

WASA NEWS

November 2019
Edition 2

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

- **WASA Superintendents Component Meeting:** November 23, 7:30–9 a.m., Hyatt Regency Bellevue, Regency A–D. The agenda will include the announcement of the 2020 Washington State Superintendent of the Year, as well as topics of interest and priority that are emerging this fall.

WASA WINTER CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars now for the WASA Winter Conference “Creating Belonging in Our Districts: Our Call to Courage,” presented by Moe Carrick, a Brene’ Brown *Dare to Lead* certified trainer. This highly interactive conference will kick-off with an inspiring keynote followed by a practical workshop for skill application with real scenarios and experiences. Registration is set to open on November 13.

Dear Colleagues,

Here at WASA, we are currently in the process of reviewing our communications methods and systems. Our motivation in conducting this review is to ensure we are meeting the needs of the WASA membership in terms of effectiveness, convenience, content, relevance, and usefulness. At WASA, we devote a good deal of time, energy, and resources to communications. Is this investment effective? Are there better ways of informing the membership?

To assist us in this effort, a survey will be sent to members asking for feedback later this month. Thank you in advance for taking time to complete the survey. It will be extremely helpful as we examine current practice to inform our efforts to improve and enhance the effectiveness of our communications.

Best Regards,

Jael

GRADUATION PATHWAY REQUIREMENTS

The State Board of Education is asking for feedback regarding the [new graduation pathway requirements](#) that went into effect for the graduating Class of 2020. This survey and subsequent focus groups will be used to inform development a statewide stakeholder survey to be released in early 2020. Find the survey link [here](#).

SIRS Survey

SIRS annually compile and publishes a salary-and-benefits report of Washington’s school employees in three parts: 1) administrators, 2) classified personnel, and 3) teachers. SIRS is introducing, new in 2019–20, an additional longitudinal report presenting the past 10-years Washington State school employee salary information. The quality of data, through the self-reporting SIRS survey, will help facilitate valuable trend analysis for any district. The longitudinal tool is presented in an easy to use Microsoft Excel workbook and utilizes pivot charts and slicing tools to better visualize trends and comparisons amongst comparable districts.

The 2019–20 SIRS Salary Survey forms will be sent out November 15, 2019 with the deadline for return on December 16. The final data report will be made available January 10, 2020. All SIRS district members receive access to the full report. Participating non-member SIRS districts receive a pdf copy.

All districts information is valuable and greatly appreciated.

SEATED LUNCHTIME RULES

Last year, the State Auditor's Office (SAO) conducted a performance audit to examine lunchtime scheduling practices in elementary schools. Requested by State Superintendent Chris Reykdal, the audit focused on a specific question: *"What lunch scheduling practices could schools implement to achieve better student outcomes, such as improved behavior and increased consumption of healthy food?"* The [final audit](#) was released in August and includes a series of recommendations, including that school districts be required to: (1) implement a minimum of 20 minutes of seat time during lunch for every student; and (2) schedule recess before lunch.

The final audit includes a response from Superintendent Reykdal, which states: *"We plan to move forward with the rule process to define a 20-minute seated lunchtime for all students and require recess before lunch for elementary students."* OSPI has now begun the rulemaking process to implement the suggested requirements. Superintendent Reykdal has indicated that amending the appropriate WACs will be a long process, and OSPI will provide ample opportunity for comment, including regional sites for public hearings. WASA is currently reviewing the audit and the suggested rules changes, and we will be involved in the rulemaking process. We encourage administrators to also engage in the process. To assist your participation, WASA will develop guidance in the coming months.

MANAGEMENT REVIEWS

Interested in evaluating the efficiency, effectiveness, safety, security, and economy of your school district? To learn more about how a [WASA Management Review](#) can serve your district needs, contact Andy Wolf at 360.489.3646 or awolf@wasa-oly.org.

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

The Call for Presenters for the WASA Spring Conference for Small Schools Leaders is opening on November 13. The theme for this year's conference is "Small Schools: BIG Hopes, BIG Dreams, BIG Futures."

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

WASA's 2020 Legislative Platform was approved by the Board on October 7. The Platform includes four "planks" or areas of priority: updating staff allocation formulas (via the Prototypical School Funding Model); defining teacher duties and expectations; providing consistent, equitable, and ample education resources (by revising *McCleary* legislation regarding special education funding, the salary "experience factor," SEBB provisions, and regionalization); and supporting school facilities.

Don't wait until January to re-engage with legislators. Take advantage of the next two months to build and make stronger your rapport and connection with them. Reach out with an invitation for coffee, to hear their perspective on the 2019 Session, and what they foresee in 2020. Consider extending invitations to the opening of a new school, a board meeting, or a special event. Invite them to visit your school district this fall.

NOVEMBER WASA OFFICE CLOSURES

Thanksgiving Holiday—November 28 & 29, 2019

QUICK LINKS

- [WASA Communications Toolkit](#). From the WASA homepage, under "Resources/Budget and Bargaining Resources—WASA Members only." A password is required to access information.
- [WASA 2018–19 Annual Report](#)

AASA CORNER

- **AASA Leadership Network:** AASA's Leadership Network Engagement Lifecycle serves superintendents and other district leaders as they **PREPARE, CERTIFY, LEARN, INNOVATE, AND COLLABORATE**. [Click](#) for information.
- **AASA National Conference:** February 13–15, 2020, San Diego, California. [Click](#) to register.