

NOVEMBER 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](#).



"This annual report serves as a testament to the remarkable work we, WASA members and WASA staff, have accomplished together. It showcases dedication to shaping policies, promoting equity, advocating for meaningful change, and creating transformative opportunities for students and educators across Washington. It is a celebration of our collective achievements."

—Annual Report Message from Michelle Whitney, WASA President

Friends and Colleagues,

Last month, our **2022–23 Annual Report** was distributed to WASA members. If you've not already done so, I encourage you to take a few minutes to peruse the report. The document paints a picture of WASA, encapsulates the core of our work during the past year, and effectively illustrates the spirit of the association. The Annual Report is one way in which we are accountable to the membership. In another vein, it is a kind of "primer" for WASA members to learn more about their professional association and its core tenants of Leadership, Trust, and Advocacy.

Much of what we do is visible and known to WASA members. However, there may be a good deal of activity occurring behind the scenes that WASA members are not aware of. The Annual Report provides more insight into WASA's work, focus, and identity.

We want to ensure that you take full advantage of the services and support we have to offer. We also hope that you will either continue your level of involvement, or initiate a higher degree of engagement in WASA. Your involvement will enhance your capabilities as an educational leader, while strengthening the association. Both of these outcomes will help build your individual and collective capacity to effectively engage in work that has never been more complex or challenging.

We look forward to working with you as the 2023-24 school year continues to unfold.

Best regards,

G. Joel Aune
WASA Executive Director

UPCOMING WASA EVENTS



WASA WINTER CONFERENCE

Virtual
November 1–2




ERNN VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Basic Bargaining
Virtual
November 13 | 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP: Women Support Women...But do We?

Virtual | Complimentary
December 12 | 12–1 p.m.



2024 WASA • WSSDA • WASBO
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE AND DAY ON THE HILL
featuring Lisa Braithwaite

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
JANUARY 28
SOUTH PUGET SOUND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DAY ON THE HILL
JANUARY 29

SAVE THE DATE: LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE/DAY ON THE HILL

South Puget Sound Community College
January 28 & 29

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.





Have You Read the Latest Issue of Hotline?

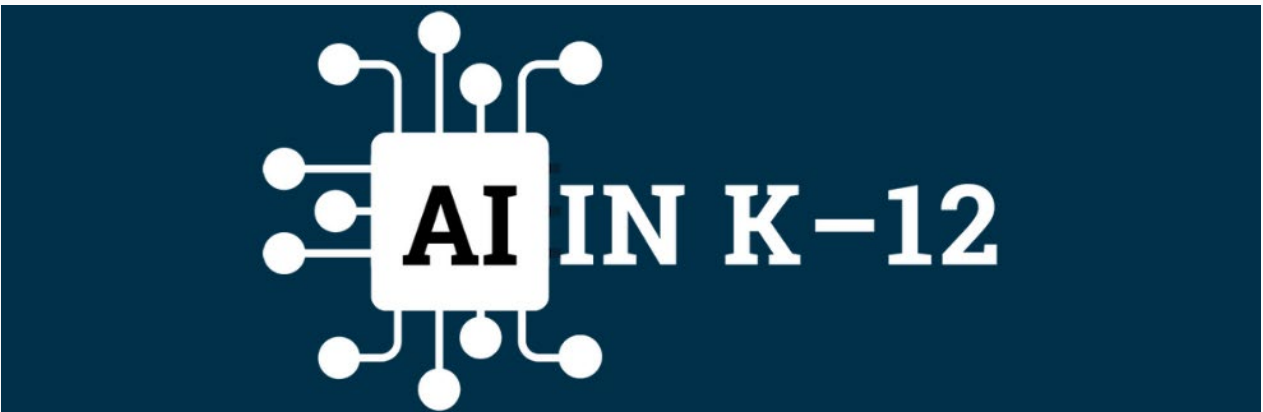
The WASA Hotline, published four times each year, provides key information and subject matter of interest to WASA members. A good share of the content is written by WASA members and school district leaders. Check out the most recent issue of Hotline, published September 18.



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 multiple choice questions regarding your race/ethnicity, gender, and your current job role.

Use the code below or [click here](#) to register.



AI in K-12

AESD is launching a series of three virtual statewide networking and learning sessions focused on the state of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in our K-12 system starting October 30. These events will be an opportunity for school and district leaders to come together to elevate and explore top of mind issues related to understanding and using AI. In addition to hearing from colleagues about how they are considering AI in their practice, leaders will learn about resources and more in-depth learning opportunities available for educators throughout this year. [Learn more and register!](#)



SAVE THE DATE

WASA is Excited to Support a New Opportunity for Washington's Educational Leaders of Color!

iGrow Washington is AWSP's first summit specifically for Leaders of Color. The goal of the Summit is to grow, retain, and recruit current and aspiring school and district-level Leaders of Color. While AWSP is hosting this event, WASA members are strongly encouraged to attend!

Register Now for the Strengthening Tribal Consultation Training!

November 7
3:00–6:00 p.m. | Suquamish, WA



Senate Bill 5252 states that beginning September 1, 2024, school board members, superintendents, and any other staff at school districts that are required to perform Tribal consultation under Title VI of the federal ESSA (P.L. 114-95, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1001 et seq., 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) must take and certify completion of the 3-hour Strengthening Tribal Consultation training focusing on:

- Native Student Identification
- Data Sharing
- Implementation of Tribal history, culture and government – Since Time Immemorial

Additional trainings are being planned for School Year 2023–2024 and will be posted on OSPI's **Tribal Consultation webpage** as they become available.

WASA Management Review

Be reminded WASA offers a Management Review service to members. The WASA Management Review process has been refined through the completion of over 130 reviews in several states and at the college and ESD levels. The overall objective of a review is to provide expert assessment of all aspects of school district management—the results are designed to be both an in-depth analysis of what is, and a blueprint for what can be. Management Reviews are conducted by review teams of recognized, expert practitioners in consultation with school district administration. Contact **Andy Wolf** for more information on the WASA Management Review service.

Washington Electric Vehicle Charging Program (WAEVCP)

Schools are highly encouraged to go after the fleet and workplace charging program and this could be a fantastic grant for a school that has an electric school bus or is planning on getting one. The program is providing \$64 million in this current solicitation. Applicants are eligible for maximum awards per site of \$203,000 for 20 level 2 chargers: \$663,000 for 6 fast charging ports (DCFC), or 6 total chargers of both L2 and DCFC for \$723,000. Eligible applicants include public schools, cities, counties, tribes, utilities, and nonprofits. The deadline to apply is December 1st, 2023. If you

have any questions about eligibility or the application process, please don't hesitate to reach out to [Western Washington Clean Cities](#). You can also visit the [WAEVCP website](#) for more in-depth program information, including eligibility information and a scoring resource guide.



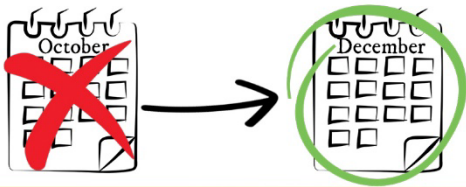
The 2024 Legislative Session is set to convene in just over two months from now. As legislators continue to develop personal and caucus priorities, now is the time to connect with them. Without school administrators advocating, legislators will be left to their own devices and they will establish priorities that likely will not address your needs. It is incumbent upon administrators to build (or hopefully strengthen) relationships with legislators so you can influence your legislators' decision-making—especially before session begins and priorities are being discussed.

It is understood that individual school districts and regions may have unique issues to address; however, in large-part we encourage you to join with your colleagues across the state and advocate for critical education funding and policy issues addressed in [WASA's 2024 Legislative Platform](#), as adopted by WASA's Board of Directors. Even though you may have unique needs, WASA's Platform expresses the collective priorities of Washington's school administrators and was developed to support administrators in all areas of the state—including small and large districts, and districts from the west and east sides of the state.

The Platform serves to assist in our efforts to speak with one voice because it is clear, speaking with one voice enhances our advocacy—there is power in unity. To assist you in fully understanding the individual planks contained in our Platform, WASA held a Lunch & Learn webinar in September with a focus on Platform. The advocacy webinar, "Finding Your Voice: Unpacking WASA's 2024 Legislative Platform" provided 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 provides the necessary information to arm you in effectively advocating for WASA's priorities. If you were not able to attend the webinar, the [PowerPoint presentation](#) and a [video recording](#) of the presentation are available for you.

As explained in the webinar, WASA's Platform includes school administrators' highest priorities. While there will be additional issues that we will support (or oppose), our strategy is to clearly lay out school district, student, and staff NEEDS to ensure these issues remain on legislators' radars. Some of those non-Platform issues that WASA will be heavily engaged are starting to come into focus, including spikes in insurance rates; substantial paraeducator and/or classified staff salary increases; and significant reductions in Local Effort Assistance. Throughout the Legislative Session, we encourage you to stay up-to-date regarding these and other hot topics by following [This Week in Olympia \(TWIO\)](#)—WASA's weekly legislative newsletter—and WASA's weekly [Legislative Report Podcast](#).

Finally, the School Funding Coalition (SFC), comprised of eight of the state's education management associations, has adopted its 2024 Priority Document, which will be disseminated shortly. Aligning with one of WASA's major priorities, the SFC will be urging the Legislature to continue the implementation of the Staffing Enrichment Workgroup (2019) Phase I recommendations by improving Prototypical School Funding Model support for school principals; and to support closing persistent opportunity gaps by funding additional professional development and continuous improvement coaches. Along with WASA's Legislative Platform, the SFC Priority Document is an additional resource we encourage you to share with legislators. To help you further understand the issue and our requested action, the Coalition is hosting a Lunch & Learn on Wednesday, November 29, 12:00–1:00 p.m. Registration for the complimentary webinar will be released in the coming days.



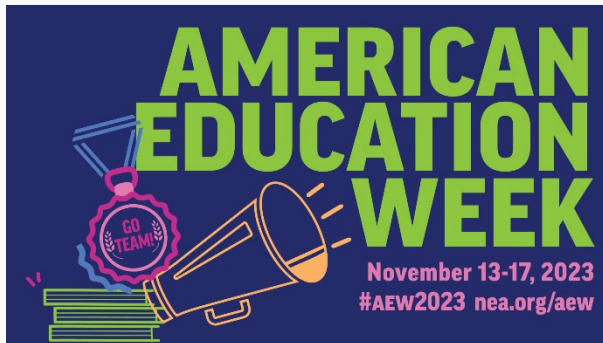
Better FAFSA/WASFA 2024-25

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 \(WSAC\)](#).



American Education Week

American Education Week 2023 is November 13–17. There is a good variety of resources available—ideas for celebrating public education. See two examples [here](#) and [here](#). American Education Week provides an opportunity to promote your schools, underscore the amazing work occurring in them, recognize the talent and dedication of your staff, and highlight the brilliance of your students.



CONGRATS, JAMES EVERETT!

The final election results are in, and James Everett, Superintendent, Meridian SD, has been elected to represent WASA members on the AASA Governing. Thank you, James, for stepping forward to serve in this capacity, representing AASA members here in Washington state and most importantly advocating for public education at the federal level!

FCC Expands E-rate to Cover School Bus Wi-Fi

Approved by a three-two vote, the expansion is aimed at closing the homework gap faced by students who lack internet connectivity at home. Federal support for school bus Wi-Fi will help address inequities for students who lack internet access at home, particularly those who live in rural, tribal or high-poverty neighborhoods, according to the commissioners who supported the measure. Learn more [here](#).

RESOURCES



This month's featured resources include:

- [6 Ways to Better Communicate Complex School Issues | K-12 Dive](#)

- [How To Talk With Caregivers About Kids and Social Media | K-12 Dive](#)
- [How Can Superintendents Navigate the Rise of Generative AI | K-12 Dive](#)
- [Ed Week Spotlight—Trauma-Informed Instruction | Education Week](#)
- [Why America Has a Youth Mental Health Crisis, and How Schools Can Help | Education Week](#)
- [I Combed Through 81 Studies on School Discipline. Here's What Educators Need to Know | Education Week](#)
- [How to Fight Chronic Absenteeism? Target Students, Parents and Teachers | K-12 Dive](#)



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

This month's Sponsor Spotlight features two of WASA's Diamond-level sponsors—[Piper Sandler](#) and [Hanover Research](#). 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](#).



[Hanover Research](#)

[PIPER | SANDLER](#)

[Piper Sandler](#)



- [NCE Registration](#): ASE registration is now open to National Conference on Education 2024.
- AASA named just keep livin Foundation as a strategic partner for the [Greenlights Grant Initiative](#).



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