Colleagues,

During the past four weeks, we have received countless emails and phone calls from WASA members looking for guidance as they manage and lead during these uncertain times. It has been our pleasure to support your work during these extraordinary times and observe your remarkable efforts.

Superintendents and school district leaders have worked tirelessly in leading the transition from normal school operations to a statewide closure of school facilities. Nutrition services and day care programs have been built and launched in a successful fashion. School districts are working with seniors to ensure they are on track for graduation.

The work continues with an increased focus on the provision of continuous learning opportunities within a new and different context. Amidst the full sprint to provide these learning opportunities for students, don’t lose sight of what matters most to students and families. As you are figuring out the answer to the big question, “What does teaching and learning look like in this new environment?”, keep encouraging teachers and school staff to maintain and nurture relationships with students and their families.

While the delivery of continuous learning should be a priority, I wonder if students and their families are, as much as anything, missing the relationships they had with teachers and school staff prior to the closure. In the future, when looking back on *The Year of COVID–19*, I suspect the most lasting memories will be much about what schools did to reach out and sustain the personal relationships, supports, and responsiveness that is the bedrock upon which we have always worked with children, young people, and families.

Many principals, teachers, and school staff are already on top of this, taking time to connect with students and families in a very personal way to maintain the relationships we know are key to mental health, wellness, and learning. I believe this outreach will also contribute to the health and wellness of your staff during these challenging times. Working to put the full force of your school systems behind this notion will serve students well and keep educators in good standing with the community.

Stay healthy, and keep leading with integrity, purpose, and passion.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

The following events have been canceled:

- **Women in Leadership**
  - April 25
- **Superintendent Conference**
  - April 26–28
- **WASA/WASA/AWSP Equity Conference**
  - May 20

**WASA/AESD ASPIRING SUPERINTENDENT**

WASA and the ESD network are still planning to launch a professional learning initiative designed for those experienced districts, building, and/or teacher leaders who aspire to the superintendency this spring. The Academy will cover topics essential to developing a deep understanding of the role of a successful superintendent. Please watch for announcements from WASA and the ESDs.

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**COVID–19 RESOURCES**

Recently, the following resources have been uploaded:

**Hanover Research Resources**

Hanover Research has been working to develop resources that would support the work of school districts in their efforts to deliver online learning:

- Planning and Delivering Online Instruction for K–12 Students
- Infobrief—Virtual Instruction and Personalized Learning
- Infobrief—Self-Regulation

**Tracking Public Perceptions**

The Center for Educational Effectiveness (CEE) is offering school districts access to information to gauge community sentiments and inform your planning. Check out the links to the survey, as well as feedback from your particular community.

**Resources: WASA Members only**

**Sample MOUs**

A variety of MOUs from a variety of districts have been collected for your reference. You are strongly encouraged to consult with legal counsel prior to finalizing any MOU.

**Zoom Meeting Recording**

A recording of a meeting during which attorneys offered their perspective on matters related to expectations for employees, MOUs, and bargaining has been downloaded to the website.
**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The Legislature adjourned its 2020 Supplemental Legislative Session on Thursday, March 12. The 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget was adopted on the last day of the session and provides increased appropriations of $961 million above the underlying, 2019–21 budget adopted last session. $839 million of the total increase are Policy Level (new or expanded programs) decisions, of which approximately $185 million is provided to K–12 education. Although a modest K–12 increase, the funding is greater than first anticipated. At first blush, this appears positive; however, a further review reveals a disappointing outcome. Including a reduction in Maintenance Level funding, funding transfers, and budget reductions, results in a net reduction in K–12 funding. Further budget details and a brief review of the close of the session is available in the Sine Die Edition (March 13) of This Week in Olympia. A quick overview is also available in the Sine Die Update (March 16) of WASA’s Legislative Podcast.

As school leaders deal with COVID–19 and resultant school closures, legislative issues may be the last thing on your mind; however, in the short-term, you should at least be aware of three adopted COVID–19 bills that impact K–12 education (all three have been signed by Governor Inslee and include an emergency clause, making them effective immediately):

- **SB 6189**—amendments clarify that following the COVID–19 emergency declaration, education employees retain SEBB eligibility for the remainder of the school year even if: (1) there are school closures; (2) the employee is quarantined or required to care for a family member; or (3) the employee must care for a child during a school/daycare/child care closure.

- **HB 2965**—amendments allow the State Board of Education to establish an emergency waiver program to grant school districts flexibility from graduation requirements due to COVID–19, and adopt rules to waive provisions for private schools due to the COVID–19.

- **HB 2739**—amendments allow the use of shared leave for school employees who are isolated or quarantined, or who have relatives or household members who are isolated or quarantined, as a result of suspected or confirmed COVID–19 infection or exposure, regardless of whether other standards for use of shared leave are met.

WASA staff is currently working on our annual End of Session Report, which will include full details of the 2020 Supplemental Operating Budget and the 2020 Supplemental Capital Budget, along with a comprehensive review of the many education-related bills the Legislature addressed this session. It will be emailed to all TWIO subscribers (and available on the WASA website) as soon as it is completed.

**NEW GUIDANCE FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS**

The Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) is providing additional guidance for preparation programs and educator candidates.

PESB has created a page on its website, housing all prior news releases, guidance, emergency rulemaking, and resources concerning the Coronavirus outbreak. Click for further information.

**EMERGENCY WAIVER PROGRAM FOR GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The State Board of Education is reviewing a process for creating an emergency waiver program that would provide districts additional flexibility to waive certain state requirements for graduation. The Board is set to adopt rules during a meeting on April 8. WASA members are encouraged to monitor this process, as the waiver program will have significant impact on your work with graduating seniors.

**QUICK LINKS**

- **WASA Honorary Awards**
- **Piper Sandler Doyle Winter Scholarship**