

SEPTEMBER 2023



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](#).



"WASA is committed to leading, serving, and supporting current and aspiring leaders to create systems and equitable learning environments where each and every student can learn and achieve their educational goals and aspirations."

—WASA Educational Equity Statement

WASA Friends and Colleagues,

By now, nearly all schools are in session. I hope you experienced feelings of joy and optimism as students entered your schools, as well as a quiet sense of satisfaction. Through your planning and leadership, the stage has been set for the students to enjoy a stimulating and learning-filled school experience over the next ten months.

How can we be certain that each and every student will have both opportunity and success in our schools? Pursuit of this vision is the core work of schools and school districts. Advancing educational equity is an unwavering dedication to ensuring every student, regardless of their background, has ample opportunity to succeed.

Educational equity means identifying and removing barriers that hinder the potential of the students under your care, particularly those from historically marginalized communities. It involves addressing disparities in resources, funding, and access to quality education. It means recognizing that diversity is a strength, while embracing the unique needs and experiences of every child.

Success for school district leaders is measured not only by test scores, but by the transformative impact you have on the lives of your students. A clear and aspirational vision, coupled with determined leadership and a relentless commitment to equity, will enable you to make a profound difference in the lives of your students and communities.

Have a great year!

G. Joel Aune
WASA Executive Director

Advancing Racial Equity in K-12 Education

In a white paper, McKinsey & Company highlights the urgent need to address persistent disparities in pre-K-12 education. Six actions are identified that school district leaders and communities can take to advance educational equity:

- **Strengthen Core Early-Literacy Instructional Practices:** Focusing on early literacy can significantly impact closing racial gaps, as struggling readers are often students of color. Implementing research-backed actions, such as phonics curricula and vocabulary enrichment, can improve literacy outcomes.
- **Use an Equity Framework to Allocate Resources:** Historically, underserved students receive less funding and have less access to experienced teachers. Targeting resources toward low-income students and students of color can narrow achievement gaps.
- **Increase Instructional Time:** High-dosage tutoring programs can combat learning loss and improve educational equity.

These three actions can be controlled directly by school systems. Additionally, three broader community-led actions are proposed:

- **Ensure Access to High-Quality Pre-K:** High-quality Pre-K programs can significantly narrow the achievement gap. Investing in such programs and ensuring access for all children is essential.
- **Provide Wraparound Services:** Addressing factors beyond the school's control, like housing and healthcare, is crucial for improving outcomes, particularly for students of color. Collaborative efforts, as seen in the Harlem Children's Zone, can be effective.
- **Address School Racial, Ethnic, and Economic Divisions:** Socioeconomic integration in schools can improve outcomes for all students.

The paper underscores that while these actions may not completely eliminate racial disparities in education, they represent meaningful steps toward achieving equity. The success of these initiatives will require collaborative efforts between school systems and their communities to create a long-term commitment to equity in education.

UPCOMING WASA EVENTS



WHY LEADERSHIP COACHING?

LUNCH AND LEARN

Virtual | Complimentary!
September 20 | 12–1 p.m.



FINDING YOUR VOICE

LUNCH AND LEARN

Virtual | Complimentary!
September 21 | 12–1 p.m.



FALL CONFERENCE

Tacoma
October 1–2



October 10, 2023
9:30 - 11 a.m. | Zoom | Free!

Sponsored by:
KAISER PERMANENTE.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Virtual
October 10 | 9:30–11 a.m.



MENTOR ACADEMY

Virtual
Sept–March



EARLY CAREER SUPERINTENDENT ACADEMY

Virtual
Sept–May



LAUNCHING SCHOOL LEADERSHIP NETWORK



For New or Newly Assigned School Leaders



NEXT LEVEL LEADERS

WASHINGTON STATE'S PREMIERE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP NETWORK

Locations vary
Stage 2 | November 1–2

NEXT LEVEL LEADERS

Next Level Leaders is a two-year learning experience designed to support leaders in conquering complex challenges. To register for Next Level Leaders, simply contact AWSP's **Dameon Brown**.

REMINDERS



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 school news.

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 Sheila Chard at schard@wasa-oly.org if you have questions or need assistance.



Important Member Demographic Survey

As part of WASA's commitment to equitable practices and continuous improvement, we're gathering data on our membership and the reach of our professional learning offering. Please assist us by responding to the quick demographic survey. The survey collects your name and responses to three(3) multiple choice questions regarding your race/ethnicity, gender, and your current job role. Use the code below or [click here](#) to register.



Preparing Your School District's Financial Statements? SAO's Updated Review Checklist Can Help

The end of summer also means the end of another school district fiscal year. We're here to help you close the books and prepare your financial reporting package with an updated Checklist for Preparing and Reviewing School District Financial Statements. Find out more about significant changes and [updates in our latest blogpost](#), and visit [SAO's Resource Library](#) to download the 2022–23 checklist.

Superintendent of the Year—Apply Now!

The 2024 Washington State Superintendent of the Year process is underway. Those making nominations are strongly encouraged to reach out to their candidate to make them aware of the nomination and to submit an application. Candidates must complete an online application, which can be found on the [AASA website](#). To be considered for Washington's SOY, the **deadline to apply is October 1, 2023**.

Questions? Contact [Shawna Kiliz](#).



Adam Swinyard, WA Superintendent
of the Year 2023

State Auditor Provides Assistance to School Districts

As the summer comes to a close, the end of another school district fiscal year arrives. The State Auditor's Office (SAO) can help you close your books and prepare financial reporting. SAO's website includes an updated [Checklist for Preparing and Reviewing School District Financial Statements](#), as well as an important review of significant [changes to financial reporting](#)—both of which will be helpful as you prepare your financial reporting package.

Andy Wolf to Retire—June, 2024

Executive Director Joel Aune informed the WASA Board during their June meeting of Andy Wolf's intent to retire June 28, 2024. Andy, who will be completing his seventh year at WASA, will be sorely missed by the WASA team and the membership we serve. At the same time, we can and should be happy for him, as he is preparing to move on to the next chapter in his life—he's certainly earned it. Andy is highly respected by the WASA membership, and has been an invaluable source of support for them.

The process to secure Andy's replacement will commence later this fall. Don't hesitate to reach out to Executive Director [Joel Aune](#) if interested in the position.



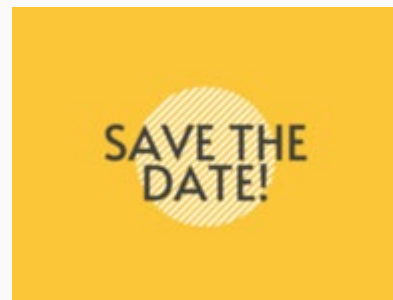
We'll enjoy his presence and contributions to the WASA team and the membership we serve for one more year. Congratulations and thank you, Andy. You are the best!

School Administrator's Government-to-Government Relationships Training Available

[Monday, September 25 | 9:00–2:45p.m. | Spokane](#)
[Monday, September 25 | 9:00–2:45p.m. | Virtual](#)

[House Bill 1426](#) mandates in renewing an administrator certificate on or after July 1, 2023, continuing administrators must attend a five-hour Government-to-Government Relationships Training to focus on:

- A Brief History of Tribal People in Washington State
- Colonization and Intergenerational Trauma
- Identifying Native Students in Public Schools



- Agents of Change: School Leadership Behaviors and Dispositions
- Creation of Government-to-Government Systems

More information on this training can be found on OSPI's [Tribal Consultation webpage](#) and in this [Bulletin: Certificate Renewal Requirements for All Teacher and Administrator Certificates](#).



WASA and ERNN Expand Partnership

Following the retirement of Executive Director Warren Hopkins, the Employee Relations & Negotiations Network (ERNN) Board approached WASA with the idea of an expanded partnership. The new and increased level of collaboration with WASA will involve Andy Wolf in consultation with the ERNN Executive Board. WASA will sustain the provision of all member services and benefits. WASA will also develop and deliver the professional learning trainings, refresh and manage the ERNN website, and establish a “Bargaining Hotline” for ERNN members to access for perspective and guidance on matters related to bargaining.

To learn more about ERNN or an ERNN membership, [visit the website](#) or contact [Andy Wolf](#).

Guide for Air Quality

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has developed an FAQ to support interpretation of the [Washington Children and Youth Activities Guide for Air Quality](#).

The [FAQ](#) is available on DOH's [Smoke from Fires Took Kit Page](#). DOH will also translate the FAQ into Spanish, Russian, and Somali.

If you have any questions, please email the DOH air quality team at: airquality@doh.wa.gov.

TIME TO ENGAGE WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS

The opening of the 2024 Legislative Session is over four months away; however, now is the time to begin your advocacy efforts. Building relationships with your legislators is essential to successful advocacy and connecting with lawmakers when the Legislature is not in session is the most effective way to begin or strengthen your relationships. Earlier this summer, we sent all legislators copies of [WASA's 2024 Legislative Platform](#). 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.

Take this opportunity before the Legislature reconvenes to meet with your legislators for coffee—or dial them up on Zoom, if necessary. Also, think about inviting legislators to a meeting of your Board or give them a tour of your schools. Explain to them what obstacles you continue to face; many of them do not understand your frustrations. It is incumbent upon YOU to help legislators to understand the complexities of public education and your needs.

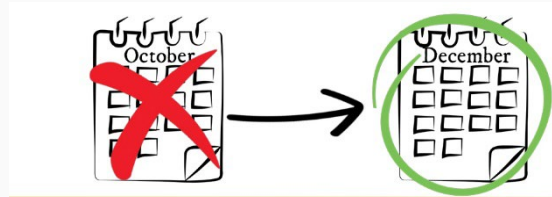
To assist you in advocating for the collective priorities of administrators, we encourage you to attend the advocacy webinar, “Finding Your Voice: Unpacking WASA's 2024 Legislative Platform.” This “Lunch & Learn” webinar will provide you with a complete review of WASA's recently adopted Platform, including background and details about the issues and strategies to move the positions forward. This information will better arm you with the necessary information to effectively advocate for WASA's priorities. The complimentary webinar will be held on Thursday,

September 21, from 12–1:00 p.m.; all administrators are welcome and whether you are an advocacy expert or a novice, you are encouraged to **register** and participate.



Welcome to WASA, Ryan!

Ryan Hickerson joined the WASA team in August, and will serve as the Professional Learning Assistant. Prior to joining WASA, Ryan proudly served in the US Navy as a Training Program Manager for five years after obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Education.



Better FAFSA/WASFA 2024-25

Important FAFSA/WASFA Changes

The 2024–25 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will not be available until December 2023. The WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) will also be delayed until the FAFSA opens. Applications usually open October 1 of a student's senior year.

The FAFSA form will be shorter and less complex. More students will be eligible for federal Pell Grants, and the average Pell award will be larger.

The U.S. Department of Education has not yet announced the exact date applications will open.

View **resources** from **Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC)**.

RESOURCES



This month's featured resources include:

- **Can AI Improve Instruction? 3 Teachers Share How They Use It** (Education Week)
- **Can AI Write a Good IEP--What Special Education Experts Say** (Education Week)
- **Research Brief and Discussion Guide- Building a Sense of Belonging** (Hanover Research)
- **Best Practices for Elevating Student Voice** (Hanover Research)
- **Bullying Prevention Tracking and Messaging** (Hanover Research)
- **Benchmarking Civics Education** (Hanover Research)



Gaggle



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

This month's Sponsor Spotlight features two of WASA's Diamond-level sponsors—**Gaggle**. 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](#).

AASA CORNER

THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

- **AASA Distinguished Service Awards:** The AASA Distinguished Service Awards are given annually to retired AASA members of 10 years or more who exhibited exemplary leadership throughout their careers and who have enhanced the profession of school administration. Submit your nomination for a well-deserved candidate by [clicking here](#). The deadline is September 1.
- **NCE Registration:** ASE registration is now open to National Conference on Education 2024.
- The U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now accepting round two applications for competitive grant funding for the **Clean School Bus Program**.
- AASA named just keep livin Foundation as a strategic partner for the **Greenlights Grant Initiative**.



Washington Association of School Administrators
PO Box 14459, Tumwater, WA 98511 | 800.859.9272

wasa-oly.org | [View mailing online](#).

To unsubscribe from all mailings, [click here](#).

To opt-out of just this mailing, [click here](#).

