

# WASA NEWS

February 2020

Edition 1

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Legislative Conference and Day on the Hill**  
February 9–10, South Puget Sound Community College and Capitol Campus.  
[Click](#) to register.
- **WASA Spring Conference for Small Schools Leaders**  
March 9–10, Wenatchee Conference Center.  
[Click](#) to register.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The WASA [Communications Toolkit](#) includes resources and a calendar of communication opportunities for the winter months. The Toolkit provides ideas to support PROACTIVE communications efforts to set the stage for budget development and bargaining.

## QUICK LINKS

- [PEMCO Robert J. Handy Awards Nomination/Application](#)
- [Sexual Health Education Workgroup Recommendations](#) (PDF)
- [UPDATE: The State of Native Education](#) (PDF)

Dear Colleagues,

During my first year as Executive Director, one of my most enjoyable experiences was attending the year-end region awards events last spring. In addition to recognizing WASA members, these events also highlighted contributions of the community. *The Community Leadership Award* recognizes community members or groups for their outstanding contributions toward education. I found those stories to be truly inspiring.

Information concerning the WASA Honorary Awards program, including the *Community Leadership Award*, can be found on the WASA [website](#). Each region has a committee chair who serves as the point of contact for region awards: Sue Shields (101), Henry Strom and Robin Granger (105), Liz Ritz (108), Daniel Lee (109), Janine Thorn (110), Chad Honig (111), Dana Anderson (113), Susan Lathrop (114), Rachel Gwinn (123), John Boyd (171), and Mike Nerland (112) who also serves as the State Chair of our Honorary Awards Committee.

In the coming month, region chairs will be promoting the WASA Honorary Awards program and encouraging broad participation. Information will also be included in this month's edition of the WASA *Hotline*. I hope you will consider this opportunity to recognize the excellent work occurring in your school district, including the incredible support coming from your community. The year-end event is a quick and easy way to publicly recognize your community and express your appreciation for their support of the children and young people attending your schools. I hope you'll consider this opportunity!

Yours respectfully,

## COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS

**[OSPI Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee:](#)** The Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee was created by OSPI as mandated by the 2019 Legislature in [SB 5023](#). The Committee is charged with identifying and making available ethnic studies materials and resources for use in grades seven through twelve. Vicki Bates, Auburn, and Linda McKay, NCESD 171, are representing WASA on this workgroup.

**[OSPI School Safety and Student Well-Being Advisory Committee:](#)** In the 2019 session, under HB 1216, the legislature directed the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish a School Safety and Student Well-Being Advisory Committee (SS-SWAC). Greg Lynch, ESD 114 Superintendent representing WASA and AESD on this workgroup, has provided a [summary](#) of the December 5 meeting.

**[OSPI Bilingual Education Advisory Committee:](#)** The Bilingual Education Advisory Committee (BEAC) supports bilingual education and its related services through the Transitional Bilingual Instruction Program ([RCW 28A.180](#)) to help educators and families meet the unique needs of students whose primary language is other than English. Michelle Whitney, Pasco, is serving on the committee.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

In the first several weeks of the 2020 Legislative Session, many education issues have been highlighted, but many of our most important priorities do not appear to be gaining the necessary momentum to advance this year. Regardless, we continue to press for those priorities in an effort to keep K–12 on legislators’ radar screens. Because of pre-session and continuing communications from school administrators, important conversations about key education issues continue. Some of those issues include: Special Education funding; adjustments to the School Employees’ Benefits Board insurance program; and local levy and levy equalization reforms. While legislation impacting those issues face uphill battles this year, the conversations provide us with a launchpad for the next session.

A key priority this session for WASA and most of the other education associations is the enhancement of staff allocations as a part of the Prototypical School Funding Model. Conversations on this issue are just getting underway with the introduction of [SB 6615/HB 2897](#). Requested by OSPI, the legislation would implement recommendations from the [Staffing Enrichment Workgroup](#), phasing in enhanced staff allocations. The initial focus would be on meeting students’ needs for safety as well as mental, social, emotional, and behavioral health. Additionally, the bill would establish a phase-in schedule for additional professional development for all staff culminating in ten days by the 2025–26 school year. Full implementation of the Workgroup recommendations will be extremely expensive; however, even with the State’s current fiscal circumstances in a short session, we will strongly advocate for the Legislature to provide some kind of “down payment” this year.

## 2020 CENSUS

The 2020 Census count matters for schools, students, and children. The census is a driver for federal funds that pay for programming and services such as Special Education, Head Start, and After-School Programs. Funding for meals, including free and reduced-price lunches, as well as maternal and child health programs, are also impacted by the census count. For more information, including how schools can get involved to help promote the importance of the 2020 Census, visit [Why 2020 Matters for Schools](#).

## WASA/AESD ASPIRING SUPERINTENDENT ACADEMY

This spring, WASA and the ESD network will launch a professional learning initiative designed for those experienced district, building, and/or teacher leaders who aspire to the superintendency. The Academy will cover topics essential to developing a deep understanding of the role of a successful superintendent. Look for details in the upcoming months.

## CERTIFICATION

There are nearly 200,000 certified educators in Washington state including classroom teachers, principals, paraeducators, school counselors, and superintendents. Most certifications must be renewed every five years. Important information about the certification and renewal processes, requirements for continuing education, emergency certifications, how military veterans and educators from out of state can teach in Washington, and more can be found on the [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction](#) website.

## 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.
- **AASA Northwest Reception:** February 14, 2020, Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina, Torrey Pines Room, 5–7 p.m.
- **Early Childhood Learning Summit:** March 25, 2020, College of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada. *Thriving Children Thriving Communities*, cost \$275 per person, lunch included. [Click](#) to register.