

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



REFLECTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS: WASA'S VISION FOR 2025

In turning the page to 2025, we find ourselves midway through the school year—a time to reflect on highlights, assess progress, and set our sights on the future with purpose and clarity. In the second half of the school year, district leaders sharpen their focus on the goals that matter most to their students, staff, and communities. Here are some key priorities that will guide WASA's efforts in the coming months:

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Educational equity remains a cornerstone of our work, as articulated in WASA's Educational Equity Statement. In the second half of the school year, WASA will redouble our efforts to support superintendents and school district leaders in addressing systemic inequities and ensuring that all students have access to the resources, opportunities, and supports they need to thrive. Through professional development, collaborative initiatives, and targeted advocacy, we aim to empower you to drive meaningful, equity-focused change in your schools and communities.

STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP NETWORKS

Connection is at the heart of effective leadership. As we move into 2025, WASA will continue to expand opportunities for members to engage in meaningful professional learning and networking. The WASA Affinity Group for Superintendents of color, a special pilot project to create a dedicated space for networking, collaboration, and mentorship for superintendents of color, is set to launch this month. Year-long academies for women in leadership, aspiring superintendents, and early-career superintendents are already underway.

After losing funding for our IPP, we have worked to secure a small amount of funding to launch the Inclusionary Practices Technical Assistance Network next month. Along with these networks, Next Level Leaders, our Special Education Director Academy, and the Global Instructional Leadership Academy serve to amplify diverse voices and foster deeper collaboration among educational leaders.

ADVANCING AI INTEGRATION IN EDUCATION

The Insight Incubator Series, Leading Your District's Artificial Intelligence Integration, has already sparked important conversations about the future of education. In the months ahead, we will continue to equip members with actionable tools and strategies to integrate AI in ways that enhance learning outcomes, improve operational efficiency, and prioritize equity and ethical practices.

This series, along with WASAbot.AI and its four custom chatbots—RCW & WAC Bot, Quality Teacher Feedback Bot, Supporting Student Behavior Bot, and Quality Principal Feedback Bot—make available to WASA members an exceptional variety and depth of resources.

AMPLIFYING ADVOCACY EFFORTS

The upcoming legislative session will be critical for addressing key issues such as equity, funding, staffing, and student well-being. WASA remains steadfast in our commitment to ensuring your voices are heard and that the needs of our schools and communities are at the forefront of policy discussions in Olympia.

Your advocacy efforts will be essential in these endeavors as we strive to sustain message discipline around the Big 3: Special Education, MSOC, and Transportation. A robust repository of resources has been developed for members to effectively mobilize their leadership teams and communities to effectively advocate for public education during the upcoming legislative session.

ELEVATING MEMBER AWARENESS OF WASA RESOURCES

In the second half of the school year, WASA will continue efforts to raise awareness of the resources and support available to members. Whether through professional development opportunities, legislative advocacy tools, or targeted initiatives, WASA stands ready to empower you in your work as a school district leader.

Members of the WASA Executive Team remain available 24/7 to answer questions, provide assistance, and help solve complex problems.

NAVIGATING LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

The search for WASA's next executive director is well underway. This transition provides a unique opportunity to reflect on our shared mission and to embrace new perspectives that will strengthen WASA's legacy of service and innovation as we look to the future.

LOOKING AHEAD

The next five months provide an opportunity for all of us to expand on the efforts and accomplishments achieved thus far. Rest assured WASA stands ready to support you in the important work of building systems and creating cultures that yield the best educational experience possible for each and every student in your care.

At its core, WASA proudly stands for leadership, trust, and advocacy—qualities WASA members exemplify every day in leading for excellence in schools across Washington state. We encourage you to reach out to us and take full advantage of the resources and support we offer in the weeks and months ahead.

It is both an honor and a privilege for WASA to partner with you in educating the 1.1 million students throughout our state. Your dedication inspires us, and we remain committed to standing alongside you in this important work.

Respectfully yours,

G. Joel Aune
WASA Executive Director

