



Update - Stay Connected

January 13, 2022

THE SUCCESS OF THE 2022 LEVIES WILL IMPACT YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS

Why should you care about these levy measures? [Despite McCleary](#), there is still a gap between what the state funds and what our students need.

How will these levy measures impact our schools? [These levies](#) fund the PEOPLE, RESOURCES, and SQUARE FOOTAGE that our kids need to learn.

We need your support!

Voters trust and respect the voices of educators. They need to hear from you about the value and importance of the 2022 levy measures.

Here are 3 ways that you can support the 2022 Levies:

1. **Sign up for a shift of text banking, phone banking, or doorbelling.** Use this [LINK](#) to explore options and sign up.
2. **Put a levy sign in your yard or apartment window:** contact [Terri Neely](#) to arrange for pick up or delivery of a yard sign.
3. **Put a sign in your car window:** more information coming soon on car signs.

Prop 1 funds staffing and programming that directly impacts teaching and learning every day

How do these existing programs impact daily teaching and learning at your school?

- Staffing: music and arts, Special Education, counselors and mental health supports, Highly Capable, Preschool and Head Start, school nurses
- Programming: summer learning, programming for secondary course offerings

Prop 2 funds the technology, training, and building updates that are necessary to maintain our excellent schools

How do these resources impact your school, your classroom, and your students?

- student technology updates
- classroom technology updates
- technology training
- technology infrastructure updates
- safety improvements: updated HVAC and fire alarm systems, school traffic improvements, safer playgrounds and athletic facilities

Prop 3 funds the additional classroom space that we need to teach each student in our fast-growing district

How would additional classroom space impact your ability to meet the needs of every student?

- LESS portables
- MORE square footage in existing buildings
- NEW schools in overcrowded areas of the district

Covid Leave and Testing

Have questions about missing work for Covid-related reasons?

- Feeling ill? Stay home and get tested!
 - [Symptoms of Covid](#)
 - LWSD now has a dedicated staff testing location!
 - <https://book.curative.com/sites/33052/walkup> select “find an appointment”
 - Or [find a testing site in King County](#).
- Enter absences as soon as possible so that school admin can determine if they might have a staffing shortage.
- Review the 21-22 school year [Leave provisions for Covid-related absences](#). Members have access to 4 options to meet their needs:

Release time: CQR, educator working from home during a COVID event. Use Release time form 1235.

Release time: CQR, educator working from home during a COVID Childcare event. Use Release time form 1235.

COVID Leave time: educator not working from home; employee on leave due to COVID event. Use Employee Request for Leave form.

COVID Childcare leave time: educator not working from home; employee on leave due to COVID childcare event. Use Employee Request for Leave form.

- Get vaxxed and boosted! Employees have access to leave for vaccination, including booster shots. Information can be found on the [Covid-19 Vaccination Information](#) page of the portal.
- Read how the [Quarantine and isolation rules for K-12 schools](#) have changed. LWSD will communicate these changes with staff. They will be implemented starting on 1/18:
 - Isolation (covid+) for student and staff has been shortened, depending on symptoms.
 - Quarantine (close contact) has been expanded to include 18+ *without* boosters, and the duration has been shortened, depending on testing and symptoms.
- Members can send any questions or concerns about Covid-related leave to asklwea@washingtonea.org

Question for Payroll or Retirement?



In an effort to answer your questions in a timely and efficient manner, Payroll has requested that your questions be directed to the following:

- For Payroll questions email askpayroll@lwsd.org not DL-Payroll
- For Retirement questions email askretirement@lwsd.org not DL-Payroll

**LWEA Officers and
Executive Committee**

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RHS / 425-936-1800

Specialists Rep:

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Barton / 425-936-2480

Special Services Rep:

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

Ethnic Minority Rep:

[Cathey Hettinger](#)
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LWEA
WE are YOU
This is your union!



Holiday Bonus from WEA Select Plans!!

Over the holidays you may have received a check from the WEA. These checks were refunds based on the Rate Stabilization Fund (RSF), 501(c)(9) trust, administered by WEA prior to December 31, 2019 (prior to SEBB).

Several of the WEA Select Plans had Rate Stabilization Fund (RSF) trust accounts. While the WEA Select Plans were operating, the RSF accounts were used to stabilize premiums, usually through premium subsidies, and pay administrative expenses of the WEA Select program. Since the School Employees Benefits Board was implemented, WEA has been working on winding down the WEA Select Plans and with them, the associated RSF accounts

IRS regulations and guidance limit the options for winding down a 501(c)(9) trust account. Under these rules, any excess funds remaining once the purposes of the trust are met may be used to provide a **rebate (refund) to members/employees who were enrolled on the plan on the last day the plan existed**. It is not permitted to return contributions to the school districts or an employer. This is enforced by a 100% federal excise tax on any return of contributions to an employer or school district.

Disbursement of any funds remaining in the WEA Medical plans' RSFs will be delayed until late spring 2022.

Questions can be addressed to WEA.Select@aon.com

WA Cares Delayed But Premiums May Continue

The recent action to delay implementation of the WA Cares long-term care insurance program is creating confusion. While the state will not be collecting premiums from employers until at least April 2022, existing law requires employers to collect these funds from employees beginning Jan. 1, 2022. Districts and colleges can choose to collect those premiums or not. Until state lawmakers take action during the legislative session, what happens to those funds remains unclear. WEA will continue to update locals on changes to WA Cares.

NEA Member Benefits

Happy January and a quick note from Michelle at California Casualty. Throughout this insane time, we have actually lowered rates here in WA as of Dec 25th. This is something we are really proud of and would like to share with members. Please click [here](#) or on the orange and blue graphic below...Get a quote, save some money and we will send you a \$25 Amazon gift card to thank you for your time! Thank you for being amazing and caring for our kids!



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.



Jan. 17

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
No School

Jan. 18

Rep Assembly

Jan. 25

Competency Teams Mtg

Feb. 1

Exec Committee

Feb. 8

Rep Assembly

"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."



2022 WEA HCR Award Nominations

Do you know of anyone or a group of individuals making a difference in the world? If yes, nominate them for a WEA Human and Civil Rights Award. The WEA Human and Civil Rights Committee is accepting nominations for individuals or groups who are involved in exceptional work in the areas of community service, cultural awareness, international peace and understanding, and student involvement in Washington state. Anyone from the community can nominate a person or group for the awards.

[Nominations can be submitted online](#). All nominations are due by 4 p.m. Friday, March 4. Winners will be presented with a special Human and Civil Rights Award, a \$250 check and local and state recognition. Questions? Contact [Yvonne O'Neill](#).



SmartHealth has something for you in 2022!

SmartHealth is a voluntary wellness program that supports your whole person well-being (physical, emotional, work, and financial). With SmartHealth, there are activities for everyone, no matter where you are on your wellness journey. As you progress on your 2022 journey, you can earn points, achieve levels, and qualify for the SmartHealth wellness incentive.

[GET STARTED](#)

Personalized experience

You're unique, so your well-being experience should be too. Remember, when you finish your [well-being assessment](#), you'll get a personalized SmartHealth experience that focuses on your top strengths and opportunities for improvement. Completing the well-being assessment each year is required to qualify for the SmartHealth wellness incentive.

Coming soon

During the first few months of 2022, you may notice a few activities missing, such as activities in Top Picks for You and activities tied to your health plan benefits. We are working on a new look and experience in 2022, with more features and even more activities. Stay tuned!

Questions?

Contact support@limeade.com