

WASA NEWS

April 2021—Edition 1



UPCOMING EVENTS

▪ **WASA Women in Leadership: Be You! The More You the Better!**

April 30, 2021, 8:30–11 a.m. Click [here](#) to register.

▪ **WASA Superintendent Conference: Leading with Heart and Soul**

May 3, 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
May 4, 8:30 a.m.–11 a.m.
Click [here](#) to register.

▪ **WASA/WSSDA/AWSP Equity Conference**

May 18–19, Virtual
8:30 a.m.–12 p.m., Daily
Click [here](#) to register.

▪ **2021 WASA/AWSP Summer Conference: Junetastic**

It will be a month full of learning destinations designed to meet your needs coming *virtually* in an all-new format. Attendees can register for one or many of these [sessions!](#) It's going to be *Junetastic!* Click [here](#) to learn more and register.

AASA GOVERNING BOARD ELECTIONS

Elections will be held to fill expiring terms for one eastside and one westside AASA Governing Board positions in mid-May. The deadline to submit interest in serving on the AASA Governing Board is April 24, 2021. Contact [Joel Aune](#) for further information.

“What is coming is better than what is gone.”

-Arabic Proverb

WASA Friends,

As a principal in the Walla Walla School District many years ago, I had the good fortune of working with Superintendent Ellen Wolf. Dr. Wolf, who was a highly respected leader, proffered the vision “We must educate our students for their future, not our past.” Never have Dr. Wolf’s words been more important than they are right now.

Amidst the mad scramble of responding to the physical distance adjustment recently issued by DOH, the final quarter of the 2020-21 school year finds many school district leaders considering both the challenges and the opportunities that lie ahead for next year. School district leaders are thinking about and planning for the return of more students to in-person learning after 13 plus long months of remote or hybrid learning. Along the lines of Dr. Wolf’s vision, school leaders have both the responsibility and the opportunity to reimagine schools for the future as opposed to simply reopening the schools of the past. The experiences, discoveries, and learnings over the past 13 months can serve as a springboard for leaders to make post-pandemic schools different and better than ever before.

This year’s Summer Conference has been transformed by WASA and our friends at AWSP. Its structure is specifically designed for school district leaders as they bring the 2020–21 school year to a close while looking toward next year and the fresh start that could come with it. The summer conference content has been thoughtfully developed with the future in mind, as WASA and AWSP support school district leaders in their efforts to seize the opportunity to reimagine schools and the school experience for the students under their care.

The [Junetastic](#) events have been intentionally designed to support district and building leaders as they prepare to fully open their schools to students in September. The month-long learning series is built upon three foundational elements:

- Research-Based Instructional Improvement Efforts (John Hattie, Peter DeWitt, Janel Keating, Paul Bloomberg)
- Social Emotional Learning (Marisol Rerucha, Jeffrey Binney, Smart Center, Viewing of Screenager)
- Equity (John Krownapple, Floyd Cobb, Chad Sanders, D.J. Batiste)

The **Trailhead** registration package includes Hattie, Binney, and Batiste. Other events are registered individually. These are some of the greatest minds and biggest hitters in the field of K-12 education, and we are excited about all they have to offer district and school leaders. We believe the content could provide a strong foundation for administrators as they plan for new beginnings in the Fall of 2021.

This is your time, as you plan for schools that “educate our students for their future, not our past.” It is our honor to support you in this transformational work.

Sincerely,

WASA ASPIRING SUPERINTENDENTS ACADEMY

The registration process for the 2021–22 Aspiring Superintendents Academy Cohort is open! Click [here](#) to find information about the program and the registration process. If you have specific questions, please contact [Mike Nelson](#) at 253.508.0192.

QUICK LINKS

- [WASA Region Honorary Award Nomination Form](#)
- [WASA State Honorary Award Nomination Form](#)
- [Doyle Winter Scholarship Application](#)
- [2021 Graduation and Commencement Ceremonies](#) (DOH)
- [Opening on Bilingual Education Advisory Committee](#) (OSP1)
- [Employer Health & Safety Requirements](#) (DOH)

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- **Racial Justice:** For information and resources, click the [link](#) on the WASA website. The following resources were recently uploaded:
 - [Addressing Disproportionality of Hispanic Students in Special Education](#) (Hanover Research)
 - [4 Questions to ask When Committing to Equity and Anti-racism in Schools](#) (K-12 Dive)
 - [Same Old Civics Ed. Won't Save Us](#) (Education Week)
 - [Anti-Asian Violence: What Schools Should Start Doing About It](#) (Education Week)
- **Pandemic:** For information and resources, click the [link](#) on the WASA website. The following resources were recently uploaded:
 - [Organizational Systems for Agility:](#) While continuing to face difficult decisions related to reopening schools during the 2020–21 school year, districts are already engaged in decision-making and planning efforts for the 2021–22 school year and beyond. This brief examines the characteristics of organizations well-positioned to adapt to change and shares best practices for communicating change to various stakeholders.
- **Other:**
 - [Budget Processes and Reductions](#) (Hanover Research)
 - [4 Strategies to Increase Teacher Retention](#) (Hanover Research)
 - [Assessment Spotlight](#) (Education Week)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 2021 Regular Legislative Session is in the home stretch, with less than 30 days until the scheduled end date of April 25. 2021–23 Budgets (Operating, Capital, and Transportation) have been released, and even though budget-writers have begun negotiating final, compromise budgets, it is important to continue to engage with your local legislators.

In terms of messaging, we continue to advocate for enrollment stabilization funding and emergency pupil transportation funding. Both Operating Budget proposals include funding for these issues; however, they take drastically different approaches. The House budget would provide stabilization funds to school districts if their funding loss due to enrollment declines and transportation ridership is greater than federal funds provided. Funding would also be provided for the many programs that receive enrollment-based funding, such as LAP, TBIP, special education, and highly capable students.

The Senate budget introduces a new approach and would provide funding to ensure school districts receive at least \$1,500 per pupil for COVID-19 relief, when combined with federal ESSER funds. This would provide a base level of added funding for all school districts, providing for a more equitable distribution of funds, especially for districts that have low Title I enrollment or do not participate in Title I. What is unclear is if this mechanism and funding level is sufficient to support the underfunding of enrollment-based programs.

Bottom line, we need the final solution to provide sufficient resources to stabilize enrollment funding—and ensure that the funding gaps caused by the distribution of ESSER funds via the Title I formula are eliminated. Providing for emergency pupil transportation is also important. While pupil transportation funding in the final budget is important, school districts will not be able to access those funds without the policy changes in SB 5128; passage of this bill is crucial.

Continue to stay up-to-date on legislative activities with WASA's legislative newsletter ([TWIO](#)) and [podcast](#).

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT!

This month's Sponsor Spotlight features [TWO](#) of WASA's Diamond-level sponsors—

[Beresford Company](#)
Contact: [Ted Beresford](#)



[Clear Risk Solutions](#)
Contact: [Rick Moore](#)

We are grateful for their unwavering support of our members and programs! Click their links to learn more about our sponsors.