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Update - Stay Connected

March 2, 2022

Say YES to adequate COLAs + NO to educator pay cuts

The legislative session ends on March 10, which means there are only 8 days left to **ensure that educator pay keeps pace with inflation with a K-12 COLA of at least 5.5% is in the final budget.**

Both the House (*with* adequate COLA funding) and Senate (*without* adequate COLA funding) have passed their budget proposals. They are now working behind closed doors to produce a joint budget proposal to be released by early next week.

We don't know if the joint budget proposal will include at least a 5.5% COLA for K-12 educator pay.

Now is the time to contact your legislators: let them know that K-12 educators need compensation that keeps pace with inflation. This means the final budget needs to include at least a 5.5% COLA for K-12 educator pay.

[What's a COLA?](#)

[Contact Your Legislators Today](#)

[Click Here](#)

It takes 2 Minutes

Did you know that Kathy Columbo, mentor and facilitator extraordinaire, retired at the end of last year? Hundreds of LWSD teachers have her to thank for countless hours of dedication to the teaching profession! With her retirement and LeeAnn Jackson on leave, the LWSD National Board Facilitation support has passed on to new facilitators: Julia Vasiliauskas & Danielle Lankester.

[Learn About National Board for Professional Teaching Certification](#)

Have you been considering pathways towards professional certification? Then you need to attend one of the LWSD NB information sessions online through TEAMS:

March 16th, 4:30-5:30pm OR April 12th, 6:00-7:00pm

Our 2022-2023 Cohort support begins in June, 2022.

National Board Certification is the highest credential in the teaching profession and is a voluntary process established by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). Certification is achieved through rigorous performance-based assessments that can take 1- 5 years to complete. In addition, holding a valid NBPTS certificate satisfies the ongoing clock hour requirement for 5 years of a teaching certificate, or the requirements of the WA State Professional Certificate, whichever is applicable. Additional information for National Board Certification is available by visiting the NBPTS website at: <https://www.nbpts.org/>

*If you are interested in attending one of the NB Information Sessions contact Julia Vasiliauskas, jvasiliauskas@lwsd.org to get added to the interactive TEAMS call for your selected date.

WEA Spring STEM Courses

Register now for WEA's Spring [STEM courses](#). Offerings are expanded to include gamification and game-based learning. Using games in teaching can help increase student participation, foster engagement, and motivate students to take risks. Learn more about inclusive practices for all students in STEM. Please share these course offerings.

Come learn about the differences between game-based learning and gamification, why it works, and how to do it! Capture the interest of learners and inspire them to continue learning. Course sizes are limited, but we anticipate offering courses again next year.

Does your teacher certificate expire this June? Teachers with STEM related endorsements are required to complete the STEM certificate renewal requirement. Register now to ensure that you complete your clock hours in plenty of time to submit for certificate renewal.

[Find out more and register for WEA STEM offerings](#)

Certificated Staff: Review Your Paycheck Monthly

You should review your paycheck every month. This guide explains what you will see on your paycheck and what it means: [Know Your Paycheck](#)

To access your individual pay checks: from Employee Access, select "Check History" and follow the steps on [How to read Your Paycheck](#)

Do You Know An Exceptional Educator?

Recognize Them!!

Call for Nominations

WEA Nominee for NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence
Nominations due 5 p.m. Monday, March 28, 2022

LWEA Officers and Executive Committee

President:

Howard Mawhinney
LWEA Office / 425-822-3388

Vice President:

Katie Badger
LWEA Office / 425-822-3388

Primary Rep:

Patti Cook
Rush / 425-936-2690

Intermediate Rep:

Fareeha Nasir
Alcott / 425-936-2490

Middle School Rep:

Hattie Midboe
Stella / 425-936-2475

High School Rep:

Sharon Curry
RHS / 425-936-1800

Specialists Rep:

Amy Waldroup
Barton / 425-936-2480

Special Services Rep:

Cookie Grant-Suggs
Rush / 425-936-2690

Ethnic Minority Rep:

Cathy Hettinger
Barton / 425-936-2480

LWEA

WE are YOU

This is your union!



Award Details The NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence recognizes, rewards and promotes excellence in teaching and advocacy for the profession.

Eligibility All current members of an NEA local affiliate or bargaining unit are eligible, including teachers, education support professionals, and higher education faculty and staff. Any WEA member is eligible to nominate another WEA member for this award.

Award criteria Nominations must address the candidate's qualifications in five areas: 1) Professional Practice, 2) Advocacy for the Profession, 3) Community Engagement, 4) Leadership in Professional Development, and 5) Attention to Diversity.

Award recognition WEA's nominee will receive expenses-paid travel to the NEA Foundation's Annual Salute to Excellence in Education Gala in Washington, D.C. Five awardees will be selected for *The Horace Mann Awards for Teaching Excellence* and receive \$10,000 each, plus expenses-paid travel for themselves and a guest. The *NEA Member Benefits Award for Teaching Excellence* recipient, selected from the five, receives \$25,000 in cash and a personalized commemorative gift.

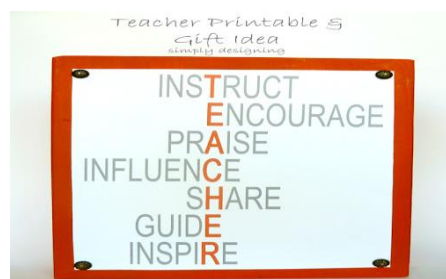
Nomination Process WEA is accepting nominations for our state affiliate award winner. It's easy to nominate a deserving WEA member! There are just two steps:

1. Submit a brief letter of nomination (no more than 3 pages, double spaced) outlining the individual's strengths and accomplishments tied to the five award criteria. Send nomination letters by 5 p.m. Monday, March 28, to WEA Center for Education Quality staff [Jim Meadows](mailto:jim.meadows@lwea.org).

2. Have your nominee submit brief responses (400 words or less per response) to the following prompts by 5 p.m. Monday, March 28, using this submission link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NWPB6XZ>.

- *Question 1:* In what ways have you distinguished yourself for your instructional expertise, creativity and innovation?
- *Question 2:* How have you advocated to advance the education profession and to strengthen public education?
- *Question 3:* How do you connect the community with the work you do in your classroom, school and/or district?
- *Question 4:* In what ways have you cultivated your professional expertise and led others in professional development?
- *Question 5:* How do you ensure the diverse needs of learners are met and honored?

WEA will notify nominees about the status of their application by early April.



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.



March 11

Leap Day

No School

March 13

Daylight Savings Begins

March 15

Rep Assembly

March 17

St. Patrick's Day

March 20

First Day of Spring

April 4-8

Spring Break

Make
Today
Amazing



SAGA is your union LGBTQ+ affinity group. If you identify LGBTQ+ we would love to have you join us for connection, community, support, fun and frivolity. Our March meeting will be held over Zoom on Monday March 14th from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. Please RSVP to Nichole Klockslem for the Zoom link. nklockslem@lwsd.org

National School Social Workers Week: March 6-12, 2022

School social workers are professionals within the social work field that work with teachers, parents, and school administrators. Our Social Workers:

- Help students achieve academic success
- Help students deal with mental health and behavioral challenges
- Provide academic and classroom support
- Help develop education policies
- Work with crisis interventions
- Identify and report child neglect and abuse

Thank
You

Elementary Teachers Deadline Reminder:

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 LWSA/LWEA Collective Bargaining Agreement Section 19.11, Leave of Absence, for more information.