United for Safety

Saturday, February 2, 2019

Questions? Contact Stacy Noah at snoah@washingtonea.org.

Course Descriptions

Note: Participants may select either one 3.5 hour course or two 1.75 hour courses. Clock hours are not available.

3.5 Hour Courses

Building Local Power to Organize for Safer Schools (3.5 hrs)
Perfect your ability to connect with colleagues about Union membership to maintain and grow your Local Association. Become informed and empowered to speak with members about the benefits of our Union, including the ability to take collective action to improve our working conditions and students' learning conditions.

Engaging Our Allies Around School Safety (3.5 hrs)
Do you struggle with how to talk about the complex and sometime uncomfortable safety issues we are dealing with in our schools without freaking people out? Take time to delve into strategies to build awareness around school safety issues and engage allies to support our students and ourselves – talk with National TOY Mandy Manning and others as they share personal stories to help people understand the kind of support needed in our schools.

Tools for Success: Managing Vicarious Trauma Working in Today's Education Setting (3.5 hrs)
This course addresses how staff can manage their own reactions to working with kids who have been exposed to traumatic events. It also covers the basics of ACEs, brain biology, why behavior happens and how to care for ourselves as caring adults working with children.

Using Bargaining and Advocacy to Create Safer Schools (3.5 hrs)
This course will help local associations bargain and enforce contract language that makes classrooms and schools safer for students, teachers, and classified staff. Please bring a copy of your current CBA.

Understanding Bullying and Sexual Harassment (3.5 hrs)
An interactive workshop explores four interrelated topics (bullying, sexual harassment, cyber bullying, and sexting), this session examines the relevance of federal and state laws and policies, and shares key resources and prevention strategies.

1.75 Hour Courses

Designing Schoolwide Behavior Programs (1.75 hrs)
Best practices in designing schoolwide behavior plans: A panel discussion with practicing educators who have been working on implementing school behavior programs like PBIS. Discussion will include best practice in designing school behavior plans, steps to take and questions to ask regarding implementation.

Engaging Families in Developing School Discipline Policies (1.75 hrs)
Explore the entry points for the Association to be a leader in developing culturally responsive school discipline policies. Discuss how to ensure authentic engagement of students, family and community.

Increasing Membership and Student Safety Through Bargaining (1.75 hrs)
This class will assist local associations and bargaining teams as they strategize how to increase services that better support our members' work with students, while increasing student safety (physical, academic, mental-health). We will increase members' understanding of how to leverage the need for increased ESA staffing and other support services in order to bargain and advocate for new positions, and potential incorporation of non-represented positions into current bargaining units.

Increasing Student Voice in School Communities (1.75 hrs)
In this workshop, participants will learn about different school and district initiatives used to increase student voice and participation in the development of their community. After a brief overview of research dedicated to this topic, participants will discuss the current status of student voice in their own school community and collaborate with others to plan how to increase student voice, including ways to connect to the larger community (family members, PTA, other schools), commit to next steps, and write an action plan.

Safety Challenges and Diversity in Schools/Places of Work (1.75 hrs)
This course will provide relevant information on the challenges and safety issues/concerns affecting students and workplace employees. We will also discuss some criminal justice issues that might play a vital role in disrupting the learning process amongst K-12 students in a diverse society.

Strengthening School Employee Safety Language (1.75 hrs)
This class will explore contract language surrounding employee protections. Topics include: indoor air quality, threatening/abusive parents, injury on the job, safe working environment, loss and damage of personal property, threat and/or assault on an employee, potentially dangerous students and patrons, classroom visitation, student health needs, debriefing a crisis, and building access.

Student and Community Focus Group Findings: Culture, Climate, Classroom Management and Safety (1.75 hrs)
Over the past 3 years, hundreds of students and community members from across Washington State have shared their experiences and insights about school interrelationships between culture, climate, classroom management, and safety within our schools. Come hear about what's been learned during this study and how it can benefit students in the classroom as well as the larger education community.

Student Discipline: What is an educator to do? (1.75 hrs)
This session will focus on strategies for bargaining new and improved language that will implement the new state student discipline regulations. We will focus on the key elements found in the regulations starting with when it can be used, who is responsible for notification, and how the collective bargaining agreement can be used to create clear roles and responsibilities to support educators when working with student discipline.

Student Panel: The Reality of Racism in Public Schools – What is happening and what can be done? (1.75 hrs)
Student leaders from the NAACP Youth Coalition will lead you through a thought-provoking conversation about the experiences of youth in our public schools. They will share their experiences as youth from different backgrounds and different experiences who have been impacted by and then fighting against systemic oppression. Through their insights and questions, you will leave with new perspectives that will shape the way you engage with youth after the conference.

Supporting Students' Social and Emotional Learning – Why are you doing that? (1.75 hrs)
The thinking strategies and tools shared in this session will help school staff working with students who are struggling with social or emotional challenges. If you work with students whose reactions don't seem to match the size of the problem, whose thinking is rigid and inflexible, or who engage in negative self-talk, this is the session for you!

Taking Action at the State and National Level: School Safety Issues (1.75 hrs)
Learn what is happening in our state, and nationally, around school safety issues and how we meet students' mental health, social, emotional and safety needs. This breakout session will feature legislators and other guest speakers.

Talk Saves Lives (1.75 hrs)
A community-based presentation that covers the general scope of suicide, the research on prevention, and what people can do to fight suicide. Attendees learn the risk and warning signs of suicide, and how together, we can help prevent it.

Taking a Stand: Creating a Safe School for LGBTQ Students (1.75 hrs)
This introductory workshop uses video clips and hands on activities to examine the obvious and subtle ways bias plays out in schools and offers resources for creating schools that are safe for all students, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity. Designed for all school employees.