

# Wasa HOTLINE

JUNE 2020

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## From the Executive Director



**Joel Aune**  
WASA Executive  
Director

*Your leadership matters ...*

Friends and Colleagues,

Last August, my message in the *Hotline* underscored the notion that your leadership makes a difference. At that

time, none of us could have imagined what the 2019–20 school year had in store. Superintendents and school district leaders began the year with energy, optimism, and a readiness to make this school year the best possible experience for the students who attend their schools. You began the year ready to launch new and exciting initiatives with your staff, for your students, with an aim on making your school district better than ever. You also readied yourself for the challenges that were sure to emerge during the course of the school year. *Your leadership mattered.*

In February, everything changed as you were presented with challenges of complexity and difficulty never seen before. As you lead the effort to pivot in real-time from brick and mortar to *Continuous Learning 1.0*, your leadership was essential. As your team and support staff planned and executed the undertaking to maintain the provision of nutrition and childcare for students and families, your leadership was key. Providing leadership as you engaged with your administrative team, the board of directors, staff, parents, and students was critical during these extraordinary times. Creating a space to tackle difficult issues such as grading, credit waivers, graduation, bargaining, employee relations, operational logistics, and communication demanded leadership from you. *Your leadership mattered.*

As the 2019–20 school year comes to a close and your focus more fully shifts to next fall, *your leadership matters.* You are currently planning for a school

year that, in all likelihood, will look different than any before it. School district leaders are deeply motivated to build models for next year that will bring students back into the schoolhouse. The challenges, both in terms of a new and different instructional delivery system that meets the needs of all students, and figuring out how to operationalize it, are daunting. While you cannot accomplish this on your own, it is YOU who will set the tone and create a space for this work. *Your leadership matters.*

The COVID-19 outbreak has confirmed and further exposed inequities endemic to our society. It is clear there is a severe divide in our communities, as some of our students and families have been hurt more than others during the past four months. The murder of George Floyd and the events that followed have sparked an intense dialogue that casts an even brighter light on the deep pain and suffering of families and individuals—particularly those of color. *Your leadership matters.*

During the past four months, each day seemed to bring forth new challenges, barriers, and frustrations for school district leaders. Through it all, your character, commitment, and resolve were on full display. Your dedication to children and young people, especially the most vulnerable, seemed to be at the forefront of every conversation. Adversity and challenges bring out the best and the worst in people. For leaders of your caliber, however, adversity brings out the best. During the past four months, I have seen the best from you. *Your leadership matters.*

In the future, staff and community will look to you for leadership. And to be frank, the challenges are immensely difficult. Your core values have and will continue to serve as a foundation for leading through this challenge. While addressing this challenge and solving problems, you will also find opportunities to look at your school system in different

*Continued on next page.*

ways. Conversations related to race and equity may look and sound different. Innovation for positive change in how we deliver learning opportunities and engage students and families will emerge. Re-tooling a system for the purpose of developing a model that is more student-centered, nimble, and accessible is an opportunity to make your schools better. Planning for next year is a unique leadership opportunity for you. *Your leadership matters.*

For many of you, the past year has tested your resolve. Some of you have even questioned whether to continue serving as a school district leader. Let me assure you, your leadership during the 2019–20 school year **has** made a difference for students, families, and staff. You should take satisfaction in what has been accomplished this year, amidst the most trying circumstances. *Your leadership mattered.*

There is no doubt, the leadership challenge that lies ahead is a formidable one. That is your reality. Be reminded however, there is no work more honorable than that in which you are currently engaged. Making a difference for all kids and their families is what originally drew you to this great profession. The coming year provides a unique opportunity to make that kind of difference once again. *Your leadership matters.*

Make it a priority to get some rest this summer and recharge the batteries. I have no doubt you will recapture the energy, excitement, and optimism that comes with the start of each new school year. *Your leadership matters.*

Stay safe and healthy,



## WASA 2020 End of the Year Celebration

**MONDAY, JUNE 29 | 11:30 A.M.–12:30 P.M.**

All WASA members will receive an invitation by email with a [Zoom registration link](#) to participate in the celebration. We are pleased to have AASA Executive Director Daniel Domenech on hand to share a few thoughts and words of welcome. Presentations will be made, recognizing the winners of the 2020 Robert J. Handy Awards, Piper Sandler Doyle Winter Scholarship, and the Gallagher/VEBA Howard M. Coble Scholarship. WASA President-elect candidates will give their speeches in preparation for the August election. Bring your lunch and don't forget dessert! Plan to share in the celebration as we thank current President Krestin Bahr for her service this year, and welcome President-elect Brian Talbott with the passing of the gavel on June 29.

## WASA President-elect Campaign



**JEFF DAVIS**  
Superintendent  
Onalaska SD



**AARON LEAVELL**  
Superintendent  
Bremerton SD

The WASA President-elect campaign is underway. Aaron Leavell, Superintendent, Bremerton School District, and Jeff Davis, Superintendent, Onalaska School District, are this year's candidates. Electronic candidate brochures will be sent to WASA members mid-June and will include a brief introduction video from each candidate. Candidates will give their speeches during the WASA 2020 End of the Year Celebration being held in conjunction with the WASA/AWSP Virtual Summer Conference on June 29 by Zoom. Electronic ballots for the WASA President-elect Election will be sent to WASA Active Members on August 1, and voting will be open until August 13.

## 2021 Washington State Superintendent of the Year (SOY)

The application and nomination process is now open for the 2021 Washington State Superintendent of the Year. Please consider applying or encouraging a worthy candidate to apply for Washington's 2021 State Superintendent of the Year (SOY). The online application can be found on the [AASA website](#). To be considered for Washington's SOY process, the deadline to apply is October 1, 2020. WASA will convene a panel of judges who will review and score the applications submitted to determine Washington's State Superintendent of the Year for 2021. The selected candidate for Washington State will be submitted to AASA to be considered for the 2021 AASA National Superintendent of the Year, which will be announced at the 2021 AASA National Conference on Education, February 18–20, 2021, in New Orleans, Louisiana. For information on the Superintendent of the Year program and process, visit [soy.aasa.org](#). For questions on Washington's SOY process, contact Shari Parsons at [sparsons@wasa-oly.org](mailto:sparsons@wasa-oly.org) or by phone at 360.943.5717.

## AASA CORNER

### AASA Women in School Leadership Awards

The AASA Women in School Leadership Award program is designed to recognize the exceptional leadership of active, front-line female leaders who are making a difference in the lives of students every day. Three awards are available—Superintendent Award, Central Office/Principal Award, and The School Driven Leadership Award. Applicants are judged on the following criteria—Leadership for Learning, Communication, Professionalism, and Community Involvement. Applications must be submitted online at [www.aasa.org/WomensLeadership.aspx](http://www.aasa.org/WomensLeadership.aspx) by October 9, 2020. Finalists will be announced November 16, 2020. Winners will be announced on February 19, 2021, at the AASA National Conference. For more information visit [www.aasa.org/WomensLeadership.aspx](http://www.aasa.org/WomensLeadership.aspx).

### AASA Educational Administration Scholarships

AASA's Educational Administration Scholarships were created in 1949 to provide incentive, honor, and financial assistance to outstanding graduate students in school administration who intend to make the school superintendency a career. Seven top graduate students in educational administration will receive a scholarship from AASA. The scholarships are given in honor of AASA's former executive directors. To review the eligibility information and FAQ visit [bit.ly/2CkFofl](http://bit.ly/2CkFofl). Applications are available on the AASA website. The deadline to submit an application is September 30, 2020.

## Drop in Vaccination Leaves Children Vulnerable to Other Diseases

*Information provided by Gregory C. Endler, MA MFT, Deputy Director of Health Promotion and Education, Center for Public Affairs, Washington State Department of Health*

The number of immunizations given to children is dropping during the COVID-19 pandemic, both [in Washington](#) and [nationally](#). This leaves children and communities at risk.

Providers in Washington's Childhood Vaccine Program reported they administered 30 percent fewer vaccines to 0–18 year olds in March of this year compared with the same month in previous years. In April, we saw a 40 percent decrease.

We are concerned that children aren't getting all the vaccines they need to protect them. Slowing or stopping access to immunizations increases the risk that we could see an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease. Adding more outbreaks on top of COVID-19 not only would put more people's health at risk, it also could overload the health care system.

We need the help of school administrators to keep our kids safe. Please tell your families to make an appointment right away for any immunizations their child has missed. **Especially important are infants and young children (0 to 24 months of age), followed by children age four to six years.** Parents may be nervous about taking kids in to a clinic. But health care providers are making clinics safe for families to visit. Talk to your doctor, nurse, or clinic about ways you can get vaccinated.

Read more information for parents and caregivers [here](#). That page also includes a flyer available in six languages that explains why immunizations right now are safe and important.



### ARE YOU CONNECTED TO WASA?

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter for information on upcoming conferences and workshops, legislative news and updates, and school news.

# Professional Learning & Academies Updates

Our shift to virtual learning to continue offering high-quality professional learning will continue to evolve over the coming months. Stay tuned and review the event calendar for the latest updates (page 5).

Please contact Helene Paroff at 509.953.9512 or [hparoff@wasa-oly.org](mailto:hparoff@wasa-oly.org), or Jamie Chylinski at [jchylinski@wasa-oly.org](mailto:jchylinski@wasa-oly.org) with academy or professional learning questions.

## Professional Learning

### TRANSFORMING EDUCATION: LEADING THE WAY

Join us for this timely three-part series as we lean into a reflective summer and ready ourselves to lead in the fall. Jeff Utecht is back, with a focus on building understanding with educators, administrators, parents, and the community in blended learning environments to support student learning.

The series sessions will be hosted via Zoom, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., on June 12, June 19, and June 24.

Register now at [www.wasa-oly.org/TransformingEducation](http://www.wasa-oly.org/TransformingEducation)

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### WASA/AWSP SUMMER CONFERENCE

Visit page 5 for exciting conference updates.

### WASA INCOMING SUPERINTENDENT CONFERENCE

We're going virtual! All new superintendents and seasoned superintendents starting in a new district are invited to attend. Register and learn more at [www.wasa-oly.org/Incoming20](http://www.wasa-oly.org/Incoming20).

### WASA/OSPI SPECIAL EDUCATION PRECONFERENCE

The New Director Preconference will be held July 30–31, half-days, via Zoom. Stay tuned for registration details.

### WASA/OSPI SPECIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Plans are underway to offer this content virtually. Stay tuned for conference details.

## Academies

### WASA/AESD/AASA ASPIRING SUPERINTENDENTS ACADEMY

Applicants will be notified June 12, additional details will be available then at [www.wasa-oly.org/ASA](http://www.wasa-oly.org/ASA).

## Inclusionary Practices

### WASA INCLUSIONARY PRACTICES PROJECT

The application window is closing June 12, so apply now at [www.wasa-oly.org/Inclusion](http://www.wasa-oly.org/Inclusion) to enroll your district in Cohort 2 of WASA's Inclusionary Practices project.

Per the Joint Statement of Education and Civil Rights Organizations Concerning Equitable Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic School Closures and Beyond, "LEAs and schools should provide educators the tools and professional development to scaffold their teaching and ensure that their lessons are designed in accordance with the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL), offering multiple ways for students to engage. School districts should also provide opportunities to increase collaboration and communication among educators and service providers to evaluate students' needs and work together to make appropriate adjustments for students with disabilities."

Visit [www.wasa-oly.org/Inclusion](http://www.wasa-oly.org/Inclusion) to learn more and submit your application.

## WSLA, Reimagined

*From Sharon Bower, WSLA Director*

WSLA, *reimagined* is here to help you lead and thrive in uncertain times!

WSLA, *reimagined* is flexible, agile, and relevant! It is committed to serving and supporting Washington districts through the process of building and growing learning systems to a blended/hybrid model, to withstand interruptions, and maintain equitable learning for students. Let us be your thought partner while you build your plans and grow your team's leadership. New times, new leadership needed. Here's what you can look forward to:

### 7 LEADERSHIP SKILLS TO SURVIVE COVID-19

1. Learn successful change management strategies
2. Grow collaboration and ownership
3. Reimagine *equitable* learning systems
4. Communicate well in crises and beyond
5. Empathy, self-care, and team building
6. Engage students, staff, and community
7. Elevate learning opportunities and success for *all* students

### 3 RESOURCES

1. *Updated and relevant* evidence based tools and resources
2. 20 days of leadership team coaching beginning in July
3. Successful examples

### 1 EASY GRANT APPLICATION

Limited spots available, so be prepared to act quickly when the application opens on June 15th at <https://waleadershipacademy.org>. Contact [sbower@waleadershipacademy.org](mailto:sbower@waleadershipacademy.org) for more information.

# Event Calendar

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## **TRANSFORMING EDUCATION: LEADING THE WAY SESSION 1**

June 12 | 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Zoom  
Register at [www.wasa-oly.org/TransformingEducation](http://www.wasa-oly.org/TransformingEducation).

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## **WASA INCLUSIONARY PRACTICES DISTRICT TEAM FACILITATORS PLC**

June 15 | 9–10 a.m. Zoom  
Cohort 1

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## **TRANSFORMING EDUCATION: LEADING THE WAY SESSION 2**

June 19 | 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Zoom  
Register at [www.wasa-oly.org/TransformingEducation](http://www.wasa-oly.org/TransformingEducation).

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## **INCLUSIONARY PRACTICES DISTRICT LEADERSHIP WEBINAR SERIES**

June 22 | 9–10 a.m. Zoom  
Cohort 1

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## **TRANSFORMING EDUCATION: LEADING THE WAY SESSION 3**

June 24 | 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Zoom  
Register at [www.wasa-oly.org/TransformingEducation](http://www.wasa-oly.org/TransformingEducation).

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## **WASA/AESD ASPIRING SUPERINTENDENTS ACADEMY KICK-OFF**

June 25 | 2–4 p.m. Zoom  
[www.wasa-oly.org/ASA](http://www.wasa-oly.org/ASA)

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## **WSLA SUMMER STATEWIDE WORKSHOP**

June 26 | Virtual  
Details coming soon [www.waleadershipacademy.org](http://www.waleadershipacademy.org).

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## **WASA/AWSP SUMMER CONFERENCE**

June 28–30 | Now virtual!  
Registration is open [here](#).

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## **WASA INCLUSIONARY PRACTICES DISTRICT TEAM FACILITATORS PLC**

July 13 | Zoom  
Cohort 1 9–10 a.m.

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## **WASA INCOMING SUPERINTENDENT CONFERENCE**

July 20–24 | 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Daily Zoom  
Register at [www.wasa-oly.org/Incoming20](http://www.wasa-oly.org/Incoming20).

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## **WASA/OSPI SPECIAL EDUCATION NEW DIRECTOR PRECONFERENCE**

July 30–31 | Zoom  
Details coming soon.

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## **WASA/OSPI SPECIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

Conference is going virtual, stay tuned for details.

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## **INCLUSIONARY PRACTICES YEAR 1 STATEWIDE DISTRICT TEAM CONVENING**

August 12 | TBD

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## **INCLUSIONARY PRACTICES YEAR 2 STATEWIDE DISTRICT TEAM CONVENING**

August 12–13 | TBD

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## **WASA INCLUSIONARY PRACTICES STATEWIDE INTRODUCTION TO UDL WITH DR. KATIE NOVAK**

August 14 | Zoom  
Details coming soon.

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## **BE BRAVE SERIES WITH MOE CARRICK**

August 21 | Zoom  
Details coming soon.

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## **WASA INCLUSIONARY PRACTICES DISTRICT TEAM FACILITATOR WORKSHOP**

September 21 | Zoom  
Cohort 2 Eastside

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## **WASA INCLUSIONARY PRACTICES DISTRICT TEAM FACILITATOR WORKSHOP**

September 22 | Zoom  
Cohort 2 Westside

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## **WASA FALL CONFERENCE**

October 6 | Four Points by Sheraton Seattle Airport South

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## **WASA INCLUSIONARY PRACTICES DISTRICT LEADERSHIP WEBINAR**

October 19 | Zoom  
Cohort 1 9–10:30 a.m.  
Cohort 2 10–11:30 a.m.

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## **BE BRAVE SERIES WITH MOE CARRICK**

October 23 | Zoom  
Details coming soon

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## **WASA WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

December 6–7 | SeaTac Location TBD

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## **WASA INCLUSIONARY PRACTICES DISTRICT LEADERSHIP WEBINAR**

December 14 | Zoom  
Cohort 2 10–11:30 a.m.

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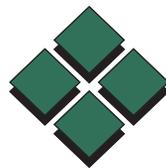
# WASA President-elect Candidates' Reception

We are bringing the  
reception to you!

Join us for conversation, networking, and games. Details are coming soon but mark your calendar now to join us via Zoom on Monday, June 29, 3:45–4:30 p.m.

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## Upcoming Awards & Scholarships

### SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

The Superintendent of the Year program is designed to recognize the outstanding leadership of active, frontline superintendents.

**Application Process: May 1–October 1, 2020**

To review the criteria for the various awards, visit the [WASA website](#). Watch future editions of *Hotline* for further information on award opportunities.

## Region Events—June

For the most up-to-date information regarding scheduled regional meetings or events, contact your region ESD. Previously scheduled in-person meetings are being held by Zoom with weekly, or twice weekly, updates in regions.

## WASA COVID-19 Resources

WASA has been regularly updating our library of Coronavirus & Pandemic Resources, which can be found [here](#).

WASA has been working with Hanover Research to develop COVID-19 resources for school districts and the following have [recently been added](#):

- [Reopening Workbook](#)
- [How to Succeed in Distance Learning: 5 Tips for Teachers](#)
- [Considerations for School Reopening Plans](#)
- [Webinar: Strategies for School District Reopening Plans—May 26, 2020](#)

The WASA Members Only Resources page includes COVID-19 resources as well, which can be accessed by [clicking here](#) (note: you must be logged in to view the page).

## Contact WASA

### GENERAL INFORMATION

360.943.5717 / 800.859.9272

### EXECUTIVE OFFICE

360.489.3641 / 360.352.6873 (fax)

- Joel Aune, Executive Director  
[jaune@wasa-oly.org](mailto:jaune@wasa-oly.org)
- Shari Parsons, Executive Assistant  
[sparsons@wasa-oly.org](mailto:sparsons@wasa-oly.org)

### GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

360.489.3642

- Dan Steele, Assistant Executive Director  
[dsteele@wasa-oly.org](mailto:dsteele@wasa-oly.org)
- Sheila Chard, Administrative Assistant  
[schard@wasa-oly.org](mailto:schard@wasa-oly.org)

### PROFESSIONAL LEARNING & MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

360.489.3640 / 360.352.6873 (fax)

- Helene Paroff, Assistant Executive Director  
[hparoff@wasa-oly.org](mailto:hparoff@wasa-oly.org)
- Jamie Chylinski, Professional Learning Coordinator  
[jchylinski@wasa-oly.org](mailto:jchylinski@wasa-oly.org)
- Lisa Gehman, Professional Learning/ Membership Assistant  
[lgehman@wasa-oly.org](mailto:lgehman@wasa-oly.org)
- Tricia McCosh, Communications  
[pmccosh@wasa-oly.org](mailto:pmccosh@wasa-oly.org)

### ACCOUNTING

360.489.3643 / 360.352.6873 (fax)

- Eve Johnson, Accountant  
[ejohnson@wasa-oly.org](mailto:ejohnson@wasa-oly.org)

### MEMBER SUPPORT & ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

360.489.3646

- Andy Wolf, Assistant Executive Director  
[awolf@wasa-oly.org](mailto:awolf@wasa-oly.org)

### 2019–20 WASA OFFICERS

President: Krestin Bahr, Eatonville  
President-elect: Brian Talbott, Nine Mile Falls  
Past President: Randy Russell, Freeman  
Secretary: Jennifer Bethman, Bethel  
Treasurer: Corine Pennington, Puyallup