

JUNE 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](#).



Friends and Colleagues,

The work of WASA members has always aimed to unite the school community—citizens, parents, staff, and students—around creating great schools for kids. However, WASA members currently face unprecedented challenges as conflict, partisanship, skepticism, and incivility have become more prevalent in the school community. How does one effectively lead in this sometimes-contentious environment?

The efficacy of school and school district leadership hinges on bringing people together to serve and support students, and I believe listening has never been a more important element of one's leadership strategy than it is today. The most capable leaders engage meaningfully and authentically with students, parents, educators, and community members. As trust in public institutions wavers and public education faces frequent attacks, it's our responsibility to restore and bolster confidence in our schools.

Deep and authentic engagement goes beyond surface interactions. It involves creating spaces where every voice is heard and valued in the decision-making process. This requires a commitment to active listening, empathy, and genuine responsiveness. Given the increased scrutiny of public education, building this level of engagement is more important than ever.

In this month's WASA News resource section (below), you'll find recordings and resources from our Lunch & Learn series, "[Leadership Listening and Engagement Ideas](#)," along with resources from Hanover Research that might help shape your leadership strategy for the future.

Uniting the school community is crucial for providing the school experience your students need and deserve. Schools have always been a unifying force in the community, regardless of partisan politics. And despite current difficulties, schools remain the glue holding communities together. School district leaders are uniquely positioned to lead with a focus on the well-being of children and young people, striving toward the shared goal of doing our best for every student. By fostering a collaborative spirit and prioritizing student needs, we can unite our communities and strengthen our schools.

Strengthening trust and building widespread support for schools starts with deep, meaningful, and authentic engagement, rooted in listening. Leading from a listening stance will reveal that our differences may not be as pronounced as we think; deep down, most want the same positive outcomes for our students.

I believe you are capable of leading this work toward positive outcomes for schools and for kids. It won't be easy, but you have the capacity and wherewithal to counteract the erosion of trust and reaffirm the vital role of public education in communities across this entire state.

Respectfully,



G. Joel Aune
WASA Executive Director

UPCOMING WASA EVENTS



AWSP/WASA Summer Conference
Spokane
June 23–25, 2024



MTSS Fest 2024
Pullman
July 31–August 2



Lunch and Learn: Preparing for the 2025 Legislative Session
Virtual
June 12 | 12:00–1:00 p.m.

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



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

The most recent edition of the Hotline features:

- Purple Star District Award
- Lake Stevens Equity Work
- Embracing AI Together
- Ryan Hickerson, Staff Spotlight
- Meet the Candidates

Juneteenth

Teaching Juneteenth in schools enriches students' understanding of American history, promotes cultural awareness, and fosters discussions on racial equality. It can foster empathy and understanding among students of diverse backgrounds and help them appreciate the experiences and histories of others, promoting a more compassionate and connected community. Educating students about Juneteenth and its significance encourages civic responsibility. It inspires them to engage in discussions about rights, freedoms, and the responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society. Resources can be found here:

- <https://www.teachforamerica.org/celebrate-juneteenth>
- <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/tools-tips/teaching-juneteenth-and-meaning-freedom>
- <https://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/teaching-juneteenth>

Creating a Sense of Belonging for ALL Students

June is LGBTQ Pride Month, the perfect opportunity to integrate LGBTQ themes and history into your curriculum, helping LGBTQ students feel safer, affirmed, and a stronger sense of belonging. All students benefit from a deeper understanding of history and the diverse groups within their community. Start planning, be a visible ally, and build empathy and understanding among your students. To recognize LGBTQ Pride, these resources may be helpful:

- <https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/Guide%20to%20LGBT%20Pride.pdf>
- <https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-and-strategies/lgbtq-pride-month-and-education-resources>
- <https://content.acsa.org/pride-month-resources-for-educators/>

Summer Melt is Real, and It's More Urgent Than Ever

Each year, an estimated 10–40 percent of high school seniors planning to attend college do not make it to campus in the fall, a phenomenon known as “summer melt.” This issue disproportionately affects first-generation college students and those from low-income backgrounds. To combat this, AASA and the National College Attainment Network (NCAN) have released a new recommendations guide aimed at preventing summer melt and helping this year’s seniors stay on track with FAFSA completion. The guide, designed with current FAFSA challenges in mind, offers district leaders actionable strategies to support their students, including leveraging existing ESSER funds for summer initiatives. Check it out: [Mitigating the Summer Melt: Guidance for Districts | AASA](#). Also, the Department of Education has provided additional resources for districts to support families with FAFSA completion, including a state-by-state breakdown [on the blog](#).

Farewell to Andy and Mike

Andy Wolf and Mike Nelson are both set to retire from WASA at the end of this year, on June 30. Both leave behind remarkable legacies with the association and the members they have capably served during their time with WASA. Come celebrate them, along with our President-Elect candidates Shaun Carey and Mary Templeton at a reception during the Summer Conference in Spokane. The event will take place on June 23 from 4:15–6:00 p.m. in the DoubleTree Salons IV & V Grand Ballroom.



Superintendent Fred Rundle Honored with WASBO 2023 Leader of Distinction Award

The Washington Association of School Business Officials (WASBO) presented Mercer Island School District Superintendent Fred Rundle with their 2024 Leader of Distinction Award at the annual WASBO conference which was held at the Tacoma Convention Center last month.

WASBO's Leader of Distinction award was created last year by their Board of Directors to recognize a Superintendent who cultivates a positive and collaborative work environment, advocates for professional growth opportunities, and works closely with finance and operations to implement innovative business solutions.

Read more [here!](#)

Representatives Elected to Serve on AASA Governing Board

AASA members here in Washington State have elected Michelle Whitney and Erin Prince to serve on the AASA Governing Board. They join Ron Banner, James Everett, and Wade Smith in representing Washington on this national board. Your AASA Governing Board representatives are elected to three-year terms and speak for you, exerting their voice in AASA decision making. Peninsula Superintendent Krestin Bahr, longtime member of the AASA Governing Board, was recently elected to serve on the AASA Executive Committee. Thank you to our representatives for their time and service in these important roles.



Michelle Whitney



Erin Prince

Important Update – New Evaluation Deadline for Principals and Assistant Principals in Effect!

With the end of the school year just around the corner, we want to remind supervisors of principals, principals, and assistant principals that evaluations of principals and assistant principals must be completed on or before June 1 of each school year. This includes the summative conference, scoring, and final evaluation. **This is the first year this date has been REQUIRED**, per the **Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 392–191A–190(8)**. This new June 1 deadline marks a significant shift for completing principal and assistant principal evaluations. Be mindful of this date and plan accordingly to ensure a smooth and timely evaluation process.

Gates Foundation Education Roundtable Update

The Education Roundtable, initiated last fall, is dedicated to developing solutions that guide more students toward successful pathways after high school. Coordinated and **facilitated by The Scholar First**, the Roundtable includes a diverse group of over 40 participants—students, teachers, principals, superintendents, statewide education leaders, education data experts, and nonprofit leaders. **Meet the members of the Education Roundtable.**

The Education Roundtable held its first meeting last November. The Scholar First will continue to convene Roundtable members to discuss and work toward the following objectives:

- Create a common definition of postsecondary success, and draft indicators and strategies that align to this definition.
- Learn from student insights to identify solutions that will help more students experience postsecondary success.
- Anchor the work in data so Education Roundtable members can advocate for proven solutions.



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. View their most recent third videos by clicking their photos below and get to know them better! Videos One and Two can be found [here](#). Candidates will be making their speeches during the WASA Honorary Awards Luncheon on June 24 in Spokane. The election will be held next August.



Mary Templeton, Video #3



Shaun Carey, Video #3



Following the end of the 2024 Legislative Session in March, the necessary steps to the final closure of the session have been taken, including the governor's action on adopted legislation, and WASA's activities to report on results of the session. WASA's **End of Session Report**, including a comprehensive review of the Supplemental Operating and Capital Budgets, as well as a detailed review of education-related bills, has been released and was disseminated to members. It is available in the Governmental Relations section of the WASA website. Additionally, we held a Lunch & Learn webinar focused exclusively on the outcomes of the 2024 Session. The PowerPoint presentation is available [HERE](#); and a recording of the presentation is available [HERE](#). We encourage you to take a look.

In addition to the information available from WASA, you should be aware of an important report released by OSPI detailing **school district requirements**, as a result of actions by the 2024 Legislature. The ten-page review describes new requirements for the 2024-25 or 2025-26 school year, many of which you may not be aware. OSPI will be issuing bulletins in the coming months addressing many of these requirements; however, this report will provide you with some advance notice. This report also provides some evidence why WASA and the education community have been advocating for a "pause on policy" in the last few sessions. School administrators' plates are full and the Legislature should give schools the time (and resources) to address current requirements before adopting more requirements. Obviously, our pleas have mostly fallen on deaf ears. Nevertheless, understanding—and acting on—these new requirements is critical. Most of the new laws have no specific penalties for not implementing the programs or policies required; however, rest assured legislators ARE watching—and discussions are ongoing regarding potential repercussions of noncompliance. For example, SB 5237, introduced in 2023, would have made noncompliance with state law a basis: to recall school directors; to find a superintendent committed an act of unprofessional conduct; or to withhold a portion of a school district's basic education allocation. Further, a budget proviso adopted this session requires OSPI to conduct a compliance review of every school district regarding one specific requirement: policies regarding state nondiscrimination laws.

WASA has now turned the page towards the 2025 Session. The WASA Board adopted our **2025 Legislative Platform** at the end of March and disseminated it to WASA members shortly after. WASA's Legislation & Finance Committee and the WASA Board will be focusing on three specific budget issues: Special Education, Pupil Transportation, and Materials, Supplies & Operating Costs (MSOC). We are partnering with AESD and are starting to meet with the other education associations in an effort to recruit them to support this deliberately narrow and focused Platform. As we build this coalition, we are developing a tool kit—with talking points, fiscal data, and other communication resources—to assist and align our members as you engage with your own legislators. Our effort (and our hope) is to ensure WASA—and our partners—speak with one voice as much as possible. This month, we are also holding a **Lunch & Learn webinar** to review the Platform and unveil the initial pieces of the evolving toolkit. The webinar is scheduled for

Wednesday, June 12, 12:00-1:00 pm. The webinar is complimentary; however, you must register to receive a link. Registration information will be released soon and we encourage you to participate with your colleagues.

Finally, remember it is never too early to engage with your legislators. During the interim between sessions is when they have time have deeper and more meaningful conversations. Jumpstart your advocacy for 2025 by building your relationships now and influence their thinking before they craft their own priorities for next session.



Online Modules for Administrators Government-to-Government Relationships Training

The video-based modules for the Administrators Government-to-Government Relationships Training are now available! This fulfills the new state requirement mandate enacted by HB 1426 requiring all renewing administrator certificates on or after July 1, 2023 to complete a five-hour Government-to-Government Relationships Training. There are five individual video module assignments with embedded quizzes. All five need to be completed. If you received module credit(s) from a previous training, please contact the facilitator, Maxine Alex, to receive that credit(s). Suggested completion time is April 26, 2024, to allow the 10 weeks for the recertification process by the June 30, 2024 deadline. [Register here.](#)

Basic Ed Compliance Survey

The 2024–25 Minimum Basic Education Requirement Compliance and District Survey will be launched on June 4, 2024. As you know the State Board of Education is responsible for ensuring that school districts comply with the requirements of the Program of Basic Education (RCW 28A.150.220(7), WAC 180-16-195, and WAC 180-16-200) and annually conducts data collection that allows school districts to certify compliance. The SBE is holding a [webinar](#) on June 10th, 2 p.m. to provide an overview of the compliance



AI Innovation Summit

District and building teams are invited to join education partners for the first statewide conference exploring the transformative role of artificial intelligence in Washington State's K-12 education system! Whether you're just beginning to explore AI's potential or you're already implementing AI technologies, the knowledge, strategies and collaboration shared will provide valuable insights to inform your work.

To make attending as convenient and cost-effective as possible, the AI Summit will be held simultaneously at two different venues within the state, SeaTac and Spokane. We urge all school districts to prioritize this investment in learning how AI can transform K–12 education and reclaim valuable time for educators. Learn more [here](#).



Washington State Superintendent of the Year Application Now Open!

The 2025 Washington State Superintendent of the Year application is now available. The online application can be found on the [AASA website](#). To be considered for Washington State's SOY, the application deadline is **October 1, 2024**.

Shortly after October 1, WASA will convene a panel of superintendents to review and score the applications to determine our Superintendent of the Year for 2025. The

process and allow district leaders to ask any questions they may have about the process.

selected candidate for Washington State will advance to AASA to be considered for the National Superintendent of the Year. AASA will announce the 2025 National Superintendent of the Year at the AASA National Conference on Education, March 6-8, in New Orleans. For questions about Washington's SOY process, contact **Shawna Kiliz**.

RESOURCES



This month's featured resources include the following, produced by Hanover Research specifically for WASA:

- **Strategies to Improve Public Perceptions of K-12 Education**
- **Toolkit for Marketing and Advocating for Your School District**
- **Establishing Structures for Student Voice**

We have also secured these resources, produced by Hanover, that may be helpful in your efforts to engage with your school community:

- **Engaging Families and Communities in K-12 Education**
- **The Why and How of a Positive School Climate**

Lunch & Learn Series, "Leadership Listening and Engagement Ideas," featuring J Marie Riche, Jocelyn McCabe, Joey Castilleja & Mary Beth Tack (December 6), and Trevor Green & Jake Kuper (March 26):

- **December 6**
- **March 26**



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

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