

MAY 2024



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](#).



"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

—Desmond Tutu

Friends and Colleagues,

The work of WASA members these days can be complex and stressful. Budget constraints, labor-management challenges, community divisiveness, controversial issues, unfunded legislative mandates, and crises of significant magnitude can cause some to lose hope—to go negative. School district leaders can and must be beacons of hope, even on the darkest of days.

In times of crisis, exceptional leaders maintain hope by being transparent about challenges, articulating an optimistic future vision, and demonstrating empathy. Celebrating small wins and consistent communication foster morale and trust, while **your** resilience inspires confidence. Your work, grounded in dedication and resilience, has a profound impact not only on the lives of your students but also the health of your communities. Truly, there is great honor and a higher purpose in what you do.

As the school year draws to a close, I urge you to pause, reflect, and seize opportunities that the months of May and June offer. Graduations, end-of-year celebrations, and other events are perfect moments to highlight the amazing work and dedication of staff, parents, and community patrons. The students in your care, P-12, are truly remarkable in their character, talent, empathy, and genius. Keep your mind open. Look for it. Listen for it. It's there. There is joy in your work.

Are there elements of your work that are incredibly difficult, taxing, and sometimes even depressing? Of course. But when one actively seeks joy each day, we are continually reminded of the brilliance and good in those around us. Remember, *"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."*

My friends, there is light. Your hopeful leadership inspires those around you and is key to overcoming obstacles and achieving excellence for the children and young people in your care.

Leadership is not always easy. But you are made for this. You've got it.

With appreciation and respect,



G. Joel Aune
WASA Executive Director

UPCOMING WASA EVENTS



Women In Leadership Conference
Lake Chelan
May 4



Superintendents Conference
Lake Chelan
May 5-7



**Instructional Leadership Academy
Spring In-Person Conference**
Renton
May 16



AWSP/WASA Summer Conference
Spokane
June 23-25, 2024



MTSS Fest 2024
Pullman
July 31-August 2

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 at hchard@wasa-oly.org if you have questions or need assistance.



school news.

Connect with Us

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



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

The most recent edition of the Hotline features:

- Purple Star District Award
- Lake Stevens Equity Work
- Embracing AI Together
- Ryan Hickerson, Staff Spotlight
- Meet the Candidates

Washington State Superintendent of the Year Application Now Open!

The 2025 Washington State Superintendent of the Year application is now available. The online application can be found on the [AASA website](#). To be considered for Washington State's SOY, the application deadline is **October 1, 2024**.

Shortly after October 1, WASA will convene a panel of superintendents to review and score the applications to determine our Superintendent of the Year for 2025. The selected candidate for Washington State will advance to AASA to be considered for the National Superintendent of the Year. AASA will announce the 2025 National Superintendent of the Year at the AASA National Conference on Education, March 6-8, in New Orleans. For questions about Washington's SOY process, contact [Shawna Kiliz](#).



WASA Management Reviews

Be reminded WASA offers a Management Review service to members. 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 expert assessment of all aspects of school district management—the results are designed to be both an in-depth 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 school district administration. Contact [Andy Wolf](#) for more information on the WASA Management Review service.



Online Modules for Administrators Government-to-Government Relationships Training

The video-based modules for the Administrators Government-to-Government Relationships Training are now available! This fulfills the new state requirement mandate enacted by HB 1426 requiring all renewing administrator certificates on or after July 1, 2023 to complete a five-hour Government-to-Government Relationships Training. There are five individual video module assignments with embedded quizzes. All five need to be completed. If you received module credit(s) from a previous training, please contact the facilitator, Maxine Alex, to receive that credit(s). Suggested completion time is April 26, 2024, to allow the 10 weeks for the recertification process by the June 30, 2024 deadline.

[Register here.](#)

Inclusionary Practices Statewide Support for District Change



Leading With Inclusion

Katie Novak and former WASA Assistant Executive Director, Helene Paroff, have worked together to write an article detailing their work over the years in WASA's Inclusionary Practices Project. Learn about how WASA and Katie Novak are making a change, as outlined in the data of [this article](#).

Why School Absences Have “Exploded” Almost Everywhere

This [New York Times article](#) explores the rise of chronic absenteeism rates since 2019, presenting trend data through charts and a district search tool and offering perspectives from district leaders and school staff on potential drivers of absenteeism.

Important Update – New Evaluation Deadline for Principals and Assistant Principals in Effect!

With the end of the school year just around the corner, we want to remind supervisors of principals, principals, and assistant principals that evaluations of principals and assistant principals must be completed on or before June 1 of each school year. This includes the summative conference, scoring, and final evaluation. **This is the first year this date has been REQUIRED**, per the [Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\) 392–191A–190\(8\)](#). This new June 1 deadline marks a significant shift for completing principal and assistant principal evaluations. Be mindful of this date and plan accordingly to ensure a smooth and timely evaluation process.



Annual AWSP/WASA Summer Conference Golf Tournament

Are you attending the AWSP/WASA Summer Conference? Don't forget to register for the annual Summer Conference Golf Tournament, presented by McKinstry! Join us on Sunday June 23rd for an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start at Liberty Lake Golf Course. [View the informational flyer here](#). The last day to register is May 24th. To register, please [email Jack Knudsen](#).

Candidates for WASA President-Elect

Candidates nominated for 2024–25 WASA President-elect are Shaun Carey (Enumclaw) and Mary Templeton (Washougal). Congratulations to both on being nominated to serve as the 2024–25 WASA President-elect. Watch their second round of videos by clicking their photos below and get to know them better. The election will be held next August.



Shaun Carey, Video #2



Mary Templeton, Video #2

TIME TO ENGAGE WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS

The 2024 Legislature adjourned the second year of its 68th Biennial Session on March 7, as scheduled. In last month's [WASA News](#), we reviewed some of the key actions regarding K–12 Education. The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget was a disappointment for K–12 education, although it was not unexpected given the Legislature's focus on a broad array of priorities that continues to exclude the state's paramount duty. What legislators did provide in funding fell well-short of our requests and needs. We achieved: increases in special education, but only for a minor bump in the enrollment cap; enhancements in staffing ratios in the Prototypical School Funding Model, but the minor increases are still significantly lower than recommended by 2019's Staffing Enrichment Workgroup; and additional funding for Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC), although the per pupil increases will barely make a dent in the rapidly increasing costs to run a school district. Finding the positive: each of these minor successes will provide a launching pad for next session as we will attempt to ride the momentum for real gains in a new biennial budget.

The attitude is flipped regarding the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget. While the total capital appropriation for K–12 was not very large (mostly because of a major reduction in the School Construction Assistance Program, driven by continuing school bond failures), the package included some major investments. Funding for the Small District Modernization grant program more than doubled and legislators provided, for the first time in over 30 years, a major enhancement in the Construction Cost Allowance ("cost per square foot") which will provide additional SCAP funding—if school districts pass their bonds. Here, too, we can ride some momentum for further enhancements in 2025.

There was a major focus on policy, which is typical for a supplemental session, and that was a mixed bag. Most of our successes came from positively amending bad bills—and skuttling negative bills or bills that would have turned into unfunded mandates. Again, most of the action was outside of K–12.

This is a really high flyover of the 2024 Session and we encourage you to delve a bit more into the details. There are two specific ways to dive in. First, last week we held a Lunch & Learn webinar focused exclusively on the outcomes of the 2024 Session. The PowerPoint presentation is available [HERE](#); and a recording of the presentation is available [HERE](#). We encourage you to take a look. The second opportunity is to review our annual End of Session Report. It includes comprehensive details of the Supplemental Operating and Capital Budgets and provides a detailed review of the bills impacting education. We are putting the finishing touches on the Report and it will be e-mailed to members next week. It will also be available on the WASA Website under the Government Relations tab.

As the dust settles on the 2024 Session, WASA has already begun to turn the page towards the 2025 Session. The WASA Board adopted our **2025 Legislative Platform** last month. WASA's Legislation & Finance Committee and the WASA Board will be focusing on three specific budget issues: Special Education, Pupil Transportation, and Materials, Supplies & Operating Costs (MSOC). We are partnering with AESD and are starting to meet with the other education associations in an effort to recruit them to support this deliberately narrow and focused Platform. As we build this coalition, we are developing a tool kit—with talking points, fiscal data, and other communication resources—to assist and align our members as you engage with your own legislators. Our effort (and our hope) is to ensure WASA—and our partners—speak with one voice as much as possible. Be on the lookout for these resources as we roll them out over the next few months.

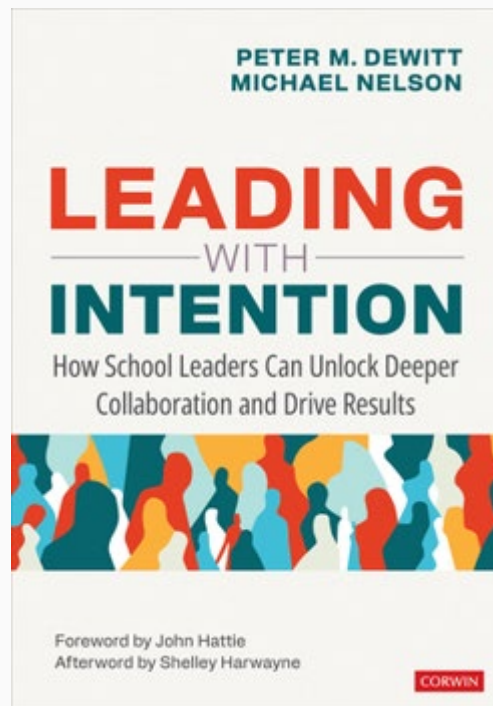
Finally, as we prepare for the 2025 Session—still over eight months away—it is important to remember it is never too early to meet with your legislators. During the interim between sessions is when they have time to have deeper and more meaningful conversations. Build your relationships now and influence their thinking before they craft their own priorities to jumpstart your advocacy for 2025.



AI Innovation Summit

District and building teams are invited to join education partners for the first statewide conference exploring the transformative role of artificial intelligence in Washington State's K-12 education system! Whether you're just beginning to explore AI's potential or you're already implementing AI technologies, the knowledge, strategies and collaboration shared will provide valuable insights to inform your work.

To make attending as convenient and cost-effective as possible, the AI Summit will be held simultaneously at two different venues within the state, SeaTac and Spokane. We urge all school districts to prioritize this investment in learning how AI can transform K–12 education and reclaim valuable time for educators. Learn more [here](#).



Leading with Intention

WASA Assistant Executive Director, Mike Nelson, along with Peter DeWitt, has written his first book, *Leading with Intention: How School Leaders Can Unlock Deeper Collaboration and Drive Results*. This book is filled with research, stories, and places to process information, this timely book is focused on how educators think, the choices they make, and how they develop deeper academic and social-emotional connections. WASA members receive a 20% discount! Find out more and how to order [here](#).

RESOURCES



This month's featured resources include:

- [5 Tips to Help Students With Disabilities Feel Like They Belong](#) | Education Week
- [Benchmarking Equity Commitments](#) | Hanover Research
- [Stop Saying 'These Kids Don't Care About School'](#) | Education Week
- [To Have a Bigger Impact, Here's What You Should Stop Doing in Your Classroom or School](#) | Education Week
- [3 Strategies to Help Students Learn to Respectfully Disagree](#) | K-12 Dive
- [4 Case Studies--Schools Use Connections to Give Every Student a Reason to Attend](#) | Education Week
- [Joyful Leadership in Practice](#) | ASCD
- ['Distrust, Detection & Discipline:' New Data Reveals Teachers' ChatGPT Crackdown](#) | The 74



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Renaissance

See Every Student.

Renaissance

This month's Sponsor Spotlight features WASA's Diamond-level sponsor—[Renaissance](#). 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](#).



wasa-oly.org | **View mailing online.**
To unsubscribe from all mailings, **[click here.](#)**
To opt-out of just this mailing, **[click here.](#)**

