

7:30–8:30 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet	Orchard Hall
8:30–8:45 a.m.	Opening Announcements	Orchard Hall
8:45–10:00 a.m.	2025 Legislative Update <i>Dan Steele</i>	Orchard Hall
10:00–10:15 a.m.	Break	Lobbies
10:15–11:30 a.m.	Meet the Moment: Strategies for Strong Communication and Powerful Leadership <i>Monique Dugaw Greenwell   Executive Director of Communications &amp; Public Engagement, ESD 112</i>	Orchard Hall
<p>Every school leader faces pivotal moments—staffing challenges, funding debates, board turnover, political changes, and community tensions. How you communicate in these moments determines whether they become crises or opportunities for leadership.</p> <p>In this session, you'll gain proven, research-backed strategies to navigate high-stakes conversations, build trust, and inspire unity. Learn how to turn challenges into moments of connection, manage misinformation, and use storytelling to engage your community. Walk away with practical techniques to lead with confidence, clarity, and credibility—no matter the challenge. Turn pivotal points into pivot points.</p>		
11:30 a.m.	Lunches to Go <i>Sponsored by Next Level Leaders</i>	Orchard Hall



WENATCHEE CONVENTION CENTER LOWER FLOOR



# SPRING CONFERENCE

## FOR SMALL SCHOOL LEADERS



- Rising Together -

MARCH 17-18, 2025  
WENATCHEE, WA

SUNDAY • MARCH 16, 2025		
1:00–4:00 p.m.	Pre-Conference Session   The 4 Essential Roles of Leadership <i>Sponsored by FranklinCovey Education</i>	Orchard North
4:30–5:30 p.m.	WASA Small Schools Committee   WSSDA Small Schools Advisory Committee   Joint Committee Meeting	Orchard North
5:30–7:30 p.m.	Pre-Conference Reception   RSVP Appreciated <i>Sponsored by i-Ready</i>	Pybus Public Market Event Center

MONDAY • MARCH 17, 2025					
7:30–8:30 a.m.	Registration   Exhibits   Breakfast Buffet   Student Performance <i>Special thanks to Chelan High School Jazz Band under the direction of Stephen Burdick, for providing this morning's entertainment.</i>				Lobbies and Orchard Hall
8:30–9:00 a.m	Opening Activities <i>Tabatha Mires, Joel Aune, Kim Fry and Shawn Batstone</i>				Orchard Hall
9:00–9:45 a.m.	Keynote   <i>Dr. Joe Sanfelippo</i>   Part I				Orchard Hall
9:45–10:00 a.m.	Exhibits Break				Lobbies
10:00–10:45 a.m.	Keynote   <i>Dr. Joe Sanfelippo</i>   Part II				Orchard Hall
10:45–11:15 a.m.	Exhibits Break				Lobbies
11:15 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	By-Size Discussion Groups				
	Non-High	1–200 FTE	201–499 FTE	500–999 FTE	1,000+ FTE
	Fuji 1	Gala 1	Fuji 3	Gala 3	Golden Delicious
	Patricia Beathard Superintendent, Brinnon Lisa Gredvig Superintendent, Union Gap	Elyse Mengarelli Superintendent, Mabton	Jay Tyrus Superintendent, Wilbur-Crestin	Ingrid Colvard Superintendent, Stevenson-Carson	Roger Trail Superintendent, Royal Pete Peterson Superintendent, Kiona-Benton
12:00–1:15 p.m.	Lunch Session   Student Performance   ThoughtExchange <i>Special thanks to the 6th Grade Icicle River Middle School Choir, Cascade School District under the direction of Darryl Wall, for providing this lunch-time entertainment.</i>				Orchard Hall
1:15–1:45 p.m.	Exhibits Break				Lobbies

1:45–2:30 p.m.	<b>Concurrent Session I</b>			
	<b>Fuji 1</b>	<b>Gala 1</b>	<b>Fuji 3</b>	<b>Gala 3</b>
	<b>Using Data to Drive Improvement. Elevate Educator Impact, and Support Student Success</b> <i>Glenn Johnson, Superintendent, Cashmere   Linda McKay, Deputy Superintendent, NCESD</i>	<b>Unlocking Grant Opportunities: Funding Solutions for Small District</b> <i>Mark Brown, Eastern WA Regional Coordinator, School Facilities and Organization, OSPI</i>	<b>Strategic Planning Reimagined: Real-Time Collaboration with ChatGPT</b> <i>Lance Gibbon, Superintendent, Hood Canal</i>	<b>Stronger Together: Creating a Support Network for Small District Leaders</b> <i>John Hannah, Superintendent, Morton   Rich Staley, Superintendent, Oakville</i>
	Discover how Cashmere SD utilized quantitative and qualitative data to transform their approach to multilingual (ML) learners. Through a deep dive into WIDA and SBA data, district data, program analysis, and empathy interviews, they uncovered key insights to improve student experiences. This session highlights their district-wide ML focus: know your students, know their data, and implement targeted strategies to support student success and achievement.	Navigating the grant landscape can feel overwhelming, but this session will provide clarity and guidance for small school district leaders. We will cover key topics including Energy and Building grants, and Small District Modernization Grants like SCAP, Study and Survey, and Natural Hazard Assessments. Gain practical insights to determine which grants align with your district's needs and how to apply effectively.	In small school districts, time and resources are limited, but the demand for collaborative, data-driven strategic planning is high. This workshop demonstrates how ChatGPT can revolutionize your planning process—saving time, improving stakeholder engagement, and streamlining decision-making. Learn how a small district used real-time AI collaboration to incorporate feedback from staff, students, and the community, resulting in a clear, actionable strategic plan.	Small district leaders face unique challenges that require innovative solutions and collective strength. Discover how to create a successful Small District Leaders Collaborative to support and amplify the voices of small school leaders. This session includes real-world examples, strategies for creating your own collaborative, and time for discussion and Q&A—offering valuable insights to strengthen your leadership and district success.

MONDAY • MARCH 17, 2025 CONTINUED		
2:30–3:00 p.m.	Social   Renaissance Revive Station <i>Sponsored by Renaissance</i>	Fuji Lobby
3:00–3:45 p.m.	<b>Concurrent Session II</b>	
	<b>Fuji 1</b>	<b>Gala 1</b>
	<b>From Strategy to Student Success: Practical Implementation of the 4 Essential Roles of Leadership</b> <i>Jay Tyus, Superintendent, Wilbur-Creston</i>	<b>Tools to Support the Budget Building Process</b> <i>Ellen Hopkins, Title I Part A Program Supervisor, OSPI   Coleen Putaansuu, Title II Part A Lead Program Supervisor, OSPI</i>
	Building on the foundational work presented in the pre-conference session, this engaging session will take a deep dive into the 4 Disciplines of Execution - a proven framework for turning strategic plans into real, measurable student growth. Participants will explore how to leverage their Leadership Role of Executing Strategy from 4 essential roles of leadership to drive meaningful change, focus on the highest-impact goals, and create a culture of accountability that ensures results, from the boardroom to the classroom. Through real-world examples and practical application, this session will equip leaders with actionable strategies to bridge the gap between vision and execution.	Budget concerns are the top stressor for small LEA superintendents, as revealed in the State of the Superintendent 2024 survey by RAND. To support districts in this critical area, OSPI staff have collaborated with other State Education Agencies and the Comprehensive Center Network to develop and explore tools designed to strengthen the LEA budget-building process. Join OSPI staff to learn about these resources and additional support options available to help your district navigate financial challenges with confidence.
3:50–4:30 p.m.	<b>Thriving Amidst Challenge: Strategic Leadership in Financially Uncertain Times</b> <i>Tabatha Mires   Superintendent, Manson</i>	
	Just two months into the role, Superintendent Mires faced a significant financial challenge. Through strong leadership, fiscal accountability, and strategic board relationships, she has guided the district toward stability while laying the foundation for long-term success. In partnership with agencies including NCESD, the district has embraced a systems approach—from the boardroom to the classroom—to optimize limited financial resources and improve student outcomes. Gain insights into navigating fiscal challenges with strategic leadership and collaborative problem-solving.	
4:30–5:30 p.m.	Conference Reception <i>Sponsored by Beresford, McKinstry, and OAC</i>	Fuji Lobby

