

WASA NEWS

November 2020—Edition 1



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **When we have Students in our Schools**
November 13, 12 p.m.
Brown Bag Lunch
Webinar to hear experiences from districts that have brought students back into the school building.
To register, click [here](#).
- **WASA/OSPI Special Education Conference**
Five Sessions—Zoom,
Session 4 of 5,
November 19,
8:30–11 a.m.
Click [here](#) to register.
- **Women in Leadership Mini Conference**
December 7,
8:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Click [here](#) to register.

Building Equitable Systems

Registration is open for the **Building Equitable Systems Cohort**, a new professional learning opportunity offered by WASA in partnership with Hanover Research. The Cohort will support WASA members seeking to build their district's capacity to establish and access equitable work and learning environments. For further information about the **Building Equitable Systems Cohort** or to register, click [here](#).

"When our brains constantly scan for and focus on the positive, we profit from three of the most important tools available to us: happiness, gratitude, and optimism."

—Shawn Achor

WASA Friends,

By tradition, November is a time of thankfulness when many take stock in their blessings. November is also a time for expressing and extending gratitude to others.

In his TED Talk, "The Happy Secret to Better Work," Shawn Achor asserts that people who are happy are more productive, creative, engaged, and healthy. They have fewer fatigue symptoms. On the other hand, Achor reminds us that our brains are wired to spot the negative and focus on mistakes, failures, and criticism, which inhibits our ability to see the positive.

The challenges for you at this time are unparalleled in their complexity and difficulty. Maintaining positivity right now, which is essential to your school district's success, is no easy task. How can you, as a school district leader, continue to bring a positive outlook to work each day? How can you ensure that your leadership team consistently operates from a positive stance?

If you haven't already viewed [Shawn's TED Talk](#), check it out. I believe it will help you and your team recalibrate and/or sustain a positive attitude during these extraordinarily difficult times.

"Our team recently accepted Shawn Achor's "3 Gratitudes" challenge: we wrote down three new things we were grateful for each day for 21 days to see if we could rewire our brains and maybe get a boost of happiness. Afterwards, we answered one question—How does gratitude help you at work?"

—from the field

Stay positive, safe, and healthy,

Joel

WASA STATE AWARDS AND 2021 SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION

Join us in honoring this year's State Honorary Award winners and hear the announcement of the 2021 Superintendent of the Year on Wednesday, November 18, 10:30–11 a.m., by Zoom. There is no cost to participate. To request a Zoom link, click [here](#).

SIRS SALARY SURVEY

The deadline for the SIRS Salary Survey is November 19. Information should be sent directly to [Sheila Chard](#) at WASA. Thank you for your participation.

WASA SUPERINTENDENT COMPONENT MEETING—NOVEMBER 18

Register now to receive a Zoom login link for the 2021 WASA Superintendent Component meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, from 8:30–10:30 a.m. Jeff Snell, Camas School District Superintendent and WASA Superintendent Component Chair, is inviting superintendents to attend. The agenda includes topics of interest and priorities that have emerged this fall. Click [here](#) to register.

ENGAGE WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS

Meeting with your legislators when the Legislature is not in session is an effective way to begin and/or strengthen your relationships with them. Take the opportunity to contact them now (and often) to establish trust and credibility so they will come to you for information and advice. Advocacy does not have to be hard, time-consuming, or intimidating—but it does take a commitment; we urge you to join with your colleagues and make that commitment.

With expected budget reductions on the horizon, it will be critically important for WASA members to be actively involved in legislative advocacy efforts this fall and throughout the Legislative session as we fight to protect school funding. To support your advocacy efforts, WASA has provided—and will continue to provide—tools to engage with legislators. This includes [WASA's 2021 Legislative Platform](#) and a common set of legislative priorities from the [School Funding Coalition](#). The close alignment between WASA's Platform and the Coalition's priorities will assist WASA members and our education partners to advocate with one voice on education funding issues. The Coalition has also developed "[talking points](#)" to accompany the priorities, along with a short, easy-to-digest [video overview](#) of the Coalition.

DECEMBER LEGISLATIVE TRAINING

Legislative engagement by school administrators is critically important—especially now and during the upcoming session as legislators work to craft a new two-year budget amidst a revenue shortfall. For the most part, superintendents have taken the lead in advocacy efforts—and we encourage them to continue. A goal of WASA President Brian Talbott is to have more non-superintendents join with their superintendents to be engaged in the legislative process. With the assistance of Region Presidents and Region Component members, WASA will be presenting a "Brown Bag" webinar on how to engage with the Legislature. The one-hour webinar is December 4 at noon; registration open the week of November 9. All WASA members are invited. We strongly encourage you to attend to learn how you can effectively advocate for your schools, your students, and your staff.

QUICK LINKS

- [2020–21 WASA Goals, Actions Steps, and Tasks](#)
- [Inclusionary Practices Handbook](#) (OSPI)
- [Materials for Families and Child Care Providers](#) (AESD)
- [School Reopening Data](#) (OSPI)

AASA CORNER

- [AASA National Conference on Education](#)—February 18 & 19, 2021.
- [AASA Professional Liability Plan and Legal Support Coverage](#)
- [AASA Resources on COVID-19](#)

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- **Racial Justice:** For information and resources, click the [link](#) on the WASA website. The following resources were recently uploaded:
 - [5 Things You Need to Know About Student Absences During COVID-19](#) (Education Week)
 - [When School Boards Diversify, Spending Priorities Shift. Here's How](#) (Education Week)
 - Podcast: Brené Brown with Ibram X. Kendi on [How to Be an Antiracist](#)
 - [Webinar: Evaluating and Advancing Equity Within Your District](#) (Hanover)
 - [Lessons in Leadership: What does it mean to view learning through an anti-racist lens?](#) (Education Dive)
 - [Native American Heritage Month Resources](#) (PBS)
- **Other:** For information and resources, click the [link](#) on the WASA website. The following resources were recently uploaded:
 - [Kids Need Play and Recess. Their Mental Health May Depend on It](#) (Education Week)
 - [Decision Tree for Provision of In Person Learning](#) (Washington State Department of Health)
 - [UW Study Results Suggest Participation in High School Sports is Not Associated with Increased Risk of COVID-19](#) (from WSN)
 - [How To Stop The Coming Dropout Time Bomb](#) (Doug Reeves, October 2020)
 - [Sporting Activities Frequently Asked Questions](#) (WIAA)
 - [4 ways leaders are keeping teachers motivated through pandemic disruption](#) (Education Dive)

READY WA

- [High School and Beyond Planning Resources](#)
- [New Blog Post about Changes to HSBP process for the 2020–21 school year](#)
- [Quick List of High School and Beyond Planning Resources](#)

CELEBRATING EDUCATION

American Education Week, November 16–20, presents an opportunity to promote public education and tell the story of the outstanding work occurring in your schools. Amidst the pandemic, it may be more important than ever before to share good news about teachers, students, and programs. Celebrating your schools, honoring the extraordinary efforts of the staff, and showcasing the amazing accomplishments of your students at this time will shed much needed positive light on your district's work. Check [here](#) for ideas on how to celebrate!