity to establish credibility, trust, and a personal connection.

Engaging with those who, through funding and policy, have a tremendous impact on your schools is critically important. It is our collective responsibility to advocate for the students who attend our schools. We cannot sit on the sideline this summer, next fall, or during the 2021 Legislative Session. Remember, silence sends a strong message as well.

Thanks for all you are doing for the students in your schools. Amidst the most extreme circumstances this spring, you have risen to the challenge and showed who you are as leaders of this state’s public schools. I know you will continue to be relentless in working for kids and their best interests. This is especially important during times like these when they need us more than ever before. Funding and policy are enormously consequential to your work. Let’s be sure your voice, on behalf of students, is heard.

Stay safe and healthy,

Joel

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Federal and State Legislative Updates Zoom
  June 4, 10–11:30 a.m.
  To register, click here.

- WASA’s Brown Bag Lunch Series
  June 5, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
  Final Session, Moe Carrick
  Cost: $65.
  Click to register.

- Transforming Education Leading the Way
  Three-part series with Jeff Utecht, with a focus on building understanding with educators, administrators, partners, and the community in blended learning environments to support student learning.
  June 12, 19, and 24
  11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
  Registration begins June 3.

- WSLA Summer Statewide Workshop
  June 26
  Details coming soon.

- WASA/ AWSP Virtual Summer Conference
  June 29–30
  Click to Register.

- WASA Incoming Superintendent Conference
  July 20–24,
  8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
  Daily Zoom
  Registration begins June 4.
  Click to register.
CHANGES TO STATE IMMUNIZATION RULES FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020

The State Board of Health (SBOH) has approved changes to Chapter 246-105 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) concerning school and childcare immunization policy. These rules apply to all public and private schools and licensed child care centers in Washington State.

The update to Chapter 246-105 WAC has three major focuses:

- It now requires medically verified immunization records for school and child care entry.
- It clarifies conditional status in regard to school and child care immunization requirements and implementation.
- It changes the Tdap immunization requirement to seventh through 12th grades.

There are other small changes to the rule.

2020–21 WASA PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATES

2020–21 WASA President-elect Candidates brochures will be sent by email on June 12. Along with the brochures will be brief introduction videos created by the candidates.

AASA GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION BALLOTS

AASA members will receive an electronic ballot on Monday, June 8, to elect west and eastside AASA Governing Board Representatives. Elections will close on Friday, June 12, at 5 p.m.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The following resources and information have been recently added to our website listing of COVID-19 Resources:

- During the past three months our partners at Hanover Research have provided, free of charge, a number of resources all of which are housed on our website.
- Most recently, Hanover created a Reopening Schools Workbook, which was introduced in a webinar on May 26.
- Other recently released resources from Hanover include:
  - How to Succeed in Distance Learning: 5 Tips for Teachers
  - Understanding Hybrid School Models and Unconventional School Structures
  - Considerations for District Reopening Plans

QUICK LINK

- New District Training Materials Available for Paraeducator Certificate Program

WSLA REIMAGINED

WSLA Reimagined is here to help you Lead ... and Thrive ... in Uncertain Times!

THREE reasons you should sign up for WSLA Reimagined...
1. Focus on leadership and communication skills needed in planning for reinventing more equitable learning systems
2. Highly trained coaches to serve as a thought partner and resources
3. Services begin July

ONE easy grant application (available June 15)
Contact Sharon Bower for more information.

AASA CORNER

- AASA Resources on COVID–19
- Tracking COVID–19 Waivers:
  - Education Spending Waivers: The CARES Act gave the U.S. Department of Education the ability to quickly waive some rules that limit the use of federal education funding, freeing up states to spend that money on needs that have emerged as they've closed schools in response to the Coronavirus pandemic.
  - ESSA Testing Waivers
  - USDA Foods State by State COVID–19 Waivers