



Update - Stay Connected

February 2, 2022

The 2022 levy measures will directly impact the staff, programs, and space at your school.

There is a gap between what the state provides for K-12 education and what students in LWSD need. **Each levy measure provides the funding to cover the gap.** For example, the EP&O levy (Prop 1) provides essential staff and programs for our students:

- **Federal and state laws (like IDEA) are often written *without* funding models.** The result is that schools must meet legal requirements but do not receive adequate funding. **Local levy dollars help fill the gap**, even for mandated programs, and provide students with essential programs that are not officially included in the definition of “basic education.”
- **Prop 1** is a renewal measure, meaning it **would maintain funding** that LWSD voters have approved in the past.



“The EP&O Levy maintains access, opportunities, and support for those that matter most, our students. The number of students in highly capable programs has grown significantly in the last few years, partially because our department has made the qualification process more equitable. This levy funds staff for these ever-growing classrooms and programs. It also maintains special education staffing for our twice exceptional students, ML support for our multilingual learners, and mental health support for students who need it. As a highly capable teacher, I support Prop 1.”

Beth Stanley, Quest Teacher, Thoreau Elementary

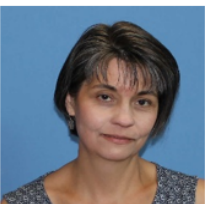
“Prop 1 (the EP&O levy) would maintain funding for existing programs and staff in our schools. Voting YES on Prop 1 means everything for my students:



- enough Special Education teachers with reasonable caseloads and CMT time in our day to ensure student needs are met,
- therapists who provide speech, visual, and movement services,
- paraeducators and aides who help my students learn and grow in different settings through the school day,
- specially designed devices that help my students meet their mobility and communication needs.

Without these supports, my students fall behind. Please vote YES on Prop 1 – for my students!”

Jackie Lowdermilk, Special Education Teacher, Sandburg Elementary



“Our students need academic intervention support more than ever. Please vote YES on Prop 1—the EP&O levy—to help ensure that Safety Net teachers can continue to provide crucial literacy support to students whose academic success depends upon it. We want to close achievement gaps and support every student’s success.”

Kelli Perry, Safety Net Teacher, Thoreau Elementary

There is still time for you to take action. See page 2

We need educators knocking on doors and calling voters to tell them that these local levy measures are essential for our students.

Let's reach 100!

Right now, 100 slots for door bellling or phone banking are scheduled between now and Monday, February 7. **Currently only 24 spots are filled. Help us get to 100 volunteers by signing up today.**

Use [THIS LINK](#) to sign up for doorbelling or phone banking today!

need 11	•Feb 2 (Phone bank): 9/20 slots filled	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Sign up as a group with friends or colleagues or come alone and meet new people!→ Training is included.→ Phone banking is done from the comfort of your home.→ LWEA hosts a post-canvassing happy hour for doorbellers on Saturday and Sunday.
need 14	•Feb 5 (Phone bank): 6/20 slots filled	
need 16	•Feb 5 (Doorbell): 4/20 slots filled	
need 18	•Feb 6 (Doorbell): 2/20 slots filled	
need 17	•Feb 7 (Phone bank): 3/20 slots filled	
Feb 8	• Election Day!	

Do You Qualify for Public Service Loan Forgiveness?



Don't Miss Out on this limited offer.

On Oct. 6, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) announced a change to Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program rules **for a limited time** as a result of the COVID-19 national emergency. Throughout the pandemic, ED has provided a variety of benefits to borrowers.

Now, for a limited period of time, borrowers may receive credit for past periods of repayment that would otherwise not qualify for PSLF.

The *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018* provided limited, additional conditions under which you may become eligible for loan forgiveness if some or all of the payments you made on your William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program loans were under a nonqualifying repayment plan for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF). **The U.S. Department of Education (ED) refers to this opportunity as Temporary Expanded Public Service Loan Forgiveness (TEPSLF).** To find out if you qualify and for more information go to:

<https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service/temporary-expanded-public-service-loan-forgiveness>

If you believe you qualify for the TEPSLF opportunity, complete the PSLF form as soon as possible. **This opportunity is temporary, has limited funding, and must be provided on a first come, first served basis. Once all of the funds are used, the TEPSLF opportunity will end.** See steps on page 3 for submitting application to HR.

LWEA Officers and Executive Committee

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LWEA
WE are YOU
This is your union!



When applying for TEPSSL, know that HR has been overwhelmed with requests. To guarantee a shorter turnaround time, follow the guidelines below. **Make sure everything is completed prior to sending to Sam Yuhan.**

- Please EMAIL a pdf as an attachment to Sam Yuhan at syuhan@lwsd.org
 - Only page 2 needs to be sent
- For Section 3:
 - 1. Lake Washington School District
 - 2. Federal Employer Identification Number can be found on Employee's W-2
 - 3. 16250 NE 74th St., Redmond WA 98052
 - 4. www.lwsd.org
 - 5. Employment begin date MUST include Month, Day, and Year. This can be found in Skyward.
 - 6. Employment end date MUST include Month, Day, and Year. If still employed, please check the associated box.
 - 7. Please check appropriate box.
 - 8. Hours per week for 1.0 Certificated teacher is 37.5
 - 9. Please check "Yes." Then you can skip the remaining questions.
- For Section 4:
 - Samuel Yuhan
 - 425-936-1330
 - Director of Human Resources
 - syuhan@lwsd.org

If there are any electronic signatures on the application, it will be REJECTED and sent back and delay the process.



Medical FSA grace period

Some employees have Medical Flexible Spending Arrangement (FSA) funds you will soon lose. The last day you can apply these funds toward eligible expenses is **March 15, 2022**. The deadline to submit claims is **March 31, 2022**. After that date, the funds will be forfeited to the Health Care Authority.

Use it or lose it: Deadlines for FSA funds If you were enrolled in a Medical Flexible Spending Arrangement (FSA) last year, you have deadlines to spend your 2021 funds.

The Medical FSA grace period: January 1 through March 15, 2022 This grace period allows you to continue to incur eligible Medical FSA expenses and use your 2021 funds through March 15, 2022.

Submit all Medical FSA claims by March 31, 2022 You must submit all eligible 2021 Medical FSA claims for reimbursement to Navia Benefit Solutions by March 31, 2022. The IRS requires any unused funds in your account be forfeited after March 31. Forfeited funds are returned to the plan administrator, the Health Care Authority. Once returned, you cannot reclaim those funds.

How to submit claims and supporting documentation

- Online: Log in to your [Navia account](#)
- Email: claims@naviabenefits.com
- Mail: Navia Benefit Solutions, PO Box 53250, Bellevue, WA 98015-3250 Fax: 1-425-451-7002 or toll-free 1-866-535-9227

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. 2

Groundhog Day

Feb. 14

Valentine's Day

Feb. 14

Secondary Grading
Deadline Extension

Feb. 15

Exec Committee

Feb. 17-21

Mid-Winter Break

Feb. 22

Rep Assembly

Make it a Good Life!



Nominate an Outstanding ESP.... it's not too late

Good news! If you didn't get to submit a nomination to recognize an outstanding WEA Education Support Professional/Classified employee in your building or district, it's not too late. **The nominations deadline has been extended to 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11.**

Here's your chance to honor your ESP/Classified peers -- dedicated bus drivers, welcoming cafeteria employees, ever patient secretaries, invaluable custodians, and super paraeducators ... for a job well-done and their impact on students in Washington.

Complete [nominations](#) packets for the 2022 WEA Education Support Professional of Year are due no later than 5 p.m. Feb. 11.

Looking for professional development geared just for Education Support Professionals? Take a look at the many course offerings newly released from your WEA ESP's Professional Development 'TEAM.'

All classes will be held virtually. One-day sessions will be held on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and two-day sessions will be held during the week from 5-7 p.m. both days. Participants can enroll in either a one-day or two-day class. It is highly recommended that members attend Part A prior to attending Part B to ensure content relevancy and continuity. Classes are free and 4 clock hours are available for each class.

[Read more about the classes and register.](#)

Contact [Cristi McCorkle](#) and [Lama Chikh](#) if you have questions about the course offerings.



At Home Self Care

Some simple, easy and at home ideas are:

- Start a journal
- De-clutter your office or room
- Spend an entire day NOT looking at any social media
- Cook a new recipe
- Get rid of 5 things you never use
- Send an encouraging text/email to a friend or colleague
- If you are worried or upset, contact an employee assistance program
- Give someone a hug!

