

WASA NEWS

September 2020—Edition 1



UPCOMING EVENTS

▪ WASA/OSPI Special Education Conference

Five Sessions—Zoom, Session 2, September 17, 8:30–11 a.m. Click [here](#) to register.

▪ WASA Fall Conference

Keynote: George Couros
Zoom, October 6, 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Click [here](#) to register.

▪ WASA Professional Learning Opportunities

To view the full calendar of WASA Professional Learning planned for the coming year, click [here](#).

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

Nominations are being accepted for the 2021 Washington State Superintendent of the Year. Those submitting nominations are strongly encouraged to reach out to their candidate to make them aware of the nomination. Candidates must submit a completed online application to the [AASA website](#) by October 1, 2020. For further information contact [Shari Parsons](#).

“Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm.” –Publius Syrus

WASA Colleagues,

Through spring, summer, and now into the fall, the sea has been anything but calm. The challenges for school district leaders are unprecedented in complexity and difficulty. The variables which fall outside your sphere of control are many. And yet through all of this, you have provided vision and leadership that has brought staff together to plan and execute the launch of a new school year.

I suspect the start of school will not be perfect in your district. There will be bumps and bruises along the way as you implement a newly invented instructional delivery model. But your programming and the model for delivering it will be significantly improved over last spring. Many in the community will give you some grace as your schools deliver on a new and different educational experience for the students. Others may not.

Through it all, you will continue to provide the leadership needed to open the new school year, smooth out the bumps, and settle into a new and different routine. I have no doubt you are up to it. Detractors will criticize, as they always have. But don't forget, they couldn't do your job on their best day. Listen to them, respect them, and work to be responsive to their needs. But don't for one moment, let them define who you are as a leader.

Keep bringing bounded optimism to your work and to those you are charged to lead. Bounded optimism is confidence combined with realism. The work you are leading is enormously challenging—be honest about that. At the same time, continue to express an unwavering belief in the future—together, we will somehow find a way. I believe this stance will help sustain the juice you need to do the job while sustaining staff engagement and morale in the weeks and months ahead.

“Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm.” Friends, this is your calling. You can do this!

Respectfully,

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY REQUIREMENTS

Legislation adopted in 2017 (EHB 2242) provided for a phase-in of Professional Learning Days. State funding was provided for: one Professional Learning Day in the 2018–19 school year, two Professional Learning Days in the 2019–20 school year, and three Professional Learning Days in the 2020–21 school year.

In 2019, legislation was adopted (2SSB 5903) requiring school districts to use one of their Professional Learning Days, beginning in the 2020–21 school year, and every year thereafter, to train district staff in one or more of the following topics: social-emotional learning, trauma-informed practices, recognition and response to emotional or behavioral distress, consideration of adverse childhood experiences, mental health literacy, antibullying strategies, and culturally sustaining practices.

Additional Professional Learning Day requirements were adopted by the Legislature in 2020. Proviso language adopted in the 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget (ESSB 6168) requires school districts in the 2020–21 school year to use one of their Professional Learning Days to train staff on racial literacy, cultural responsiveness, and stereotype threat for purposes of closing persistent opportunity gaps.

REACH OUT TO LEGISLATORS TODAY!

Connecting with lawmakers when the Legislature is not in session is an effective way to build and strengthen your relationships with them. In the past month, we have sent legislators copies of the [WASA 2021 Legislative Platform](#) and [The School Funding Coalition](#) legislative priorities. In reviewing both platforms, you will notice The School Funding Coalition priorities are in strong alignment with WASA's Legislative Platform for the upcoming session. This will assist WASA members and our education partners to advocate with one voice on education funding issues this fall and into the coming Legislative Session. To support your advocacy efforts, the Coalition is also creating "talking points" to accompany the priorities, which will be available soon.

With massive revenue deficits on the horizon, it will be critically important for WASA members to be actively involved in legislative advocacy efforts in the coming months as we fight to protect school funding. You are encouraged to remind legislators that amidst a pandemic that has threatened the health, safety, and learning of school-age students across the entire state, our students need support and resources now more than ever.

TPEP EVALUATION GUIDANCE FOR 2020–21

With the assistance of the TPEP Steering Committee, OSPI has developed guidance for teacher and principal evaluations for the 2020–21 school year. The Bulletin, as well as any updates, may be accessed [here](#). Further information on choosing a single student growth goal for educators on a modified comprehensive evaluation will be forthcoming. Changes to accommodate a modified comprehensive evaluation in the eVAL system are being made.

The [Framework for Remote Teaching](#) was just released by the Danielson Group. It provides a thoughtful, practical, culturally responsive approach to developing virtual learning, and addresses both synchronous and asynchronous instruction. The document is a tool for support (not evaluation). While based on the Danielson *Framework for Teaching*, districts using the CEL 5D+ and Marzano instructional frameworks will also find it to be helpful.

IN MEMORIAM

Our sincerest condolences to the families of

Joanne Kirkley, wife of Merle Kirkley
Jerry Simon, Retired Ephrata Superintendent

Please contact our office to share news of the passing of a WASA colleague or friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with both of these families at this time.

2019–20 HONORARY AWARDS

Region and State Award nominations for last year will open on September 7. All regions will be taking part in State Award nominations; however, some regions are opting to skip the Regional awards process and participate next spring when the normal awards schedule resumes. Click [here](#) to find specific information.

QUICK LINKS

- [Graduation Requirements Rules Webinar](#)
- [Respond to the Census](#)
- [Immunization Changes](#)
- [Training Materials for Paraeducator Certificate Program](#)

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- **Racial Justice:** For information and resources, click the [link](#) on the WASA website. The following resources were recently uploaded:
 - [6 Ways District Leaders Can Build Racial Equity](#) (Education Week)
 - [Types and Impacts of Race-Related Training](#) (Hanover Research)
 - [Equity Data Review Protocol Toolkit](#) (Hanover Research)
 - [Racism in America: Explore Films and New Specials](#) (PBS)
- **Other:** For information and resources, click the [link](#) on the WASA website. The following resources from our friends at Hanover were recently uploaded:
 - [Addressing Students' Academic, Social, and Emotional Needs Toolkit](#) (Hanover Research)
 - [Using Assessments to Support Instructional Decision Making](#) (Hanover Research)
 - [Research Brief: Matching Interventions to Student Learning Stages](#) (Hanover Research)
 - [Best Practices in Online Reading and Math Instruction](#) (Hanover Research)
 - [Action Guide: Characteristics of High-Performing Schools](#) (Hanover Research)

AASA CORNER

- [AASA Professional Liability Plan and Legal Support Coverage](#)
- [AASA Resources on COVID-19](#)
- [AASA Issues Statement on Passing on the Passing of Civil Rights Icon John Lewis](#)