

FEBRUARY 2024



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](#).



"Based on our collaboration with hundreds of K–12 districts, agencies, and associations across the nation, our hope is that this collection of data, recommendations, and case studies will help prepare your district to achieve even greater success in the next school year."

—Leila Nuland, Senior Managing Content Director—Hanover Research

—Marriam Ewaida, Managing Director—Hanover Research

WASA Members,

For school district leaders and superintendents, forward-thinking and adaptability are key in the ever-changing landscape of K-12 education. Today's environment demands foresight to navigate, leverage, and lead through these changes toward better schools.

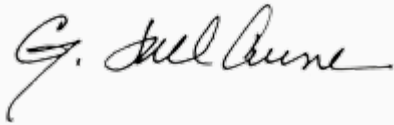
Our friends at Hanover Research recently released their annual report: **"2024 Trends in K-12 Education"**. The report highlights six key areas of focus for school district leaders to contemplate:

- **Marketing and Advocacy in Enrollment:** Implementing creative strategies for competitive school enrollment.
- **Program Measurement Post-ESSR Funding:** Adapting to the end of ESSER funding with consistent program evaluation.
- **Community Engagement for School Climate:** Utilizing community involvement to enhance school environments and inclusive decision-making.
- **Change Management in Leadership:** Applying change management techniques for capacity building and consensus in uncertain times.
- **Support for Teacher Development:** Emphasizing teacher support for professional growth.
- **Frameworks for AI in Schools:** Developing guidelines for integrating Artificial Intelligence ethically and effectively.

Each trend in the report is organized systematically. It starts with an introduction, followed by detailed analysis and data, implications, challenges, and concludes with practical strategies and examples for implementation. This format provides a concise and well-organized view of each trend.

Utilizing this resource may be helpful in your strategic planning for next year to ensure you are leading with an innovative, forward-thinking, adaptable approach to your work.

Best Regards,

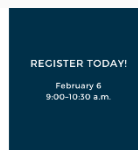


G. Joel Aune
WASA Executive Director

UPCOMING WASA EVENTS



ERNN Virtual Conference: Developing Your Bargaining Strategy
Virtual
February 6 | 9–10:30 a.m.



WASA Spring Conference for Small School Leaders
Wenatchee
March 18–19



AWSP • WASA Summer Conference
Spokane Convention Center
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
June 23–25



SAVE THE DATE!
WASA • OSPI Integrated MTSS Conference
Pullman
July 31–August 2

SAVE THE DATE



SAVE THE DATE

WOMEN IN leadership

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Tapestry of Leadership: Weaving
Inclusivity, Empowerment, and Connection

MAY 4 2024



Campbell's Resort, Lake Chelan

**SAVE THE DATE! Women in Leadership Annual
Conference**
Lake Chelan
May 4



SAVE THE DATE

Superintendent Conference

AI-Powered Leadership:
Navigating the Future of Education

MAY 5-7 2024



Campbell's Resort, Lake Chelan

SAVE THE DATE! Superintendent Conference
Lake Chelan
May 5-7

REMINDERS



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 Heather Chard at hchard@wasa-oly.org if you have questions or need assistance.



school news.

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

Candidates for WASA President-Elect

Candidates nominated for 2024-25 WASA President-elect are Shaun Carey (Enumclaw) and Mary Templeton (Washougal). Congratulations to both on being nominated to serve as the 2024-25 WASA President-elect. Watch for information in future issues of WASA News to learn more about the candidates. The election will be held next August.



Mary Templeton, Washougal



Shaun Carey, Enumclaw



Celebrating Black History Month

February is Black History Month, and the Center for Racial Justice has a robust **bank of resources** available for all educators. It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United States today. While these resources can be used for the month of February, they extend beyond the scope of a single month and provide resources that can be utilized throughout the year.

EWU Provides 'Kindness eWall' for All Washington Schools

Eastern Washington University has teamed up with YouUplift to offer the 'Kindness eWall' software to every K–12 school in the state of Washington at no cost. This software features:

- Easily accessible web-based interface
- Positive content only of uplifting messages
- Push-button functionality for effortless use
- Universal compatibility on any device and monitor
- Adheres to strict privacy standards to ensure user safety

Learn more by reading their **press release**.
Onboard by visiting **www.YouUplift.com**



Purple Star Recognition—Application Now Available

Washington state was recently approved for Purple Star designation. The Purple Star program is designed to recognize school districts that support military-connected children and families. OSPI has asked WASA to design and execute implementation of the Purple Star recognition program here in Washington. To learn more, visit our website: <http://wasa-oly.org/PurpleStar>.



Apply now! Applications for the 2023–24 school year are being accepted through February 16, 2024.

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is Accepting Applications for the School-Based Behavioral Health Peer Support Services Grant

The DOH is awarding up to three **12-month grants** with up to \$65,000 for behavioral health peer support services projects in Washington schools. The projects should focus on communities and populations that have received limited health care opportunities or have not been served due to past policy decisions.

Applicants may be:

- A community-based non-profit organization.
- Public school entities like a school, school district, or Educational Service District, including charter and locally or federally operated tribal schools.
- A health care organization sponsoring a school-based health center.

Projects must serve a school with a high proportion of students (60 percent or more) from a historically under-served community or population. Applications are due by 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time on February 16, 2024. For more information and to apply, visit their [WA Portal page](#).

Seeking Nominations

WASA is seeking nominations for the following Board of Directors leadership positions:

- Superintendents Component Chair-elect (3-year commitment)
- Instructional Program Administrators Component (IPAC) Chair-elect (3-year commitment)
- Business and Personnel Administrators Component (BPAC) Chair-elect (2-year commitment)
- Principals Component Chair (2-year commitment)

If you are interested in serving in one of these WASA Board positions or making a nomination, please contact [Joel Aune](#) by February 17, 2024.



Mike Nelson to Retire

Executive Director Joel Aune recently informed the WASA Board of Mike Nelson's intent to retire June 30, 2024. Mike, who will be completing his fourth 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 Mike prepares to move on to the next chapter in his life—a chapter which includes more time with family and grandchildren, as well as the launch of his new book.

His contributions during his time at WASA have been highly impactful, transforming WASA's Professional Learning scheme in terms of content, structure, delivery, and a strong orientation towards the future. While we will greatly miss Mike's presence and leadership, we wholeheartedly support his decision to focus on family and his exciting new literary venture.

The process to secure Mike's replacement is underway, and information about the position and the application process can be found [here](#). Don't hesitate to reach out to Executive Director [Joel Aune](#) if interested in the position.



SAVE THE DATE: WALAS Annual Conference

WALAS' 3rd Annual Conference will be held at the Red Lion in Pasco Washington, October 18 and 19. Conference registration will open June 1 and additional information will be coming soon, including a hotel reservation link. Cost remains the same as last year — \$250 per person or an Institutional Membership for \$1000, which includes 5 conference registrations (a savings of \$250). The conference registration link will be available starting June 1, 2024.



The 2024 Legislative Session has just passed its half-way point. There was a whirlwind of activity in the first 30 days, with a plethora of education policy bills on the table. As the second half of the session begins, many of those issues have dropped away, which provides us with the opportunity to narrow our focus. While we never expect all of our [Legislative Platform](#) to be adopted—or even fully addressed—in the last few weeks, several WASA priorities have come to the forefront.

Special education continues to have significant discussion; however, there is little talk of increasing the excess cost multipliers to reduce the gap between school district special education expenditures and the revenue provided by the state. The focus is on the special education enrollment cap. Last session, the Legislature increased the cap from 13.5 percent to 15.0 percent and it seems likely there will be another increase to 17.25 percent, via [HB 2180](#). Eliminating the cap is still the goal; however, further increases will help another large set of school districts.

Pupil transportation also continues to catch a lot of attention. This is the third year we have been promised by key legislators that a fix to the current formula—providing a more transparent, predictable, and adequately funding system—would be addressed. There is a bill on the table, [SB 5873](#), to tackle this issue. Unfortunately, it appears given the costs and a focus on other priorities, we will likely only receive a small investment to address homeless student transportation under the federal McKinney-Vento Act.

Regionalization was a heavy topic of conversation, but there has not been a serious attempt to revise the current flawed methodology. Updating the experience factor, however, has had movement. **HB 2458**, while not a perfect bill, would allow additional districts to achieve the experience factor and also provide for additional stability in funding for some of the districts that are no longer eligible for the experience factor.

While we have not seen a lot of movement on school facilities, we expect the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget to include significant investments. At least the Senate is prepared to increase the current, outdated construction formulas, specifically the Construction Cost Allowance (CCA or cost per square foot). The House has not shown their cards, yet. If an investment is provided to increase the CCA, this would be the first update of the formula in decades.

In addition to WASA's Platform, we continue to address hot issues as they arise. One specific issue is MSOC. Well before this session began, districts were expressing concerns about increasing operations expenses, in particular huge spikes in insurance rates and utilities costs. Maintenance, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC) funds are intended to address day-to-day costs of running a school district; however, state funding has failed to keep pace with actual costs. A few weeks ago, most of us in the education community came together and agreed to make a major push for increases in MSOC. Unlike many complicated education funding formulas, MSOC is easy to understand and explain. And districts have the necessary hard data as evidence of the ongoing underfunding.

MSOC quickly became a major point of discussion, and in the eleventh hour before the fiscal committee cutoff, legislation was introduced to provide an increase in MSOC. **HB 2494** would provide a little over \$25 million (\$25 per FTE) to support MSOC. Unfortunately, we requested "catch-up" funding of approximately \$250 million. Regardless, following a major push, from advocates in Olympia, and

educators back home, we received a positive response. The next step is to continue to elevate the issue and push more an additional investment when budgets are released.

Even though half of the session is complete, there is still a lot of time for administrators to engage. In fact, NOW is the prime time to be involved, with one set of major cutoffs behind us and budget releases imminent. The Economic & Revenue Forecast Council is set to release its updated revenue forecast on February 14, which will trigger legislative budget releases. Between now and then, there is a great opportunity to remind your legislators of your priorities, including MSOC, before they lock down budget details.

To keep you up-to-date, WASA continues to provide in-depth details about K-12 issues in the Legislature with our weekly legislative newsletter, **TWIO**, along with the highlights in our more easily digested **Legislative Podcast**. Do not let your foot off the gas and stop engaging; now is the time to lean in further. Make sure your legislators know you are watching them.



WASA Hotline

In case you missed the most recent edition, a link to the January WASA *Hotline* can be found [here](#).



iGrow WA Summit for Leaders of Color

Join **iGrow WA**, the premier summit dedicated to Leaders of Color in Washington state education! Whether you're a seasoned principal, an aspiring leader, district leader, or an educational partner, this event is tailored to inspire, connect, and grow your leadership journey. This event will take place: April 19 | 5–7 p.m. and April 20 | 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. in Seattle. Register today!

Public Records Grant Applications Now Open

School Districts can now apply for a **public records grant** from the Secretary of State to help improve their records retention, management and disclosure of public records.

Any local government agency or entity may apply for financial assistance, including counties, cities, towns, fire districts, school districts, hospital districts, port districts, public utility districts and more. **Applications are due March 1.**

Celebrating Innovation in Education: The Launch of WASA's Learning from Leaders Award

WASA is thrilled to announce a brand-new State Award: **The WASA Learning from Leaders Award**. This prestigious award, accompanied by a \$5,000 grant, honors exceptional leadership and innovation in education. It's made possible by founding sponsors Dennis Ray, Gay Selby, and Gene Sharratt, in partnership with WASA. This award is more than a recognition; it celebrates visionary leadership and underscores the importance of sharing best practices in education. The application for this award will be available next month.

February Elections

February 13 is big day for education, with 49 school districts running 57 ballot propositions. These measures include EP&O levies, levies for transportation and capital projects, and 8 bond propositions. We at WASA extend our best wishes to each one of you. We're holding positive thoughts. Good luck!

WASA Management Reviews

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.

RESOURCES



This month's featured resources include:

- **The Black History That Moves Us: A Resource List for Educators** | Ed Week
- **Celebrating Black History Education** | Ed Week
- **ChatGPT releases teacher guide for AI use in the classroom** | K-12 Dive
- **Happy birthday, ChatGPT! What's in store for K-12 schools next year?** | K-12 Dive
- **How are high schoolers using AI?** | K-12 Dive
- **Engaging Families and Communities in K-12 Education** | Hanover Research
- **The Why and How of a Positive School Climate** | Hanover Research
- **How Great Coaches Ask, Listen, and Empathize** | Harvard Business Review



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This month's Sponsor Spotlight features WASA's Diamond-level sponsor—**Beresford Company**. 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](#).



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