

MARCH 2025



NEWS

The WASA News is a monthly publication that provides key information to you in a concise, quick-read format. We hope you find WASA News to be an efficient way to keep abreast of new information, emerging issues, and timely resources. Be reminded that previous issues of the WASA News can be found on our [website](#).



"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept."

– Angela Davis

Champions for Public Education,

March 7 marks the halfway point of the 2025 Legislative Session, and it is appropriate that we acknowledge the incredible engagement and dedication of WASA members in our advocacy efforts thus far. Your engagement, beginning last spring, through the summer, into the fall, and during session—telling your district's story, meeting with legislators, testifying, and mobilizing colleagues—has created unprecedented momentum. Working together and staying focused, WASA members have made a significant impact on conversations in Olympia.

But advocacy is never a straight path. This work is fraught with twists and turns, successes and setbacks. The last couple weeks have provided some challenges in our efforts to advance the Big 3. We hit some roadblocks, and while that can be frustrating, it is not unexpected. This is the nature of legislative advocacy. It requires resilience, discipline and persistence—the very qualities that define WASA members.

Despite these challenges, we remain in a strong position. Key budget and policy decisions are still in the works, and we need to continue engaging with lawmakers to ensure our voice is heard. Now is the time to double down—stay engaged, respond to calls to action, and remind legislators that the needs of our students and schools cannot be ignored.

Setbacks are part of this process, and so is progress. We are in this for the long haul, and your advocacy matters. Let's keep the pressure on and finish strong as the "second half" of the 2025 Legislative session unfolds in the days and weeks to come—our students are counting on us.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Joel Aune". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

G. Joel Aune
WASA Executive Director



Thaynan Knowlton, Clarkston



Tabatha Mires, Manson

WASA President-Elect Candidates

Last month it was announced that Tabatha Mires (Manson) and Thaynan Knowlton (Clarkston) have been nominated for the 2025–26 WASA President-elect. WASA is fortunate to have two candidates of this caliber running for President. Thanks to both for their willingness to serve the WASA membership, and congratulations on this well-deserved recognition! The election will be held in August, with candidate information featured in upcoming issues of **WASA News and Hotline**. Both candidates will be present at the Summer Conference, delivering their speeches during the Honorary Awards Luncheon.

UPCOMING WASA EVENTS



Lunch & Learn: Student Discipline
Virtual | Complimentary
March 5 | 12–1 p.m.



**Women in Leadership: Best Advice
You've Ever Been Given**
Virtual | Complimentary
March 14 | 12–1 p.m.



**Spring Conference for Small School
Leaders**
Wenatchee, WA
March 16–18





Leading Your District's AI Integration

Virtual | Complimentary
March 28 | 12–1 p.m.

WASA | AWSP's 43rd Annual Summer Conference!

June 22–24, 2025 | Spokane
"Leadership for a New Era"

The 2025 WASA/AWSP Summer Conference presents an opportunity to shine a light on the accomplishments of the 2024–25 school year and gain insights and ideas for the upcoming year. This year's conference, "Leadership for a New Era" will focus on Fostering Collaborative Cultures, Technology Leadership in Education, Building Resilient Schools, Culturally Responsive Leadership, Leading with Impact, and Transformative Leadership.

Register and learn more [here](#).

REMINDERS

Update Your Profile

If you haven't already, please help us keep our membership directory up to date by taking a moment to upload your photo to your WASA member profile page. Contact [Heather Chard](#) if you have questions or need assistance.



Connect with Us

Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#) for information on upcoming conferences and workshops, legislative news and updates, and school news.



In case you missed the most recent edition, a link to the January WASA *Hotline* can be found [here](#).

The most recent edition of the *Hotline* features:

- Leadership Article from Ron Banner
- Mira Gobel on Cultural Competency
- John Sander on Advocacy
- WA Purple Star Award: Chris Woods, Michelle Kuss-Cybula
- Michelle Kuss-Cybula on Mentorship for Women Leaders
- Staff Spotlight on Beau Wilson

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY STATEMENT



WASA Equity Statement

WASA's Educational Statement was adopted by the Board back in April, 2022. The purpose of the statement is to publicly clarify our beliefs and vision, while reinforcing WASA's commitment to supporting you in this important work. We hope the statement will help launch or extend essential conversations in schools and districts about the kind of leadership, culture, and support needed to ensure opportunity and success for every student. View the statement [here](#).

STAY IN THE KNOW



Public Records 2024 Data Collection

The JLARC Public Records Reporting System is now open for reporting 2024 data. Agencies that spent over \$100,000 in staff and legal costs associated with fulfilling public records in 2024 (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31) are required to report (**RCW 40.14.026**).

If you meet the \$100,000 reporting threshold or plan to voluntarily report, log into the reporting system to submit your report. Metric guidance and **reporting system** instructions can be found on the **JLARC website**.

If you don't meet the \$100,000 threshold, either: (1) login to the **reporting system** to confirm you did not meet the threshold, or (2) email **JLARCPublicRecStudy@leg.wa.gov** to confirm you did not meet the threshold.

The deadline for reporting is July 1, 2025.



Apply Now for Gallagher Howard M. Coble Scholarship

Designed to assist talented, under-represented educators to pursue graduate studies that prepare for central office leadership positions. A \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded to an educator who is presently enrolled in or will begin graduate studies in educational leadership by the fall of 2025.

Apply now!

ERNN REGIONAL CONFERENCE



What You Need to Know Going Into Bargaining Season

FEBRUARY 28 • SPOKANE (NEWESD 101)
APRIL 1 • YAKIMA (ESD 105)
MAY 23 • TUMWATER (ESD 113)

ERNN Workshop: What You Need to Know Going Into Bargaining Season

Information, Resources, & Strategies
Presented by ERNN & Stevens Clay

Come join your colleagues from around the region to sharpen your knowledge and skills regarding communication strategies, bargaining rules/basics, financial facts for bargaining, anticipated bargaining topics, and much more. Stevens Clay will be bringing a wealth of information and resources, and participants will help shape the topics presented based on their individual needs.

This training will be held in three locations and participants are encouraged to register for the time and location that best fits their schedule.

There is still time to register for **Yakima on April 1** and **Tumwater on May 23!** Registration can be found at www.ernn.com.

Resource Guide for Current Events

With so many questions and concerns emerging about how the recent executive orders and actions from the current administration will affect students, parents, teachers, and schools across the country, Hanover Research has developed a Resource Guide. While the full extent of these changes is still in flux, this **comprehensive guide** with over 50 resources, reports, and case studies might be helpful, covering topics such as:

- Responding to immigration policy changes
- Navigating budget planning and leadership implications regarding federal policy
- Adapting to new school choice policies
- Continuing personalized student supports
- Furthering focus on core instruction with increased

CORWIN Visible Learning+

Join Us

in Tacoma!

Pacific Northwest Visible
Learning+ and High
Impact Teaching Institute

MARCH 10-11, 2025
8:00AM-4:00PM PT

In this engaging two-day institute, educators will explore the strategies and techniques that have the most significant influence on student learning based on John Hattie's Visible Learning research. Focusing on evidence-based practices, we will dive into the teaching methods that foster deep understanding, critical thinking, and long-term retention. Participants will learn how to implement high-impact strategies such as feedback, metacognition, and collaborative learning in their classrooms to elevate student achievement. This institute will equip teachers and leaders with practical tools to measure the effectiveness of their teaching and adapt their approaches to meet diverse student needs.

Take Advantage of our Early Bird Special!
Attend for just \$399 if you register before December 1, 2024.

Regular Registration Pricing: \$499 per person

Use discount code **AWSP** for \$50 off at registration!
In Partnership with:



Register now at www.corwin.com/WAVL25

ENED1201014



SPEAKERS



John Almarode



Nancy Frey



Yana Ioffe



Scan to
register

CORWIN

PNW Visible Learning+ and High Impact Teaching Institute

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Public Comment on Student Discipline Rules: March 19 Deadline!

OSPI is accepting written public comment and holding public hearings on the proposed changes to student discipline rules under 392-190-048, 392-401-020, 392-401-040, and Chapter 392-400 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC).

The purpose of the public hearings and comment period is to provide interested community members with an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the WAC language. The email address for written comments is StudentDiscipline@k12.wa.us and is open through 11:59 pm Wednesday, March 19th. **Click here for more details.**

Thanks to our partner, Hanover Research, for providing this resource. [Click here to open the K-12 Resource Guide.](#)

WASA Management Reviews

WASA Management Reviews WASA's Management Review service is a great way to take an in depth look at specific areas of operation within your district. Reviews are available for Business & Operations, Special Education, Teaching & Learning, Transportation, Administrative Teams, and more. The WASA Management Review process has been refined through the completion of over 130 reviews in several states and at the college and ESD levels. The overall objective of a review is to provide an expert assessment of any number of aspects within your school district management. The results are designed to be both an analysis of what is, and a blueprint for what can be. Management Reviews are conducted by review teams of recognized, expert practitioners in consultation with your school district administration. To learn more about WASA's Management Review services, contact [Tim Garchow](#).



WSSRA's Pre-Retirement Zoom Webinars

The Washington State School Retirees' Association is sponsoring a set of two pre-retirement webinars:

- April 22, 2025:--DRS/HCA-PEBB Webinar
- April 23, 2025—SS/Medicare/VEBA Webinar

These webinars are designed for those within one to five years of retirement from any K-12 public school district, or ESD. WSSRA has sponsored these events since 2020 with strongly positive reviews. Register here:

[WSSRA RETIREMENT WEBINAR](#)

WASA Honorary Awards Program is Underway!

WASA is proud to recognize outstanding educational administrators and individuals who make extraordinary contributions to K–12 education. The 2025 Honorary Awards Program launched last month, provides an opportunity to celebrate leaders who demonstrate exceptional impact in their schools, districts, communities, or across the entire state.

Award nominees are considered based on their character, leadership, contributions to student success, and long-standing dedication to public education.

State and Region Awards

- **State Awards** include prestigious recognitions such as the Golden Gavel Award, WASA Leadership Award, and the D.A. Davidson Barbara Mertens Legacy Award, among others. The Learning from Leaders Award, introduced last year, provides a \$5,000 grant to honor exemplary programs that drive student success.
- **Regional Awards** recognize achievements in student leadership, community contributions, program innovation, and long-term service to education.

To learn more about each award, visit the WASA website:

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- **At the regional level**, awards recognize achievements in student leadership, community contributions, program innovation, and long-term service to education.

To learn more about each award, visit the WASA website: [WASA Honorary Awards](#)



The 2025 Legislative Session has reached its mid-point. Even with a scheduled April 27 end date starting to come into focus, much work remains to be done. In addition to the hundreds of bills still to be moved from one house to the other, as they continue through the legislative journey, budget talks are right around the corner. The next quarterly Revenue Forecast, which legislators will use to finalize their budget proposals, will be released on March 18. This will trigger the release of legislative budget proposals for the 2025–27 biennium, which is occupying more attention than normal, given the projected budget shortfall.

With the imminent unveiling of budget proposals, you can be sure that budget-writers have been hard at work crafting the two (House and Senate) Operating Budgets (as well as two-year Capital and Transportation Budgets). It is incumbent on school administrators to remind legislators of your funding needs before the budgets are complete because, while it will not be impossible, it will likely be difficult to get budget-writers to make wholesale changes to their initial proposals.

WASA's main focus continues to be on the Big Three: Special Education; Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC); and Pupil Transportation (which have major policy AND fiscal implications). While we have seen tremendous momentum on these issues, we have had some setbacks as well. With the recent arrival of the House of Origin Fiscal Committee cutoff, we lost our Pupil Transportation bill (**SB 5187**). Of course, no bill is officially dead until the session ends; however, we do not expect this bill to be revived. We will be back next year.

Bills to provide additional support for Special Education (**SB 5263** and **HB 1357**) and MSOC (**SB 5192** and **HB 1338**) continue to move. Unfortunately, in recent weeks, each of the bills have been thoroughly amended. (Be sure to follow **TWIO** for up-to-date details on these and other important issues.) In addition to problematic provisions being added to two of the bills, funding provisions in all four bills have been dramatically reduced. The argument from legislators is that they simply cannot afford large increases, due to the state's fiscal concerns. In fact, we have been told, point-blank, that neither Special Education or MSOC will receive any additional funding unless the Legislature adopts more revenue.

Our Big Three (Two now) priorities are not simply what we want—we NEED additional funding to shore up school district budgets and support our students. And, in reality, the Legislature does not legally have a choice NOT to fund these priorities. They are basic education programs that are constitutionally required to be amply funded. Currently, they are woefully underfunded. We understand the state's financial constraints; however, the “no revenue, no K-12 funding” argument is a cop out—and a poor one at that.

We will spend the remaining weeks of session continuing to press legislators to not only adopt our bills, but make sure they include sufficient funding to appropriately support our students and school districts. We do have general support for these issues—and there continues to be an incredible amount of conversation about the need to fund these priorities—so we still have hope that we can come out of this session with some success; however, we cannot achieve any success without your continued engagement. Now is the time to ramp up your advocacy efforts, rather than let off the gas.

Remember, WASA will continue to provide resources to effectively engage—in alignment with our partners to “speak with one voice.” Continue to follow **TWIO** and WASA's **Legislative Podcast** for up-to-date information—and continue to utilize our school funding website: www.waschoolfunding.org and our **Advocacy Toolkit**.

At WASA, we believe that exceptional leadership shapes the future of public education. Across Washington, school administrators, educators, and community partners dedicate themselves to creating lasting, positive change for students and schools.

Recognizing Excellence in Educational Leadership

WASA's recognition and awards program celebrates these individuals, honoring those who go above and beyond in their service, advocacy, and innovation.

From statewide honors such as the Golden Gavel and WASA Leadership Award to regional recognitions for student leadership, program excellence, and community impact, our awards highlight the dedication and achievements of those who make a difference. These honors are more than accolades; they serve as a testament to the commitment and character of education leaders across the state.

We encourage all members to take part in this celebration by nominating a colleague who exemplifies outstanding leadership. Recognizing and uplifting one another strengthens our profession and inspires the next generation of education leaders.

WASA is more than a professional organization—it is a network of leaders dedicated to shaping the future of public education. Know someone who deserves recognition? Submit a nomination today: [WASA Honorary Awards](#).

RESOURCES

This month's featured resources include the following:

- [Responding to Immigration Policy Changes | Hanover Research](#)
- [5 Strategies for Teaching Social Studies in Turbulent Times \(Opinion\) | Ed Week](#)
- [SEL as a Lever for Equity and Excellence | CASEL District Resource Center](#)
- [Equity Messaging Guidance for School Districts | National Equity Project](#)
- [How District Leaders Use AI to Save Time, Help Teachers, and More | Ed Week](#)
- [Principles of Civil Discourse Primer | Sphere Education Initiatives](#)
- [Ed Tech/AI Spotlight | Ed Week](#)

KEY RESOURCE: Moving From Conflict to Conversation

Last Fall, WASA built and unveiled a webpage that provides a robust collection of resources to help educational leaders navigate controversial topics with confidence and clarity. Created by experts in communications, depolarization, and public engagement, these tools offer practical strategies for managing challenging conversations, enhancing public perceptions of K-12 education, and fostering meaningful dialogue within school communities. In case you missed it, check out the webpage here: [Toolkit: Moving From Conflict to Conversation](#)

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CALENDAR

March

- 03.05.25** Lunch & Learn with Stevens Clay: Student Discipline | 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- 03.06.25** Special Education Directors Academy | 8:30-10:00 a.m.
- 03.12.25** ERNN Training | ESD 101 | 8:30-10:00 a.m.
- 03.13.25** Global Instructional Leadership Network | 8:30-10:00 a.m.
- 03.14.25** Women in Leadership Lunch & Learn | 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- 03.15-18.25** Spring Conference for Small School Leaders | Wenatchee
- 03.24.25** Early Career and Mentor Academies | 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- 03.27.25** 2nd & 3rd Year Superintendents | 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- 03.27.25** Aspiring Central Office Leadership Academy | 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- 03.28.25** Leading Your District's AI Integration | 12:00-1:00 p.m.

April

- 04.03.25** Lunch & Learn with Stevens Clay: District Liability | 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- 04.24.25** Global Instructional Leadership Network | 8:30-10:00 a.m.
- 04.24.25** Aspiring Central Office Leadership Academy | 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- 04.25.25** Leading Your District's AI Integration | 12:00-1:00 p.m.

May

- 05.01.25** Special Education Directors Academy | 8:30-10:00 a.m.
- 05.03.25** Women In Leadership In-Person Conference | Campbell's Resort, Wenatchee
- 05.05-06.25** Superintendent Conference | Campbell's Resort, Wenatchee
- 05.20.25** Legislative Session Wrap-Up | 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- 05.21.25** Global Instructional Leadership Network | 8:30-10:00 a.m.
- 05.29.25** Special Education Directors Academy | 8:30-10:00 a.m.



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

This month's Sponsor Spotlight features WASA's Diamond-level sponsors—**Right At School** and **WSIPC**. We are grateful for their unwavering support of our members and programs! Click their link to learn more about them. View all of our amazing Diamond-level sponsors [on our website](#).



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Piper Sandler



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