



WASA News



September 2021

The WASA News is a monthly publication that provides key information to you in a concise, quick-read format. For those who want a bit more detail, links to additional information are embedded in the text of this publication. 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’ve always loved the first day of school better than the last day of school.
Firsts are best because they are beginnings.”***
– Jenny Han

Dear WASA Heroes,

By now, a vast majority of schools are in session. Congratulations to all of you for launching the school year amidst the most challenging circumstances ever. I hope you experienced a sense of joy as students entered your schools, as well as a quiet sense of satisfaction. You most certainly deserve both.

As a life-long educator, the first day of school was always my favorite. My three grandsons, in Kindergarten, third, and fourth grades, are all in school and loving it. The excitement to be with their teachers and friends was clearly evident when I visited with them on FaceTime following their first days of school. But I must admit having taken for granted the joy and energy the children and young people bring to us as they return to school each year. Sometimes we don’t really appreciate what we have until it is gone. Like you, I will forever be especially grateful for the start of a new school year and the positivity that comes with it.

I call you heroes because that is what you are. Your courageous leadership, remarkable dedication to the work, and unrelenting commitment to children have made this possible in each of your communities. And while the coming year promises to present difficult challenges and complex problems, enjoy this moment.

Congratulations to you all. But most importantly, thank you!

Best Regards,

G. Joel Aune
Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

- [WASA / OSPI Special Education Conference](#) | August–December. Registration is open.
- [WASA Fall Conference](#) | September 26–28 | Campbell's Resort, Chelan
- [Conference & Workshop Calendar](#)



SUPERINTENDENTS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

WASA will once again sponsor this year, along with Hanover Research and the Michigan Association of School Administrators, a monthly panel discussion on hot topics that district leaders are facing at this time. The September panel, featuring Dr. Deb Clemens, Superintendent North Thurston School District, will focus upon Board-Superintendent Relations is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22, at 8 P.M. (EST). [Register for this cost-free event here.](#)

WASA INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP NETWORK IS LAUNCHING SOON!

WASA is launching a STATEWIDE Instructional Leadership Network for Administrators of Teaching and Learning committing to a vision and focus on the learning and engagement of students and adults. This TWO-YEAR first-of-its-kind project will engage instructional leaders that support teaching and learning from school districts across the state of Washington to foster a culture of learning in their school district while at the same time building a statewide vision for teaching and learning. Registration opens for this exciting network on **September 8**. For more details, [click here](#) to view the recording and other resources from our recent informational session about this project.

ASPIRING CENTRAL OFFICE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



WASA proudly announces the all-new Aspiring Central Office Leadership Academy! This academy is designed to provide guidance and encouragement for all educators considering or pursuing their first role at the central office. The academy curriculum will be delivered via eight monthly Zoom sessions. For more information or to register, [click here](#).

BALANCED-MODIFIED CALENDAR PILOT-STUDY GRANT

Funds for the Balanced-Modified Calendar Pilot-Study will be available to 25 public school districts, tribal compact schools, and charter schools through a competitive grant process. Interested applicants must complete iGrants Form Package 173 detailing their approach to the pilot. The Form Package is scheduled to close on September 16, 2021. Successful applicants will be awarded \$75,000 during the 2021–22 school year, with an opportunity to carry funds over to the 2022–23 school year. Click [the link](#) to view the full bulletin about this grant.



CCDEI + STANDARDS FEEDBACK SURVEY

HB 5044 requires PESB **to review** and revise Washington's current educator standards, and ensure the alignment of those standards with cultural competency, diversity, equity, and inclusion (CCDEI) practices. PESB has published an online survey, to hear your feedback and insight on the first draft of the revised standards. The survey should take about 7-15 minutes. Your responses will be presented anonymously and in aggregate. The survey needs to be completed by October 27, 2021. [Take the survey.](#)

SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS & COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING

School-based health centers (SBHCs) provide integrated medical and behavioral health care to students where they already spend much of their time—at school, improving both health and academic outcomes. There are currently 60 SBHCs across Washington and rapidly increasing demand for the model to improve access to care, particularly for our most underserved children and youth. If your school district is considering or already planning a SBHC, COVID-19 relief funding is a potential source of funding for SBHC planning or start-up costs to address student's physical and behavioral health needs (e.g., see [Advancing Student and Staff Health with COVID-19 Relief Funding](#)). To learn more about SBHCs in Washington, email [Sandy Lennon](#) at the Washington School-Based Health Alliance or visit www.wasbha.org.

FCC ANNOUNCES SECOND APPLICATION WINDOW FOR EMERGENCY CONNECTIVITY FUND

Last week, the FCC announced that the nation's schools and libraries submitted more than \$5 billion in applications to the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) leaving \$2 billion in the federal coffers to pay for educational devices and connectivity. As a result, the FCC announced a second two-week application window at the end of September for districts to apply for the remaining funds. The application window runs from September 28 to October 13, and can be used for expenses incurred in the 2021–22 school year. AASA will share the application details as soon as they are available.

REACH OUT TO LEGISLATORS TODAY!

The opening of the 2022 Legislative Session is over four months away; however, now is the time to begin your advocacy efforts. Building relationships with your legislators is essential to successful advocacy and connecting with lawmakers when the Legislature is not in session is the most effective way to begin or strengthen your relationships. Earlier this summer, we sent all legislators copies of [WASA's 2022 Legislative Platform](#). We encourage you to use the Platform to join with your colleagues across the state to advocate with one voice on critical education funding and policy issues this fall and into the coming Legislative Session.

Take this opportunity before the Legislature reconvenes to meet with your legislators for coffee—or dial them up on Zoom, if necessary. Also, think about inviting legislators to a meeting of your Board or give them a tour of your schools. Explain to them what obstacles you continue to face; many of them do not understand your frustrations. It is incumbent upon YOU to help legislators to understand the complexities of public education and your needs.



CELEBRATING WASA AT 50!

Did you know?

WASA was originally housed in a motel room next to the WSSDA office. At that time the staffing included one executive and a half-time clerical person.

RESOURCES

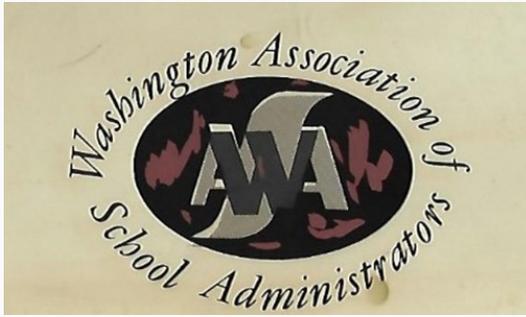
WASA has developed a storehouse of resources related to the pandemic and equity. The following have been recently uploaded to our website:

COVID and Pandemic Resources

- [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#) (CDC)
- [Face Masks and Kids: Separating Fact From Fiction](#) (Education Week)

Equity

- [Leading Conversations:](#)
 - [Talking About Racial Equity in Education](#) (Frameworks Institute)
- [Other Resources](#)



WASA's first logo was adopted in 1967.

- **WASA Equity Initiative: Leading Deep for Equity** (Registration Link)
- **Amid Growing CRT Legislation, Textbook Content Could be Next** (NBC News)
- **Stories of Culturally Responsive Education** (CRE Hub)

Other

- **3 Ways Educators are Addressing the 20th Anniversary of 9/11 in Curriculum** (K–12 Dive)
- **Why School Boards Are Now Hot Spots for Nasty Politics** (Education Week)



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT!

This month's Sponsor Spotlight features WASA's Diamond-level sponsor—College Board. We are grateful for their unwavering support of our members and programs! Click their link to learn more about them.



The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. It also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators, and schools.

Contact:
[Roxane Pirayesh](mailto:Roxane.Pirayesh@collegeboard.org)

www.collegeboard.org

AASA CORNER

- **2022 Superintendent of the Year:** Nominations are being accepted to select Washington's Superintendent of the Year. Those making nominations are strongly encouraged to reach out to their candidate to make them aware of the nomination. Candidates must complete an online application on the [AASA website](#) by October 1, 2021. For further information or questions, [contact Shari Parsons](#).
- **AASA National Conference on Education** | February 17–19, 2022
- **AASA Educational Administrator Scholarships** | Deadline: September 30, 2021
- **AASA Women in School Leadership Award** | Deadline: October 8, 2021
- **Dr. Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award** | Deadline: October 22, 2021

50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

WASA



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WS + RMP WASHINGTON SCHOOLS RISK MANAGEMENT POOL

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