

APRIL 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](#).



"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept."

—Angela Davis

Friends and Colleagues,

Prior to the end of the 2024 Legislative Session, we had already begun contemplating WASA's Legislative priorities for 2025. We have been working with the Legislation and Finance Committee, as well as the WASA Board, to accelerate the process for finalizing WASA's priorities. In fact, the Board took action to formally approve the WASA Legislative Platform just yesterday.

Why have we accelerated the process and timing of this work? We believe the time to start messaging and advocating for K–12 education is now. The period between sessions presents a prime opportunity to connect with legislators early and often. Consider inviting them to engage with your school board, leadership team, or students to express gratitude for their efforts and to showcase the exemplary work happening in your schools. Establishing and nurturing these relationships is a strategic process that pays off when approached proactively, well before the legislative frenzy begins. This year, an election year, offers an even greater chance to engage with legislators, who may be more inclined to respond to your outreach efforts.

Most, if not all, districts are wrestling with financial challenges as the legislature continues to fall short of their duty to amply fund schools. The problem is systemic, and further exacerbated by a lack of commitment to the state's paramount duty. The system, along with a pattern of under-funding, has led to severe consequences for many school districts, including budget cuts, layoffs, and program reductions. No one knows this better than you.

Tomorrow, WASA members will receive our/your 2025 Legislative Platform as the first step in its rollout. This document will provide the basis for some talking points as you engage with legislators and begin advocating for your school district.

We urge you to dedicate time this spring to either build or strengthen connections with your local legislators. Laying groundwork in this area now, will be invaluable as we eye the 2025 Legislative Session. The collective voice of WASA members is a powerful force for our schools and students, but it is most effective when we begin our advocacy efforts early.

Engaging in legislative advocacy can sometimes seem like an effort in futility. But this is not the case. Your individual voice holds significant power, and when we unite our voices, their collective strength is formidable. Together, we possess the capability to enact meaningful change for our schools and the students we advocate for. Let's seize the opportunity to launch this important work today—setting the stage for success in next year's session.

Thank you for your time and energy. Remember—together we are stronger.

Best Regards,



G. Joel Aune
WASA Executive Director

UPCOMING WASA EVENTS



ERNN REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2024

APRIL 16 • TUMWATER
APRIL 23 • YAKIMA
APRIL 25 • SPOKANE

ERNN Regional Conference

April 16 in Tumwater | April 23 in Yakima |
April 25 in Spokane
8:30–2:30 p.m.



Women In Leadership Conference

Lake Chelan
May 4



Superintendents Conference

Lake Chelan
May 5–7



Instructional Leadership Academy Spring In-Person Conference



AWSP/WASA Summer Conference Spokane



MTSS Fest 2024 WSU

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.



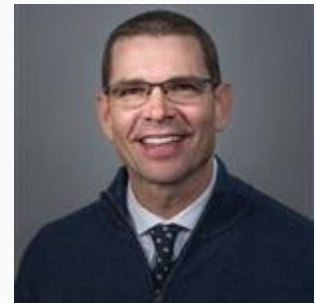
school news.

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

Shawn Batstone to Join the WASA Team

We are excited to announce that Shawn Batstone has been selected as the Assistant Executive Director for Professional Learning and will become a member of the WASA leadership team starting July 1. Please join us in congratulating Shawn. We are thrilled to have him join us in the work of serving and supporting all of you—the WASA membership. For more details, please see the full announcement [here](#).



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.



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.](#)



Virtual Communications Training for School Leaders

J.Marie & Associates is offering virtual one-hour courses for communications training. Learn about essential communication strategies, facilitation techniques, and more from an experienced and respected Communications Expert, J.Marie. The best part is there is a 10% discount for WASA members. Learn more at [her website](#).

UW College of Ed Webinar Series

Join UW's ConnectEd Webinar Series "Fostering an Inclusive Culture from the School District Central Office to the Classroom" on **Thursday, April 4th, 4:30–5:30 p.m.** featuring Max Silverman, executive director of the Center for Educational Leadership, in conversation with three district leaders. Find out more through [this flyer](#) and [register here](#).

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

As winter winds down, 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.



Hear From Summer Conference Keynote Speaker, Lori Hayes

Interested in learning more about who will be leading this year's AWSP WASA Summer Conference? Keynote speaker Lori Hayes is excited to see YOU in Spokane and wants to refuel and recharge you to get back into your community. Watch her video message above and register [here!](#)

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 their introduction videos by clicking their photos below and get to know them better. The election will be held next August.



Mary Templeton, Intro Video



Shaun Carey, Intro Video



The Legislature adjourned its 2024 Session on March 7, after successfully adopting Supplemental Operating and Supplemental Capital Budgets, along with a slew of policy bills—almost 400. K–12 education achieved a handful of modest successes, including: an increase in per pupil allocations for Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC); enhanced staffing ratios in the Prototypical School Funding Model for paraeducators; and an increase in the special education enrollment funding cap. None of these increases come close to what school administrators requested and are nowhere near what school districts need; however, even these minor boosts in funding will help school districts meet increasing costs of providing education to their students.

Positively, even the minor increases discussed above did not seem likely as the legislative session began. Since Day One of the session, we were told by legislators that the size of the K–12 funding “box” would be small and we fought all session to persuade legislators to provide sufficient increases to help school districts, especially those in the midst of financial distress. In the end, the final funding for K–12 was larger than expected; however, that is not saying much.

The 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget appropriates a total of \$525.5 million to support schools, with a bit less than half that total being provided for required Maintenance Level spending, and a bit more than half being provided for discretionary Policy Level spending.

While K–12 funding in the Operating Budget is disappointing, we surely would have received even less if school administrators had not engaged as vigorously and regularly as they did. Continual engagement with your local legislators did not secure all the wins we would have wished; however, keeping the pressure on impacted decisions.

On a very positive note, the 2024 Supplemental Capital Budget provided significant support for school construction. The final funding for K–12 is only \$40.8 million; however, this is due to an almost \$300 million reduction in the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP). This is not actually a “cut,” rather it is a reduction due to less districts requesting funding for eligible projects than expected—because of unanticipated bond failures. The downside of the reduction is the previously appropriated \$300 million is not set aside for school facilities in the future; the funding flows back to the overall Capital Budget to be used in other areas. In addition to increases across the board for various school construction programs, there is a significant increase in the Small District & Tribal Compact Schools Modernization grant program (\$114.8 million), which is expected to fund the remaining districts on the waiting list. Perhaps the greatest boon for school construction is the increase in SCAP construction funding formulas. The Construction Cost Allowance (CCA or “cost per square foot”) is increased from the current \$271.61 per square foot to \$375.00 per square foot. Unfortunately, the actual market cost of construction is between \$600–700 per square foot, so the increase falls well-short of reality; however, the \$100+ increase is the first major increase in decades.

There are many other budget details and many, many bills adopted this session that will impact school districts. WASA staff are in the process of producing our annual End of Session Report, which will include full, comprehensive details of the 2024 Supplemental Operating and Capital Budgets, along with a detailed review of the many education-related bills the Legislature addressed this session. It will be emailed to all TWIO subscribers, and archived on the WASA website, as soon as it is completed.

Finally, keep your eyes open for an invitation to WASA’s 2024 Legislative Session Wrap-up webinar. This complimentary Lunch & Learn event is open to all administrators and is scheduled for Friday, April 26, 12–1 p.m.

PIPER | SANDLER

Piper Sandler – Doyle E. Winter Scholarship

Designed to assist talented and committed educational administrators as they enhance those skills and abilities needed to serve as educational leaders in the field of public education, a \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a school administrator who is presently in or will begin a doctoral program in education.

The 2024 Application is now open! You can submit your application by selecting [this link](#). The application will be open from February 28, 2024, until 5:00 p.m. on April 3, 2024.

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

WASA is thrilled to announce a new State Award: **The WASA Learning from Leaders Award**, debuting at the Summer Conference in Spokane this June. This prestigious award, including 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 nomination is available [here](#) until May 1, 2024.



Funding for WA Schools is Actually Falling

See Executive Director Joel Aune's [Opinion piece](#), published March 22 in *The Seattle Times*.



Financial Analysis & Stability Webinar

WASBO is offering a free Financial Analysis & Stability Webinar on April 17, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., to offer valuable insights into navigating the financial landscape of today's world. The webinar will feature a panel discussion led by WASBO leaders who will discuss crucial topics concerning financial analysis, stability, and strategies for success. [Register here!](#)

HONORARY AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Nominations and applications are now being accepted for a number of award and scholarship opportunities. Check out these great opportunities below.

- **PEMCO Robert J. Handy Most Effective Administrator Awards** A \$10,500 award will be equally divided among the three selected award recipients. The award may be used for personal or professional growth and to support and disseminate information about a successful school or district program. Deadline: May 1, 2024

WASA HONORARY AWARDS

REGION Awards | Deadlines vary per region

Note: Region award links are dependent on your region. Contact the Region President/Honorary Awards Committee Chair for deadlines in your region.

- **WASA Student Achievement Leadership Award** Recognizes innovative programs that promote access, equity, or social justice for the improvement of student achievement.
- **Award of Merit** Recipients recognized for promoting access, equity, and social justice for students, as well as making a significant contribution to WASA.
- **Community Leadership Award** Recognizes a non-WASA member for outstanding contributions to education.
- **WASA Student Leadership Award** Recognizes outstanding student leaders who have created or played a significant leadership role in initiatives that promote access, equity, or social justice in their school and community.

STATE Awards nominations | Deadline: May 1, 2024

- **Golden Gavel Award** The recipient shall be an individual, group, association, or firm that has made an outstanding contribution to public education in the state of Washington.

- **D.A. Davidson Barbara Martens Legacy Award** \$1,000 gift presented to an individual/group who has had a significant impact on Washington's public education.
- **Service to WASA Award** The recipient shall have made contributions at the state level toward the goals of WASA.
- **WASA Leadership Award** Recipient is a WASA Active Member who demonstrates and exemplifies outstanding leadership abilities and who has made significant contributions to the field of education statewide.

NEW STATE AWARD THIS YEAR!

- **WASA Learning from Leaders** This award shall be given to a WASA member or group for recognition of his/her/their leadership of an exemplary program that others can learn from. \$5,000 award presented to the recipient.

To make a nomination for a State Award, click [here](#).

RESOURCES



This month's featured resources include:

- **AI in Education** | K-12 Dive
- **Best Practices in Building Healthy and Supportive Student and Staff Relationships** | Hanover Research
- **Data Literacy Checklist** | Hanover Research
- **How to Get Beyond Talk of "Culture Change" and Make it Happen** | Stanford Business
- **Why Educators Often Have it Wrong About Right-Leaning Parents** | Education Week
- **U.S. Department of Education Toolkit for the Promotion of Voter Participation for Students**



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



Gallagher

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Gallagher VEBA

This month's Sponsor Spotlight features WASA's Diamond-level sponsor—**Gallagher VEBA**. 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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