

Follow us!



@LakeWashingtonEA



lweateachers

<https://www.lakewashingtonea.org/>



Update - Stay Connected

March 17, 2022

The end of the mask mandate: what comes next?

On February 28 [Governor Inslee announced](#) that the statewide mask mandate, including schools, would expire after March 11. In a message sent to home emails, we asked members to share their thoughts, experiences, and needs in relation to the expiring mask mandate. We heard from members with strong, and conflicting, feelings about the end of the mandate, which signals our entrance into a new phase of the pandemic.

Many agencies and authorities have a role or responsibility in relation to this change. Specifically, the Governor, the Secretary of Health, the Department of Health (DOH), Seattle-King County Public Health (SCKPH), and the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) have each released rules and/or guidance in response to this change. You can use the **links** below to read the guidance, rule, or communication issued by each group:

Governor Inslee

- Announced an end to the mask mandate in accordance with new CDC guidance.
- No change to the **vaccine mandate for school employees**.
- No change to the State of Emergency.

Secretary of Health

- Issued a **revised Face Coverings Order** accordance with new CDC guidance.

DOH

- Issued **updated rules and guidance for for schools** in accordance with new CDC guidance.

SKCPH

- Affirmed that **King County will follow DOH rules and guidance**.

L&I

- Issued **updated rules and guidance governing Covid safety in the workplace**.

We need to hear from you. Email askLWEA@washingtonea.org to share your thoughts, experiences, and needs in relation to the expired mask mandate with us. Your experiences and concerns inform LWEA's health and safety discussions with district leadership.



Money Minute



This column will be appearing regularly in the Update to help educate members regarding money and financial literacy. Coming soon we will have a dedicated email to submit general questions to be considered for this column.

Did you know that that LWSD has some 403b plan vendors on our approved list that sell high cost 403b products with high commissions and surrender charges? If you signed up for an optional 403b plan at school, or through an unsolicited email, you may have been sold a 403b plan with high fees. A 403b plan is a supplemental retirement savings plan that is not to be confused with your pension or TRS Plan 3 savings with the state of WA.

To learn more about 403b plans and how teachers are impacted by high fees, please watch this 4-minute video at [403bWise Advocacy](#). This website is developed by a former teacher and focuses on education and advocacy around 403b plans for educators.

For more information about how educators have been impacted by high cost 403b products, a 5-part podcast has been produced called "[Learned by Being Burned](#)". This podcast is also available on your favorite podcast player.

What LWEA is doing for you: We are working with the Benefits Advisory Committee to examine the list of approved providers to offer low-cost options for 403b plans. We will communicate with members who already have 403b plans with high-cost companies to inform them how high fees are eating away their retirement savings through their 403b plans.



Let's celebrate our nation of diverse readers with **NEA's Read Across America**.

Launched in 1998 by the National Education Association (NEA), Read Across America is the nation's largest celebration of reading. This year-round program focuses on **motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources that are about everyone, for everyone.**

Want to plan a Read Across America event, but don't know where to start? Don't sweat it: It's as easy as A B C and 1 2 3. For great ideas click [Event Ideas | NEA](#)

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:

[Cathey Hettinger](#)

Barton / 425-936-2480

LWEA

WE are YOU

This is your union!



Need to print your W-2?

Having trouble printing your W-2? Is your tax program or tax professional requesting additional W-2 information? Click [here](#) for instructions on how to print a copy of your W-2 from your home computer.

Need to update your federal withholding?

If you need to update your federal withholding, click [here](#) for a new 2022 W-4 form. Return your completed form to Shelly Fanning at sfanning@lwsd.org. If payroll receives your form by March 10, 2022, the withholding change will take effect with your March paycheck.

Getting Ready for Retirement Seminars

VEBA and the Department of Retirement Teams Meetings

March 22, and April 14th from 4:00-6:00PM

Are you planning on retiring within the next few years? If so, you may have questions relating to:

- VEBA
- Early Retirement
- Purchasing Service Credit
- COLA
- Working After Retirement

Please register for a session by emailing Linda Hannah at lhannah@lwsd.org and to receive a retirement packet. It is recommended you attend a Public Employees Benefit Board (PEBB) retirement seminar prior to attending the getting ready for retirement seminar.

Public Employees Benefit Board (PEBB) Retirement Seminars

PEBB is offering several sessions on the PEBB medical/dental/vision retirement program. To register for a PEBB retirement seminar click [here](#).

Social Security Webinar– Sponsored by the Partners Group

Wednesday May 4, 2022, 4-5pm

Social Security 101 webinar is hosted by Kirk Larson Public affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration.

Key topics include:

- Retirement benefits and eligibility requirements
- What early retirement does to your benefits
- How to qualify for disability, survivor, and spousal benefits
- How to use your online account and other online services
- The future of Social Security
- How to receive the most from you benefits

Click [here](#) to register for the webinar. Note: To better understand your personal benefits please open an online account before attending the webinar. Click [here](#) to create or login into your Social Security account.

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 17
St. Patrick's Day

March 20
First Day of Spring

March 22
Mock RA

April 4-8
Spring Break

April 7-9
WEA Rep Assembly

Smell the Flowers!



Work Email and the Use of Personal Devices for Work



What you should know:

- Anything that creates a “record” related to teaching is subject to a public records request. This includes your work email and the use of a personal device in relation to teaching.
- If you don’t want the District or the general public to read something, keep it off your work email.
- If you use a **personal device** for **public work** then it could be subject to disclosure and public records requests. To make your life easier, find a way to archive the work-related “records” (files, documents, pictures) that you create on your personal device so that you can easily locate and turn them over if asked by the District.

LWEA Executive Committee Nomination Notice Coming Soon

Nominations for the positions of Lake Washington Education Association Executive Committee members will be opening soon.

You will receive a Notice of Nominations and Elections for the LWEA Executive Committee in your home PO mail by early April.



If you do not receive a letter, send an email to [Terri Neely](#) with your home address.

Nominations will be taken for the following positions: Primary, Intermediate, Middle School, High School, Special Services, Specialist and Ethnic Minority representatives.

All nominations must be made by a member of the Lake Washington Education Association in good standing. Self-nomination is allowed. **To be eligible for any position the nominee must be a member in good standing.**