

OCTOBER 2022



# NEWS

*The WASA News is a monthly publication that provides key information to you in a concise, quick-read format. For those who want a bit more detail, links to additional information are embedded in the text of this publication. 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.*

*"It is not enough to simply listen to student voice. Educators have an ethical imperative to do something with students, and that is why meaningful student involvement is vital to school improvement."*

*—Adam Fletcher*

## **Dear WASA Members,**

Earlier this month, over 100 school district leaders gathered for the 2022 WASA Fall Conference. The focus of this year's conference, with Dr. Tammy Campbell leading and facilitating, was making use of student voice as a lever for excellence and school improvement. Conference participants learned from Dr. Campbell and heard from a number of districts about their work to create cultures and build systems within which the voice of students is highly valued and consistently woven into planning and decision making—all in the pursuit of school improvement.

Whether initiating or expanding efforts to bring student voice to the forefront of your work, thinking intently about structures and systems is vital to creating a culture where all students feel a strong sense of belonging. That voice, when given careful consideration (and most importantly followed by substantive and visible action), is essential to restructuring systems that are barrier-free and anchored in high expectations and rigor for each and every student—to ensure ALL are able to realize their dreams and potentials.

Resources for the Fall Conference can be found under **Conference Presentations**, and are available to all WASA members whether you attended the conference or not. In addition, we have compiled additional resources related to student voice on our **website**.

And finally, I remind you of our **Leading Deep for Equity Regional Workshops** later this month—October 24 (ESD 112), October 25 (ESD 101), and October 26 (ESD 189). These workshops are available to all WASA members and not limited to members in these particular regions.

Building systems and developing culture that truly works for all students is next to impossible without constantly seeking student voice and taking substantive action. This must be the mantra if your schools are to become what you aspire them to be—a place where all students belong, thrive, and succeed.

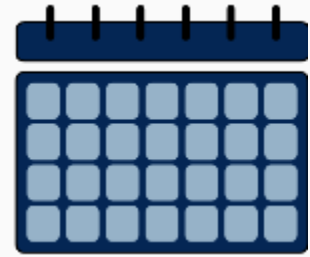
Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Joel Aune".

Joel Aune  
WASA Executive Director

# UPCOMING WASA EVENTS

- **WSPA School Law Conference** | October 10 and 11 | Tukwila
- **WIL: Being a Confident Decision Maker** | October 14 | Virtual
- **WSPA HELP Sessions** | October 17 | Virtual
- **Regional Equity Meetings** | October 25, 26, and 28 | Varies regionally
- **First Annual WALAS Conference** | October 28 and 29 | Walla Walla
- **WSASCD Whole Educator Leadership Institute** | November 4 and 5 | Virtual
- **Hanover Monthly SLC Series** | November 8 | Virtual
- **WASA Winter Conference** | December 6 | Virtual
- **View all WASA year-long Academies [here!](#)**



View the full WASA  
Calendar [here!](#)



A Complimentary Event

## Join Women In Leadership's Complimentary Virtual Event!

**October 14 | 12–1 p.m. | Virtual**

Join us for our complimentary kick-off event where we'll spend an hour with the authors of *She Leads: The Women's Guide to a Career in Educational Leadership*. **Dr. Rachael George** and **Majalise Tolan** will arm us with skills and insights to help us successfully tackle the hundreds of decisions we make every day. Participants will leave the session with a deeper understanding of decision-making frames, strategies to defeat decision fatigue, and challenged to reflect and then move on following challenging decisions. Their wisdom is applicable to aspiring leaders and veterans alike. [Learn more and register!](#)



## Fall's Regional Equity Workshops

**October 24, 25, and 26  
8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.**

WASA Equity workshops facilitated by **Dr. Tammy Campbell**, CEO, The Scholar First, are back again this year and will be traveling to three different ESDs (ESD 112, NWESD101, and NWESD189) during the month of October. Dr. Tammy Campbell will facilitate learning opportunities focused on how superintendents and district leaders organize both district and school improvement structures, systems, and practices to significantly improve learning for every student, no matter their background. Register [here!](#)

## WASA WINTER CONFERENCE

United for Healthy Development and Learning

Featuring Linda Darling-Hammond, Marc Brackett, and Timothy Shriver

December 6, 2022 | 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL

### Register Now for Winter Conference!

**December 6 | Virtual**

Come join us for WASA's Winter Virtual Conference entitled United for a Healthy Development and Learning featuring **Linda Darling-Hammond**, **Marc Brackett**, and **Timothy Shriver**. This morning will be facilitated by **Peter DeWitt** and **Jenni Donohoo**. Our hope is that as a participant, this conversation will support your reflection and provide you with next steps for your work in your school district communities. Register [today](#).

# TIME TO ENGAGE WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS

The opening of the 2023 Legislative Session is over three months away; however, now is the time to begin your advocacy efforts. Building relationships with your legislators is essential to successful advocacy; Connecting with lawmakers when the Legislature is not in session is the most effective way to begin or strengthen your relationships. Last month, we sent all legislators copies of **WASA's 2023 Legislative Platform** and we encourage you to use the Platform to join with your colleagues across the state to advocate with one voice on critical education funding and policy issues this fall and into the coming Legislative Session.

While legislative engagement by school administrators is critically important, we know that legislative advocacy may be new or uncomfortable for you. Advocacy does not have to be hard, time-consuming, or intimidating, however. To assist you in your advocacy role, we encourage you to check out WASA's two-part "Finding Your Voice" Lunch & Learn webinar. Part I, presented last month, provided a comprehensive review of WASA's 2023 Legislative Platform, along with rationale and background of our priorities, so you can effectively inform your legislators of administrators' collective priorities. The **presentation slides and recording** of the webinar are available on the WASA website.

Part II of the "Finding Your Voice" Lunch and Learn webinar, on how to engage with the Legislature, is scheduled for November 29, 12 p.m.; registration will open on November 3 (registration is complementary; however, you must register to attend). This webinar will provide tips, tools, and resources to help you engage with the Legislature and more effectively advocate for your schools, your students, and your staff. Whether you are an advocacy novice or are experienced in the process, all WASA members are invited and strongly encouraged to attend.

Additionally, the School Funding Coalition (SFC), comprised of seven of the state's education management associations, recently released its **2023 Priority Document**. Aligning with one of WASA's major priorities, the SFC will be urging the Legislature to continue the implementation of the **Staffing Enrichment Workgroup (2019)** Phase I recommendations by improving Prototypical School Funding Model support for school principals; and to support closing persistent opportunity gaps by funding additional professional development and continuous improvement coaches. Along with WASA's Legislative Platform, the SFC Priority Document is an additional resource we encourage you to share with legislators.



## Celebrate National Principals Month!

Each October, National Principals Month highlights the essential role that principals play in our schools. Principals create the culture and set the academic tone for their schools. It is their vision, dedication, and resolve that provide the inspiration for staff and students to strive for success. Let's celebrate our principals and their incredible work to lead, serve, and support the staff, students, and parents in their school communities. Learn more [here](#).



## First Annual WALAS Conference October 28 and 29 | Walla Walla, WA

Join the **first annual Washington Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (WALAS) Conference** in-person in Walla Walla, WA at Whitman College. This vibrant and growing organization is creating a community of Latino educators and leaders.



## Teen Driver Safety Week 2022—We Need Your Help!

October 16–22, 2022

National Teen Driver Safety Week is October 16–22. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) needs your help to send important information through your school social media channels during this week! **NHTSA wants as many school social media accounts active as possible, both school & student accounts!** Please provide the email addresses of school and student personnel that have access to important social media accounts, including your own if applicable! By submitting, you will see all the great resources available, including daily social media posts, website banners, PA announcements, and more!

## You're Invited! Join the Balanced Calendar Summit

October 12–13 | Yakima, WA



Are you interested in learning from district colleagues about what it takes to consider and implement a balanced (or modified) school year calendar? If so, please join the upcoming statewide Balanced Calendar Fall Summit. This event is now open beyond OSPI Balanced Calendar grantee districts to any district in the state interested in this exploration and networking with peers.

This FREE event will include opportunities to learn alongside some of the state and nation's leaders in Balanced Calendars, while collaborating with other district and school leaders. Interested districts are encouraged to send teams of up to 6 individuals at no cost. **Room blocks are closing this Thursday, with a registration deadline of Friday, October 7th.** More information can be found [online](#).

## AASA 2023 Dr. Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award

October 21, 2022

The Dr. Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award is directly related to the AASA equity goal regarding vulnerable children and superintendent pipeline issues. This award focuses on equity and integrity. [Click here](#) to learn more about this prestigious award.



## Monthly SLC Series with Hanover Research

November 8 | 11:30 a.m. | Virtual

Hanover Research has partnered with WASA, MASA, and TASA, to create a Superintendents Leadership Council to share ideas and support on challenges that district leaders across the country are facing as this time of uncertainty continues. Speakers include Superintendents from across WA, MI, and TX. You can register for these sessions [here](#).

## Financial Aid Opportunities for College

Students who plan to start college next fall can now [apply for financial aid for the 2023–24 school year](#). Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) has assembled resources and information about college planning, financial aid, and more. School staff are free to use this content—as-is or edited—in emails, newsletters, social media, or other materials. Schools and education advocates can access financial aid resources and promotional materials in the [Financial Aid Toolkit](#). Applying for financial aid is a crucial first step toward college or job training. Many families assume they won't qualify, but [there's more help available than ever before](#). This year, a family of four making up to \$107,000 can [qualify for financial aid](#) in Washington.



# ESSENTIAL EQUITY CONVERSATIONS



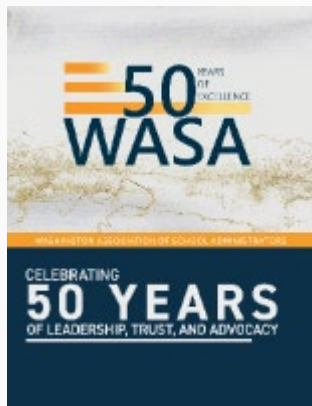
School district leaders are called upon to create systems and learning environments where each and every student can learn and achieve their educational goals and aspirations. This is the core of your work. Although each school district's journey toward educational equity varies based on its unique district and community assets and challenges, initiating and advancing substantive conversations is fundamental to effective and principled school district leadership.

Each month during the coming year, WASA will offer a prompt that you might employ to initiate or continue conversations with and among students, staff, school boards, and/or your community. Two forms of the prompt will be offered, so that you are able to differentiate based upon the uniqueness of the group or community, as you step into these essential conversations:

- How was your district's work toward ensuring all students have a strong sense of belonging evident in your school start up?
- How was your district's work toward educational equity evident in your school start up?

While WASA members possess an abundance of strategies and protocols in their repertoire to facilitate focused and productive conversations, some simple, yet effective protocols can be found [here](#).

No matter where things stand in your district and community today, the important thing is to start or continue, and persist in your efforts to keep the focus on the students—ALL students—under your care.



## Purchase Your Very Own WASA Memory Book!

2021–22 was WASA's 50th Anniversary Year. Chartered as a non-profit in 1972, WASA has been a strong and unyielding advocate for public education in Washington State from its earliest beginnings. To learn more about WASA's proud history, [visit our website](#). WASA staff published a **Memory Book** in June 2022. Hard copies are available for purchase at [this link](#).



## Have You Read the Newest *Hotline*?

The **WASA Hotline**, published four times each year, provides key information and subject matter of interest to WASA members. A good share of the content is written by WASA members and school district leaders—past and present. Check out the most recent issue of **Hotline** from September 16, featuring a welcome letter from WASA President Michelle Whitney, award timelines, an article about neural education by Kathi Weight, and welcoming of our newest WASA members.

# KNOW YOUR ASSOCIATION

## WASA MEMBERSHIP

**Who can become a WASA member?** WASA is open to all educational administrators in central office, building management, and educational agency positions. WASA membership has increased by 120 members over the past two years, with total membership at 2,016. The membership includes over 600 retirees who are now Lifetime Members. There are 1,305 “Active” members classified as follows:

**IPAC (Instructional Program Administrators Component)—440**

**Superintendents—346**

**BPAC (Business and Personnel Administrators Component)—283**

**Special Education Component—186**

**Principals Component—50**

Know of someone who might be interested in becoming a member of WASA?

Encourage them to check out the benefits of a [WASA Membership](#).

## RESOURCES

WASA has developed a storehouse where resources from past issues of WASA News are [readily accessible](#). This month’s featured resources include a focus on belonging:

### ENSURING ALL STUDENTS HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF BELONGING

- [Navigating Diverging Approaches to Equity Work](#) (Hanover Research)
- [Educational Equity Isn’t All or Nothing: The Case for Incremental Change](#) (Education Week)
- [5 Things You Can Do This Month to Support Your Latino Students](#) (The Educators Room)
- [Want to Support English-Learners? Prioritize SEL, New Study Finds](#) (Education Week)

### OTHER

- [Teaching Resilience Aids Students in Navigating Difficult Times](#) (K–12 Dive)
- [Developing Effective Principals: What Kind of Learning Matters?](#) (Learning Policy Institute)

### PESB Office Hours With Superintendents and Educators

Dr. Erica Hernandez-Scott, PESB’s Interim Executive Director, will begin hosting virtual office hours once a month to hear directly from superintendents, as well as educators across Washington state. This dedicated time aims to provide the conversational space for clear, honest two-way communication — which will support a collective effort to serve Washington educators, students, and families. Use the corresponding links for more information including dates, times, and virtual registration links for the specified group:

### Rescission of COVID-19 Emergency Proclamations and State of Emergency

**October 31**

The Department of Health, in accordance with its mission to protect and improve the health of all people in Washington State, will continue to provide COVID-19 prevention and control guidance based on existing science, strategies, and the most recent health recommendations, to protect school and childcare communities and reduce COVID-19 transmission and outbreaks. Find out more in [this document](#).

- [Superintendent Office Hours](#)
- [Educator Office Hours](#)

Other recent key announcements from PESB:

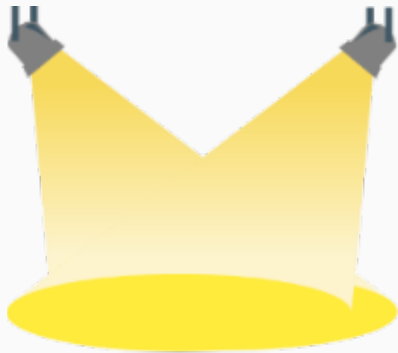
- [SEL interactive virtual series](#)
- [Educational interpreter grants](#)

## Guidance on Rehiring Retirees

Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) has issued updated guidance on hiring retirees: [Employer Handbook Chapter 5 Special Conditions – Department of Retirement Systems](#).

## From PESB: Transitional Certificates and Out-of-Endorsement Assignments

For school districts employing educators holding a transitional certificate: PESB has issued a policy change in transitional certificates intended to provide flexibility for school districts in employing individuals whose certificates are expired. Individuals may maintain employment under a transitional certificate until their expired certificate is renewed. For more details on transitional certificates as a tool for educator certificate renewal, visit [frequently asked questions](#).



## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT!

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



[Pearson](#)



[Right at School](#)

## AASA CORNER

- Register Early and Save—AASA National Conference on Education | **February 16–18, 2023** | San Antonio, Texas. [Click here](#) to find out further information.
- The ACLU launched a [new toolkit](#) as a part of their [Right to Learn Campaign](#) to provide public school students and parents resources to push back against book bans and classroom censorship efforts in their school districts. The toolkit includes talking points, actions and tactics, background information on school governance, and ideas for community organizing.
- This [special report from EdWeek](#) compiles advice from school leaders on maintaining staff satisfaction and motivation throughout the school year by getting to know teachers, ensuring they have the tools they need to succeed, being strategic about “slump months,” breaking up the monotony of staff meetings, and more.
- The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) has released updated school [Behavior Threat Assessment and Management \(BTAM\)](#) resources, including a detailed guide of [best practices considerations for K-12 schools](#) to support BTAM training, and [guidance to uphold student civil rights](#) throughout behavior threat assessment.



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