

AUGUST 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](#).



*"Effective communication is the bridge that connects your intentions with their understanding."*

Dear WASA Members,

I hope you've found time for some rest and rejuvenation this summer—a well-deserved break from your responsibilities as a school district leader. By now, you are full-speed ahead and fully engaged in preparations for the 2023-24 school year. This is a time when a unique blend of energy, optimism, and anticipation reminds school district leaders of the privilege one has in leading school districts and serving the students who attend your schools.

As we begin a new year, I'd like to take this opportunity to emphasize the various channels through which WASA shares information and maintains regular communication with you and your colleagues throughout the year:

- **WASA News:** Our monthly publication offers concise and efficient updates, ensuring you stay informed. For those seeking a more in-depth level of detail, embedded links provide additional information.
- **WASA Hotline:** Published four times annually, the Hotline keeps you updated on WASA's priorities, initiatives aimed at supporting our members, field-related news and updates, and other topics of interest and value.
- **Social Media:** Stay connected with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for real-time updates on WASA and its esteemed members!
- **Matters Legislative:** "[This Week in Olympia \(TWIO\)](#)" is our weekly newsletter delivering timely news and insights from the legislative session. Assistant Executive Director Dan Steele also hosts a concise and informative weekly podcast during this period.
- **WASA Website:** Redesigned in 2021, our website serves as a user-friendly hub for information and resources tailored to WASA members.

We encourage you to make the most of these valuable information sources. Our objective is to furnish you with essential updates, opportunities for professional learning, resources, anecdotes from the field, emerging trends and challenges, updates on the work and priorities of WASA, and highlights of our members and their remarkable work.

As you gear up for the coming school year, we wish you only the very best. Here's to a successful and fulfilling year ahead!

Cheers,

G. Joel Aune  
WASA Executive Director

# UPCOMING WASA EVENTS



## BTS SPARK PERSONALIZED LEADERSHIP COACHING

One-to-one coaching for educational administrators!



## FALL CONFERENCE

Tacoma  
June 1–2



WASA MENTOR  
ACADEMY

## MENTOR ACADEMY

Virtual  
Sept–March



WASA EARLY CAREER  
SUPERINTENDENT  
ACADEMY

## EARLY CAREER SUPERINTENDENT ACADEMY

Virtual  
Sept–May



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

Sponsored by:  
KAISER PERMANENTE

## WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

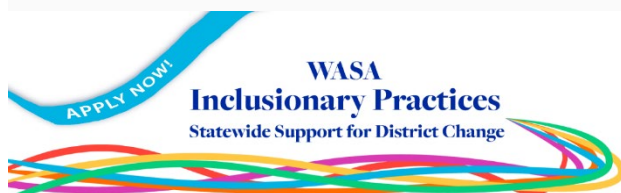
Virtual  
October 10 | 9:30–11 a.m.



LAUNCHING  
SCHOOL LEADERSHIP  
NETWORK  
For New or Newly Assigned School Leaders

## SCHOOL LEADERSHIP NETWORK

Locations vary  
Stage 2 | November 1–2



## INCLUSIONARY PRACTICES PROJECT

Applications due: August 23, 2023  
Project Information Seminar: August 21 | 12–1 p.m.



NEXT LEVEL  
LEADERS

WASHINGTON STATE'S PREMIERE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

## 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](mailto:schard@wasa-oly.org) if you have questions or need assistance.



## Government-to-Government Relationships Training

Various options in August

**House Bill 1426** mandates in renewing an administrator certificate on or after July 1, 2023, continuing administrators must attend a 5-hour Government-to-Government Relationships Training to focus on:

- A Brief History of Tribal People in Washington State
- 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 the [Tribal Consultation webpage](#).

### REGISTER NOW!

**Tuesday, August 15, 9:00 a.m.–2:45 p.m. | Ellensburg**

**Tuesday, August 15, 9:00 a.m.–2:45 p.m. | Virtual**

Contact **Emme Williamson** if you need assistance registering through pdEnroller. If you have further questions about these trainings, please email **Maxine Alex**, Tribal Consultation Program Supervisor.

## 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



## Available Grants for 2023–24

A recent [OSPI Bulletin](#) announced opening of grant applications for this upcoming school year.

**New grantees:** Up to \$20,000 (Form Package #405)

**Continuing grantees:** Up to \$75,000 (Form Package 406)

**Implementation Grants:** Up to \$100,000 (Form Package 407)

Learn more at [OSPI](#) and [AESD](#) websites.

Applications are open until August 24, 2023.

## 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!

## WASA Educational Equity Statement

WASA's Educational Statement was adopted by the Board back in April, 2022. The purpose of the statement is to publicly clarify our beliefs and vision, while reinforcing WASA's commitment to supporting you in this important work. We hope the statement will help launch or extend essential conversations in schools and districts about the kind of leadership, culture, and support needed to ensure opportunity and success for every student.

View the statement [here](#).

**Wednesday, August 23rd | 8 a.m. PT**

Explore valuable insights and practical guidance for members of school districts who are undergoing or anticipating a change in leadership and those who will be taking on the role as a new superintendent.



## **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**.

## **WASA PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATES**



**Kevin McKay**

Selah School District

[View his final speech here!](#)



**Bob Maxwell**

Pullman School District

[View his final speech here!](#)

## **TIME TO ENGAGE WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS**

At the end of June, WASA’s Board of Directors adopted our association’s 2024 Legislative Platform. We encourage you to review the Platform—and share these priorities with your legislators. Although the 2024 Legislative Session will not convene for another six months, NOW is the time to begin your advocacy efforts. Legislators are already in the process of researching and developing their own personal and caucus priorities, so your opportunity to influence their initial thinking is diminishing. 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. During the interim, you have the opportunity to have meaningful conversations—unlike in the midst of the session when meetings are often limited to a rushed 10 or 15 minute dialogue.



WASA stands ready to assist you in your advocacy efforts. In addition to our traditional in-session activities (including the Session Guide, our weekly legislative newsletter—This Week in Olympia—the weekly legislative podcast, and the annual Legislative Conference), this fall we will be presenting an advocacy “Lunch & Learn” webinar focused on WASA’s legislative priorities. The webinar, “Finding Your Voice: Unpacking WASA’s 2024 Legislative Platform” 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 the positions of our collective members.

The complimentary webinar will be held on Thursday, September 21, from 12–1:00 p.m.; keep an eye out for registration information in WASA News and via e-mail from WASA. All administrators are welcome and whether you are an advocacy expert or a novice, you are encouraged to participate.



## Welcome to WASA, Shawna!

Shawna Kiliz joined the WASA team on July 1, and will serve as Executive Assistant for Joel Aune. Shawna brings over twenty years of experience providing administrative support to superintendents, principals, and board members within the Washington State education system.

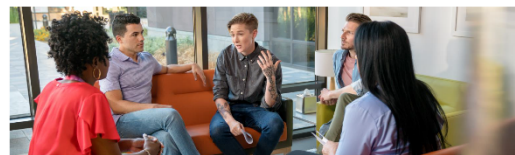


Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

## Small LEA Support Team from OSPI

OSPI, after collaboration with various statewide education partners that have experience in small schools, has created a team of OSPI staff dedicated to supporting these small LEAs. This team, called the **Small LEA Support Team (SLST)**, will serve as a concierge to these LEAs and will convene a Small Schools Advisory Council to guide this work.

## Creating a Workforce Wellness Committee



Learn how to build a sustainable wellness committee that supports staff wellbeing and compliance with **RCW 28A.400.009** K-12 Workforce Secondary Traumatic Stress

Designed for teachers, staff and administrators

Healthy staff and teachers are our most valuable resource for creating safe and supportive learning environments. *The Way to Staff Well-being in Schools* workshop series explores resources and tips to strengthen staff well-being at the individual, collective and policy level.

Register today on [PDenroller](#)  
Wednesday August 23, 2023  
4:00 pm-5:00pm PST

Creating a Workforce Wellness Committee

Workshop Summary: Creating a Workforce Wellness Committee

School employees that are mentally healthy are our most valuable resource for creating safe and supportive learning environments. Creating a culture of health and wellbeing are critical in this time. Join Kaiser Permanente's Workforce Health team to learn about the essential first steps in creating an impactful and sustainable wellness committee to support a healthy workforce. Participants will have opportunity to ask questions and engage the experts in developing strategies to support a workforce wellness committee. All resources shared are available at no cost to Washington school districts from Kaiser Permanente. This webinar is designed for K-12 school district administrators, educators, and staff.

\*These events are open to all school or district staff, including teachers, school leaders, mental health providers, wellness leaders, and more. Please share with any colleagues you believe will benefit from attending.

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No cost workshops  
Free clock hours  
available, register on  
pdenroller once dates  
are finalized

Questions?  
Contact

[KPWA.WFH@kp.or](mailto:KPWA.WFH@kp.or)

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# RESOURCES



This month's featured resources include:

- **The How and Why of a Positive School Climate** (Hanover Research)
- **Teachers increasingly embrace ChatGPT — students not so much** (K-12 Dive)
- **5 Ways to Build Bridges With Parents** (K-12 Dive)
- **How Harnessing Hydration can Elevate Student Performance** (K-12 Dive)
- **Should Schools Reward Attendance? What the Experts Say** (Education Week)
- **Why Pronouncing Student Names Correctly Matters, and How to Get Them Right** (Education Week)



## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



OAC

This month's Sponsor Spotlight features WASA's Diamond-level sponsors—**OAC**. 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**.



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

