



WASA NEWS

October 2019
Edition 1

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

- **WASA Fall Conference:**
October 8, Four Points by
Sheraton Seattle Airport
South. [Click](#) to register.
- **WASA Mentor Academy
Session One:** October 14,
Crowne Plaza, SeaTac.
- **WASA Early Career
Superintendent Academy
Session One:** October 15,
Crowne Plaza, SeaTac.
- **WASA Special Education
Academy Cohort I:**
October 16, Crowne Plaza,
SeaTac.
- **WASA Superintendents
Component Meeting:**
November 23, 7:30–9
a.m., Hyatt Regency
Bellevue, Regency A–D.

[Click](#) to view the 2019–20
WASA Event Calendar.

QUICK LINKS

- [OSPI Middle School
Substance Abuse Grant](#)

Colleagues,

The school year is now in full swing, as students and staff have settled into a productive routine of teaching and learning. During the past month, Andy, Dan, Helene, and I had opportunity to visit each of the regions. Amidst the challenges confronting school leaders, we heard a strong and consistent tone of positivity as you reflected with one another upon the start of the school year.

The WASA Fall Conference on October 8, *“Promoting Positive Student Engagement: Moving Beyond the Law,”* will focus on the implementation of new requirements related to student behavior and discipline. The conference, for individuals or district teams, promises to provide support, insight, and resources for school districts engaging in this important work.

We hope to see you on October 8.



COMMUNICATION REMINDER

Budget and Bargaining Communications: The transformation of the State’s system for school funding has created enormous challenges for school districts, and widespread confusion among staff and community. These changes have also produced severe difficulties at the bargaining table.

The inherent complexity of school funding, coupled with a total makeover of our State’s funding structure, suggest the need for increased communication. It may no longer be enough to talk about the district’s finances a few times a year in board meetings. In fact, a more comprehensive year-round approach to educate community and staff might be in order.

WASA has developed a **Communications Toolkit** that promotes such an approach. The Toolkit includes a **Calendar of Opportunities and Prompts** that might be useful in organizing your communications plan. To locate both the **Communications Toolkit** and the **Calendar of Opportunities and Prompts**, go to the [WASA homepage](#) under “Resources/Budget and Bargaining Resources—WASA Members Only.” A password is required to access the information. Check out the list of suggestions for the beginning months of the school year.

SUPERINTENDENTS COMPONENT MEETING

Superintendents Component Chair Deb Clemens is inviting superintendents to attend the Superintendents Component meeting arranged in conjunction with the WSSDA Annual Conference in Bellevue. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 23, from 7:30–9 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency in Bellevue. This year's meeting agenda will include the announcement of the 2020 Washington State Superintendent of the Year, as well as topics of interest and priority that are emerging this fall.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

In preparation for the next legislative session, the WASA Board has adopted a preliminary draft of [WASA's 2020 Legislative Platform](#). The Platform includes four "planks" or areas of priority: updating staff allocation formulas (via the Prototypical School Funding Model); defining teacher duties and expectations; providing consistent, equitable, and ample education resources (by revising *McCleary* legislation regarding special education funding, the salary "experience factor," SEBB provisions, and regionalization); and supporting school facilities. The Board is slated to take final action on the Platform at its October 7 meeting.

Don't wait until January to re-engage with legislators. Take advantage of the next four months to build and make stronger your rapport and connection with them. Reach out with an invitation for coffee, to hear their perspective on the 2019 Session, and what they foresee in 2020. Consider extending invitations to the opening of a new school, a board meeting, or a special event. Invite them to visit your school district this fall.

AASA CORNER

- **2020 School Superintendents Salary and Benefits Survey:** Data gathered from this survey serves as a reliable and comprehensive data source on the working conditions of school system leaders in the nation. [Click](#) to participate in the survey. Deadline to submit the 2020 School Superintendent Survey to AASA is November 11, 2019.
- **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.
- **2020 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards:** AASA is proud to support the *2020 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards*, a youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteer community service. Applications are due November 5, 2019. [Click](#) for information.
- **AASA National Conference:** February 13–15, 2020, San Diego, California. [Click](#) to register.

COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS

[OSPI Staffing Enrichment Workgroup:](#) Legislation passed in 2018 directs OSPI to convene a workgroup to review the staffing enrichments to the program of basic education detailed in [EHB 2242](#). Final recommendations from the workgroup are due to the Legislature by December 1, 2019. Tammy Campbell (Federal Way), Wade Smith (Walla Walla), Marcus Morgan (Reardan-Edwall), and Jennifer Priddy (Olympia), represent WASA on this workgroup.

[OSPI Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee:](#) The committee was convened in September. Vicki Bates, Auburn, and Linda McKay, NCESD 171, are representing WASA on this workgroup.

[OSPI School Safety and Student Well-Being Advisory Committee:](#) The committee is scheduled to convene four times this year, beginning in September. The committee will provide a culminating report to the Legislature by November 2020. Superintendent Greg Lynch, Olympic ESD 114, represents WASA on this committee.

OSPI Dual Credit Funding Proviso Workgroup convened to make recommendations on how Washington can make dual credit enrollment cost-free to students who are enrolled in running start, college in the high school, advanced placement, international baccalaureate, or other qualifying dual credit programs ([ESHB 1109](#)). WASA will be represented by Shawn Batstone, Tumwater.