



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

U.S. Department of Education Assistant Secretary Glenna Wright-Gallo to Speak at State Special Education Conference

OLYMPIA — July 27, 2023 — U.S. Education Assistant Secretary Glenna Wright-Gallo will deliver two keynote addresses next month to Washington state educators attending the Special Education Directors Preconference and [2023 MTSS Fest](#), an annual statewide education conference hosted by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) Aug. 2-4. Both events will take place at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick.

MTSS refers to a multi-tiered system of supports, a framework that aims to make school systems more efficient and effective, ensuring all students have equitable access to high-quality instruction and supports that are culturally responsive and differentiated to meet each student’s unique needs. The conference is expected to draw more than 500 K-12 school administrators, teachers, and education specialists from around the state to the conference.

Wright-Gallo previously served as assistant superintendent of special education for OSPI until her appointment to serve as assistant secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) with the U.S. Department of Education. Wright-Gallo has spent more than 25 years supporting students and adults with disabilities and was instrumental to the development and implementation of the Inclusionary Practices Project for Washington state.

“We are thrilled to welcome Secretary Gallo back to Washington state as the keynote speaker for our annual MTSS Fest,” said State Superintendent Chris Reykdal. “Glenna knows better than most what Washington’s educators, families, and administrators are doing to support students across our state, particularly students with disabilities, and we are looking forward to her return.”

WASA Executive Director Joel Aune said having someone with Gallo's level of practical experience and national prominence will help Washington educators strengthen their special education systems.

"We continue to seek out opportunities to help administrators develop equitable, inclusive practices for students receiving special education services in every district," said Aune. "We are pleased to partner with OSPI on this conference and welcome Secretary Gallo's remarks as a keynote speaker. Her expertise at the local and national level should provide powerful insights for attendees."

SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTORS PRE-CONFERENCE AND 2023 MTSS FEST CONFERENCE

WHO:

Glenna Wright-Gallo
Assistant Secretary, Office of Special of Education and Rehabilitative Services
U.S. Department of Education

WHAT:

[Special Education Directors Pre-conference](#)
[2023 MTSS Fest OSPI Integrated Conference](#)
Closing Keynote Address and Lunch Speaker

WHEN AND WHERE:

Special Education Directors Pre-conference Closing Keynote Address
Wednesday, Aug. 2, 4-5 p.m.
Great Hall, [Three Rivers Convention Center](#), Kennewick
7016 W Grandridge Blvd, Kennewick, WA 99336

MTSS Fest Lunch Speaker
Thursday, Aug. 3, 12:30 p.m.
Great Hall, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick
7016 W Grandridge Blvd, Kennewick, WA 99336

About OSPI

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is the primary agency charged with overseeing K-12 education in Washington state. Led by State School Superintendent Chris Reykdal, OSPI works with the state's 295 school districts and nine educational service districts to administer basic education programs and improve student achievement on behalf of more than one million public school students. OSPI's mission is to provide funding, resources, tools, data and technical assistance that enable educators to ensure students succeed in our public schools, are prepared to access post-secondary training and education, and are equipped to thrive in their careers and lives.

About the Washington Association of School Administrators

The [Washington Association of School Administrators](#) is committed to the development of quality education through professional leadership. Members benefit from a supportive community of professional leaders working to provide insightful and valuable training, support, and resources to education leaders, and to sustain a positive impact on legislative and community leaders. With over 2,000 members, membership is open to all education administrators in central office, building management, and educational agency positions. A not-for-profit organization, WASA is funded by membership dues and association events.