



# Update - Stay Connected

February 3, 2021

## Negotiated Agreements Impact You: Leap Wednesdays

To ensure that our members had time to meet the demands of the 20-21 school year, we agreed to specific changes to the LEAP calendar. In July we signed the [LEAP Staff Training and Calendar Changes LOU](#). Part of our agreement deducted 3 LEAP Wednesdays from the LEAP Wednesday calendar.

On these LEAP Wednesdays, the teacher workday ends 90 minutes before the staff end time.

- Team Collaboration: February 10
- Professional Learning: February 24
- Individual Teacher Work: Teachers can select any ITW, including the last day of school, June 16.

There will be no scheduled staff meetings on these days, nor should there be an expectation that teachers work during these LEAP times since teachers already worked these hours between August 10 and October 1.



Educators all want to be in school buildings supporting our students and our students need us now more than ever, but whether we're currently in-person or looking to transition back, we need it to be as safe as possible. The COVID vaccination is a key layer of safety which, along with the L&I requirements and the Department of Health guidelines, can help keep our students, staff, and communities safer.

Rep. MacEwen has introduced a bill, [HB 1420](#), that would give educators immediate access to vaccination. Join us in [emailing committee chair Rep. Eileen Cody and the members of the Health Care and Education committees](#) calling on them to schedule a hearing for HB 1420.

[Take action here](#). Don't forget to share with a few friends!

**ACT NOW**

# Celebrate



We are embarking on another Black History Month but hopefully as a nation changed. This change has been brought about largely by the efforts of the Black Lives Matter movement. As a union we proudly proclaim Black Lives Matter and have committed to working to create policies that live up to that statement. Here are ways members can engage Black History Month and live out their individual commitment to Black Lives Mattering: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/30/at-home/honor-black-history-month.html>

Kick off a month long recognition of Black History by participating in the national Black Lives Matter at School Week. Make our community a more racially just and equitable space while teaching students about the demands of Black Lives Matter. While we recognize this is a national movement for a Week of Action, we know celebrating black joy, leaning into tough conversations about race and unpacking our biases and privileges are responsibilities we bear all year long.

Join in a week of action: <https://www.blacklivesmatteratschool.com/>

**WEA's Inclusionary Practices Project** is continuing to add courses to support our members. As part of our partnership with NEA, we've just added more Zoom courses to provide PD in distance/hybrid learning. More courses will be added in the next few weeks. As a reminder, courses are free and include clock hours.

### **EdTech Pedagogy in Early Childhood (1.5 hours) Weds, Feb 10, 2021 4:00PM - 5:30PM**

Our youngest learners are navigating the world online and offline. How can we best accommodate the digital world, keeping our early childhood student's diverse and unique needs in mind? Using technology to provide learning, but knowing when offline options are best or better; a look at evaluating technology and developing online activities for our students with parent supports. **Register:** <https://forms.washingtonea.org/Forms/pdonline>

### **Seesaw Intermediate (1.5 hours) Weds, Feb 17, 2021 4:00PM - 5:30PM**

Take a deeper dive into the many features of Seesaw. Learn how to create your own custom Seesaw Activities. Also discover how Seesaw's built-in features like folders, skills, and blogs can help streamline the assessment and feedback processes, whether at home or in the classroom. This session is perfect for educators who have attended our beginning Seesaw session or have been using Seesaw and want to learn more. **Register:** <https://forms.washingtonea.org/Forms/pdonline>

## **WEA Fundamental Course of Study (FCS)**

WEA will be providing clock hour courses for FCS Paraeducation Certification. Our objective is to help WEA paraeducators complete 14 of the 28 required FCS hours for certification for free. Classes will be held on Saturdays for the remainder of the school year. Class size is limited so don't wait too long to sign up. Additional course details and registration links can be found on our website at

<https://www.washingtonea.org/we-are-wea/education-support-professionals/professional-development-for-esps/>

**LWEA Office is relocating. We will move into our Redmond location later this year.**

**425-822-3388**



### **Office Staff**

**Office Manager:** [Terri Neely](#)  
**Admin Assistant:** [Diana Wagner](#)  
**UniServ Rep:** [Laura-Lee Barron](#)

**LWEA Officers and  
Executive Committee**

**President:**

[Howard Mawhinney](#)  
LWEA Office / 425-822-  
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**Vice President:**

[Katie Badger](#)  
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**Primary Rep:**

[Patti Cook](#)  
Rush / 425-936-2690

**Intermediate Rep:**

[Mary Kay Weinmeister](#)  
Rockwell / 425-936-2670

**Middle School Rep:**

[Kyla Thompson](#)  
Finn Hill / 425-936-2340

**High School Rep:**

[Rachelle Horner](#)  
EHS / 425-936-1500

**Specialists Rep:**

[Marilyn Hargraves](#)  
LWHS / 425-936-1700

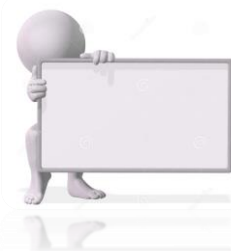
**Special Services Rep:**

[Cookie Grant-Suggs](#)  
Rush / 425-936-2690

**Ethnic Minority Rep:**

[Cathey Hettinger](#)  
Barton / 425-936-2480

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this is your union!**



## Nominate an Outstanding ESA First Annual WEA ESA of the Year Award

Do you know an outstanding WEA Education Staff Associate employee in your building or district?



School Psychologists, School  
Counselors, School Social Worker, School Nurse

Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists

Imagine your nominee as he or she is presented with the first ever annual WEA ESA of the Year Award in recognition for a job well-done. [Nominations are open](#) for the 2021 WEA Education Staff Associate of Year. Complete nomination packets are due no later than 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 15.

The WEA ESA of the Year winner will be announced in a surprise ceremony, followed by a formal recognition at the 2021 WEA Representative Assembly, which will be held virtually. There is no award like this offered by any other state affiliate of NEA.

Our ESA peers often go unrecognized in our public schools, and this is the chance to recognize their impact on students in Washington. [Follow this link](#) to complete the nomination form. If you have questions, please contact [Adrienne Brand](#).

RETIREMENT



### Pre-Retirement Seminar

**Taking charge of your future.**

**March 13, 2021**

**8:00 AM (Estimated 3-4hours)**

**Via: Zoom**

Members who plan on retiring in 2021 will be given priority. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

Direct questions and return [Pre-Retirement Seminar](#) form to [Diana Wagner](#).

## Marketplace

Ads are run in the Update on a first come, first served basis. All ads must include a home email and/or phone number. Send directly to [Terri Neely](#) in the LWEA office.

All ads are subject to the approval of the LWEA Executive Committee and may be edited for length.



**Feb 9**

Rep Assembly

**Feb 11-15**

Mid-Winter Break

**Feb 12**

Chinese New Year

**Feb 14**

Valentine's Day

**Feb 15**

Presidents Day

**Feb 16**

Competency Teams



## A Friend in Need



"Hello! My name is **Ashley Goodvin** and I'm a paraeducator at Twain Elem working towards getting my masters in special education. I hurt my knee pretty badly over the summer and I had to get 30% of my meniscus removed in December. I can't return to work until February 8th and my paid leave ran out on the 22nd, so any leave that can be donated would be greatly appreciated!"

Please consider donating **Shared Leave** by filling out a donation form and sending it to HR. Check with your office manager to obtain a form. Thank you.

## Supplies Needed

Brand new in-person 1st Grade teacher at Franklin Elementary is looking for donation of classroom books. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Contact Gia Parsons at [gjaparsons@hotmail.com](mailto:gjaparsons@hotmail.com) or 425.533.5181 to arrange pick-up. Thank you for this wonderful community!

## Public Record Request

The Department of Retirement Systems has received a public records request that The Seattle Times seeks information about all members of the state's retirement systems, including all retirees and inactive members, for the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. This is a recurring request, and DRS has provided to this requestor the same information from an earlier period. DRS has requested and received a [Declaration of Non-Commercial](#) Purpose pursuant to [RCW 42.56.070\(8\)](#).

DRS has reviewed the request and determined that the following information items are subject to disclosure under the state's [Public Records Act](#):

- Full Name
- City, State/Province, Country and ZIP/Postal Code
- Date of Birth
- Retirement System/Plan
- Date of Entry
- Service Credit
- Annual Salary
- Average Final Compensation
- Date of Retirement or Withdrawal
- Monthly Retirement Benefit
- Retirement Type
- Employee Transmittal Code and Description
- Employer Name, City, State and ZIP Code

The Department intends to provide the information items listed above to the requesting organization on March 19, 2021. If you are the subject of this public records request, no action is required of you. If you want additional information or have questions about the request, please contact DRS at 844-704-6780 or [drs.pdrnotice@drs.wa.gov](mailto:drs.pdrnotice@drs.wa.gov).

The Seattle Times makes this request to DRS annually. Everyone is receiving notice now because of the legislative changes that were made to the Public Records Act that specifies when notice must be given and to whom.