



Update - Stay Connected

The 2022 Levies Will Directly Impact Your Students January 27, 2022

There is a gap between what the state provides for K-12 education and what students in LWSD need. This gap is illustrated by what the local levy dollars in Prop 2 provide for our students:

- **The state does not provide funding** for 1:1 student-to-device ratios, classroom technology like Smart Boards, technology infrastructure that supports how LWSD students use technology to learn, or technology training for educators.
- **Prop 2** is a renewal measure, meaning it **would maintain funding** that LWSD voters have approved in the past.

LWEA members know what a YES vote means:



The Replacement School Technology levy maintains funding for technology in our schools. Passing Prop 2 means that my students will be able to learn and train using technology that prepares them for a future rich in technology and that means they are Future ready! **Judy Harris, Stella Schola**



The Replacement School Technology levy maintains funding for technology in our schools. Voting YES on Prop 2 means that our sound system, which is 20 years old, would be replaced and our students could hear instruction clearly throughout the classrooms. Currently, many speakers throughout the building no longer work, making uneven sound in every classroom. The antiquated system creates static feedback in every classroom, making it distracting for student learning. Prop 2 would provide funding for technology infrastructure. **Melissa Reinardy, Audubon Elementary**

We need YOU to take action today

1

Put up a sign

- A sign in every car - **ask your building rep for a car sign**
- A sign in every yard - want a sign for your yard? **Email Terri**

2

Phone bank or doorbell

- **Use this link to SIGN UP** for a 2-3 hour shift of phone banking or door belling. Organize a group from your building.

3

Vote YES on Prop 1, 2, and 3

- If you live in the district, return your ballot before February 8!

4

Tell us...

- How will these measures impact you, your school, your students? Email **asklwea@washingtonea.org**

Returning From Leave for 2022-23

Secondary teachers returning from leave for 2022-2023

Secondary teachers who have been granted a leave of absence without pay and benefits for the current 2021-2022 school year will be returned for the 2022-2023 school year to the same building/program assigned to prior to the leave, provided such position is available and the leave did not exceed one full year.

Human Resources (HR) will notify secondary teachers on such leaves by USPS on January 13, 2022 that in accordance with a Letter of Understanding (LOU) between the Lake Washington Education Association and the District they are obligated to notify the District of their intention to return upon the expiration of their leave no later than January 28, 2022. Should a teacher fail to notify HR of his/her intention, the District will assume that teacher has resigned effective the last day of school of the 2021-2022 school year. The teacher's position will be deemed vacant and subject to fill or elimination based on staffing needs.

Secondary teachers must submit confirmation to HR on or before January 28, 2022 that they will proceed with one of the following:

- Return from leave for the 2022-2023 school year;
- Resign or retire their position; or
- Request an additional leave of absence for the 2022-2023 school year.

These requirements apply only to voluntary leaves of absence and do not apply to teachers on leave due to illness. Refer to the Collective Bargaining Agreement Section 19.11, Leave of Absence for more information.

Elementary teachers returning from leave for 2022-2023

Elementary teachers who have been granted a leave of absence without pay and benefits for the current 2021-2022 school year will be returned for the 2022-2023 school year to the same building/program assigned to prior to the leave, provided such position is available and the leave did not exceed one full year.

Human Resources (HR) will notify elementary teachers on such leaves by USPS on February 10, 2022 that they are obligated to notify the District of their intention to return upon the expiration of their leave no later than March 4, 2022. Should an elementary teacher fail to notify HR of his/her intention, the District will assume that teacher has resigned effective the last day of school of the 2021-2022 school year. The teacher's position will be deemed vacant and subject to fill or elimination based on staffing needs.

Elementary teachers must submit confirmation to HR on or before March 4, 2022 that they will proceed with one of the following:

- Return from leave for the 2022-2023 school year;
- Resign or retire their position; or
- Request an additional leave of absence for the 2022-2023 school year.

These requirements apply only to voluntary leaves of absence and do not apply to teachers on leave due to illness. Refer to LWSD/LWEA Collective Bargaining Agreement Section 19.11, Leave of Absence, for more information.

Win a virtual visit with an author in Read Across America Sweepstakes

For the first time, members have a chance to win a virtual visit with an author who wrote one of the books from NEA's Read Across America's 2021-22 calendar. One winner will get the opportunity to select an author for a day of reading and learning.

Enter the [2022 Read Across America Sweepstakes](#) **by 2 p.m. Monday, January 31.**

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LWEA
WE are YOU
This is your union!



WA CARES FUND FOR LONG TERM CARE (LTC)

A law establishing employee payroll deductions for state long term care went into effect on January 1, 2022. More information about the long term care plan can be found at [Washington Cares Fund](#).

As you may have heard in the news recently, the legislature is considering modifying and/or delaying the Washington Cares Fund. **However, employers are still required by law to collect the LTC premium until the legislature amends the law, which hasn't happened yet.** The Governor issued a [helpful clarification](#) which acknowledges that employers will continue to collect premiums until the Legislature passes a bill to amend the law.

While the legislature is making progress on amending the law, they will not be completed in time for the January payroll which is currently being processed. **As a result, Lake Washington School District will deduct the state LTC premium from employee's paychecks, as required, for the January payroll.** The deduction will be labeled WA CARES FUND on your January 31st check.

If the legislature delays the WA Cares fund and authorizes employers to refund the premiums, Lake Washington will stop collecting the premium and issue applicable refunds to employees as required in a future payroll.

If you have completed the following steps for an exemption, you will not see a deduction on your January paycheck:

1. Enrolled in an outside LTC plan before Nov. 1, 2021
2. Requested and received an approval letter from the Employment Security Department stating exemption from the state LTC premium collection
3. Submitted that letter to Payroll & Benefits at sfanning@lwsd.org by January 1, 2022.

If you have any questions regarding your January pay, please contact Payroll and Benefits at: askpayroll@lwsd.org.

If you have any questions or concerns about the [Washington Cares Fund](#), please contact your legislators.

STEM Certificate Renewal Requirement

Teachers with STEM related endorsements are required to complete 15 clock hours or the equivalent for certificate renewal. WEA is offering this professional learning as part of the Inclusionary Practices Project (IPP). Courses are available real time through Zoom, as well as asynchronously through Canvas.

Clock hours meeting the STEM certificate renewal requirement are now available from the WEA at no cost. **Find out more and register for STEM courses:** <https://www.washingtonea.org/pd/stem-certificate-renewal-requirement/>.

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.



Feb. 1

Chinese New Year

Feb. 2

Groundhog Day

Feb. 14

Valentine's Day

Feb. 15

Exec Committee

Feb. 17-21

Mid-Winter Break

Feb. 22

Rep Assembly



Educators of Color—update

Connecting Educators of Color, **Sharing** ideas/struggles and **Empowering** each other to make change.

Hello Fellow EoCs,
We are needing to **cancel our Winter gathering** (February 9th). We are sorry for the inconvenience.
Our next gathering will be on May, 25, 2022. Please look for our email in late April.

Lots of love to our members!

The EoC Planning Team
Email: LWEA-EOC@lwsd.org

We Say Goodbye to A Dear Friend and Colleague

Anne Herendeen, math teacher at Kirkland Middle School, passed away peacefully on Martin Luther King Jr. Day after a month-long battle with stomach, breast, and brain cancer. Anne student taught at Kirkland Junior High and served as a long-term substitute for the Shoreline School District for a year before finding her way back to Kirkland Junior High, and then Kirkland Middle School for fifteen years. Anne is loved by so many people, and they all remember her for her positivity, loyalty, and that beautiful smile that never left her face. She had a way of lightening the mood with her humor! She served as an LWEA rep for three years. Anne's grown children are products of Lake Washington School District. Her children and husband as well as a few of her ten siblings were by her side as Anne lost her battle. She may be gone, but she will never be forgotten.



A Friend in Need

Kristin Howard, **Safety Net teacher/Blackwell** is in need of shared leave as she continues to be out for an extended medical leave. She will be out of sick leave by mid-February. Any support through shared leave donations is greatly appreciated.

Please consider a [Shared Leave Donation](#) by filling out the donation form and sending it to HRLeaves@lwsd.org. Thank you.