

OCTOBER 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](#).



"We've seen time and time again that when we provide educators the support and tools they need to form stronger relationships and build empathy, they're able to convert that into better outcomes for their students."

—Bloodline Barthelus

Friends and Colleagues,

A sustained focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for students is top-of-mind for most, if not all, school district leaders. In a recent piece, [Kids Aren't the Only Ones Who Benefit From Social-Emotional Learning | EdSurge News](#), Bloodline Barthelus highlights the need for SEL practices among educators.

Bloodline, senior director of practice for the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), advocates for prioritizing **adult** SEL and suggests strategies such as cultivating a sense of community, practicing mindfulness, and enhancing resource availability. These measures are aimed at fostering healthier educational environments for both educators and students.

The article envisions an educational landscape where empowered educators, equipped with SEL tools, can tailor their teaching methods and forge deeper connections with students. Introducing adult SEL is an investment in educators, encouraging their personal growth and job satisfaction, which ultimately results in a benefit for students.

Bloodline suggests that SEL is not just for students, but also for the educators and support staff caring for the students in your schools. This, in turn, will foster a more compassionate and fulfilling school experience for staff and students alike.

Best regards,

G. Joel Aune
WASA Executive Director

UPCOMING WASA EVENTS



WASA SPECIAL
EDUCATION DIRECTOR
ACADEMY

**SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR
ACADEMY**
Virtual
October–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.



WASA MENTOR
ACADEMY

MENTOR ACADEMY
Virtual
Sept–March



WASA EARLY CAREER
SUPERINTENDENT
ACADEMY

EARLY CAREER SUPERINTENDENT ACADEMY
Virtual
Sept–May



**LAUNCHING
SCHOOL LEADERSHIP
NETWORK** 
AWSP
ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON
SCHOOL LEADERS

For New or Newly Assigned School Leaders

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP NETWORK
Locations vary
Stage 2 | November 1–2

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

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



Come See What the Buzz is About at PESB



Join PESB for a discussion on teacher residency, featuring scholars and teaching professionals from across the state and nation.

Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Time: 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

This event is free but registration is required. You can register [here](#).



Stevens Clay Professional Network Series: BARGAINING

Stevens Clay, P.S. is excited to introduce our latest Professional Network Series on bargaining. Throughout this immersive program, you will embark on an exploration of **essential negotiation skills**. You will uncover the art of

crafting the perfect bargaining team by understanding the dynamics that lead to successful collaborations. Through **GANTT chart planning**, you will learn the invaluable skill of strategic timeline management, optimizing your negotiation processes. Delving into the psychology of influence, you will master the six principles of persuasion, honing your ability to communicate and lead effectively. The series will also dive into the realm of **interest-based bargaining**, fostering win-win scenarios by focusing on shared objectives. Moreover, you will engage in insightful discussions around **potential bargaining topics**, refining your ability to analyze, strategize, and navigate complex negotiation landscapes.

This series promises to empower you with a comprehensive toolkit (including materials branded for your district), enabling you to excel in negotiations across diverse contexts. We look forward to working with you!



Principal Appreciation!

October 1 kicks off **National Principals Month**—a time to celebrate principals (this includes assistant principals, too!). Governor Jay Inslee has **signed a proclamation** about Principals Month in Washington state. See [more](#).



Superintendent Research Briefing: District-Wide Strategies for Reducing Chronic Absenteeism Panel

Join AASA and EAB on October 12th at 3:00 p.m. ET for a complimentary webinar where researchers from EAB will share the latest data on chronic absenteeism, new practices for reducing chronic absenteeism in the post-pandemic environment, and how these practices can be integrated into district support systems today. [Register now!](#)

Greenlights Grant Initiative Webinar Series: Federal Grant Writing 101

Is writing a federal grant different than writing a foundation grant? Can I get feedback and guidance on my project idea before writing a grant to a federal agency? Who reviews my federal grant application? These questions, and so many more, will be covered during this webinar.

Attendees will leave the session with a solid understanding of how to approach federal grant writing and think like a reviewer! Register [here](#).

Tuesday, October 10 at 2:00pm ET | Webinar

Proposed Federal Law Changes to Accessibility Requirements for Websites Could Affect Every Local Government in the State

The U.S. Department of Justice recently published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to require state and local governments to meet certain accessibility standards for services, programs, and activities offered via web or mobile apps. Will it affect your government? This [article from the Association of Washington Cities](#) includes details about the pending changes, timelines and more

Certificate Renewal Requirements

In case you missed it, check out [this bulletin](#) from OSPI. The bulletin details new certificate renewal requirements for all teachers, administrators, including all principals, assistant principals, program administrators, Career and Technical Education (CTE) directors, and superintendents. New requirements are a result of HB 1426 and WAC 181-79A-244.

Guide for Air Quality

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has developed an FAQ to support interpretation of the [Washington Children and Youth Activities Guide for Air Quality](#).

The [FAQ](#) is available on DOH's [Smoke from Fires Took Kit Page](#). DOH will also translate the FAQ into Spanish, Russian, and Somali.

If you have any questions, please email the DOH air quality team at: airquality@doh.wa.gov.



Now Accepting Nominations!

Presented annually at the AASA National Conference on Education, the [Dr. Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award](#) honors AASA members who have advanced the status of women and other underrepresented groups in education.

Nominated members must demonstrate commitment to the advancement and mentorship of women and underrepresented groups in positions of leadership and/or to address social justice issues among children, youth and adults in schools. **Nominations are due by October 31, 2023.**



As the fall arrives and the new school year is in full swing, legislators are developing their priorities for the upcoming 2024 Legislative Session in earnest. School administrators should be connecting with local legislators to ensure K-12 education priorities are a part of their discussions. WASA has adopted its 2024 Legislative Platform and has disseminated it to all school administrators and all legislators as we provide our stamp on the process.

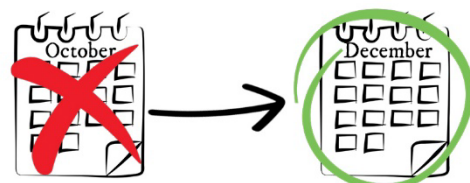
The power of WASA's Platform lies in its development by school administrators on our Legislation & Finance Committee. Members of the Committee represent their regions from across the state, including small and large districts, and districts from the west and east sides of the state. The Platform expresses the collective priorities of school administrators in all areas of the state and serves to assist in our efforts to speak with one voice. We know that individual school districts and/or regions may have unique issues to address; however, focusing on the "big picture" issues with one voice diminishes legislators' efforts to utilize a "divide and conquer" strategy. If legislators are successful in getting school administrators (and other members of the education community) to dilute our focus or argue amongst themselves, our advocacy is weakened and all the decision-making power is fully in legislators' hands.

In the effort to speak with one voice, we encourage you to use **WASA's 2024 Legislative Platform** to join with your colleagues across the state to advocate for critical education funding and policy issues this fall and into the coming Legislative Session. 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.

Before legislators lock in their own personal or caucus priorities, now is the time to begin—or continue—your advocacy efforts. Building relationships with your legislators is essential to successful advocacy; connecting with lawmakers when the Legislature is not in session is the most effective way to begin or strengthen your relationships. Take this opportunity before the Legislature reconvenes to meet with your legislators for coffee—or dial them up on Zoom, if necessary. Also, think about inviting legislators to a meeting of your Board or give them a tour of your schools. Explain to them what obstacles you continue to face; many of them do not understand your frustrations. It is incumbent upon YOU to help legislators to understand the complexities of public education and your needs.

While legislative engagement by school administrators is critically important, we know that legislative advocacy may be new or uncomfortable for you. Please remember, however, that advocacy does not have to be hard, time-consuming, or intimidating. WASA will continue to provide you with resources

throughout the fall and into the Legislative Session to help you succeed in your advocacy role; we stand ready to support you. Please contact us if we can provide you with any assistance.



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.

Welcome to WASA, Natalie!

Natalie joined the WASA staff in September 2023 and will serve as the Office Assistant. She earned her Associate's Degree in 2014 and worked as a Resource Paraprofessional for six years in the Olympia School District.

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 \(WSAC\)](#).

RESOURCES



This month's featured resources include:

- [What's Needed to Help Older Students Recover from the Pandemic?](#) (K-12 Dive)
- [Schools Need to Help Students Use AI Tools Effectively, Expert Says](#) (Ed Week)
- [New Study Explores How Teacher-Student Bonds Can Promote Wellbeing](#) (The Chronicle)
- [How Do Kids View Themselves? This Survey Shares the Answers](#) | EdSurge News
- [The Handout | School Safety News, Training, and Resources](#) (mailchi.mp)
- [Bringing AI to School: Tips for School Leaders](#) | AASA
- [Chronic Absenteeism and Disrupted Learning Require an All-Hands-on-Deck Approach](#) | CEA | The White House



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



Right at School

This month's Sponsor Spotlight features one of WASA's Diamond-level sponsors—[Right at School](#). 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

- [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](#).



Washington Association of School Administrators
PO Box 14459, Tumwater, WA 98511 | 800.859.9272
wasa-oly.org | **View mailing online.**
To unsubscribe from all mailings, **[click here.](#)**
To opt-out of just this mailing, **[click here.](#)**

