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# Update - Stay Connected

March 31, 2022

## **5.5% COLA: what does that mean for you?**

Legislators recently passed a state budget that includes a 5.5% cost of living adjustment (COLA), or annual inflationary adjustment, for K-12 educator salaries for the 22-23 school year: [ESSB 5693.506](#) and [RCW 28A.400.205](#). **What does that mean for LWEA members?** Our CBA describes how inflationary adjustments are applied to salary: our 22-23 salary matrix "[will reflect an increase of State determined inflationary adjustment \(IPD\) to base salary](#)." The 5.5% COLA in the state budget is the annual inflationary adjustment for the 22-23 school year, so that increase will be passed through and **applied to the base salary** in each cell on the salary matrix in [Appendix A1](#) for 22-23.

**Did this happen by luck, chance, or magic? No.** Remember, the original Senate budget proposal included an insufficient COLA of just 2.8%, essentially a proposal to defund educator salaries. **We had to fight for this COLA and two factors made the difference:**

1. **Many WEA members wrote to their legislators** to let them know that a COLA of at least 5.5% was necessary to keep pace with inflation.
2. **WEA-PAC, our non-partisan political action committee that works to elect pro-union, pro-education candidates to the state legislature.** This moment showed the crucial impact of WEA-PAC: **the budget includes a sufficient COLA because pro-union, pro-education legislators were receptive to the input from members about the importance of a sufficient COLA.**

With WEA-PAC endorsed legislators in the House and Senate, educator voices are sought out, listened to, and valued. **WEA-PAC endorsed legislators want to support public education, and they want to hear from those who experience it every day: educators and students.**

**Unite with educators from across the state by [joining WEA-PAC](#) or [increasing your contribution today!](#)**

**[How to Join WEA-PAC \(washingtonea.org\)](https://www.washingtonea.org)**

It's quick and easy to start contributing \$2.25/month or increase your contribution level to \$5 or \$10/month. Not sure if you're a WEA-PAC member already? Ask your building rep or email

[askLWEA@washingtonea.org](mailto:askLWEA@washingtonea.org).

# Enjoy Your Spring Break

Relax, Enjoy, Refresh and Stay Safe. If you are traveling during Spring Break, we suggest taking advantage of your free home Covid test or use a district Covid testing site before re-entering the classroom. Keep yourself and our students healthy.



Send a special thank you to your WEA RA Delegates

They will be spending several days of their Spring Break representing you/LWEA at the annual WEA Rep Assembly because your voice matters.

Axie Dompier   Amanda Gerber   Amy Waldroup   Barbara Weibel   Cathey Hettinger  
Dom Michaud   Eric Peterson   Fareeha Nasir   Hanah Rasmussen Nisbet   Hattie Midboe  
Jodie Howerton   John Owens   Kathy Maynard-Aslamy   Leanne Mawhinney   Lisa Daniels  
Katie Badger   Martha Daman   Mary Kay Weinmeister   Matt Winkler   Michael Finley  
Miok Oh   Morgan Seymour   Nikole Lalas   Rachelle Horner   Sarah Cooper   Scott Kielty  
Shannon Fisher   Sharon Curry   Stacy Yu   Tiffany Chow   Todd Bohannon   Vicki McCarter  
Cookie Grant-Suggs   Howard Mawhinney

## **Snow Make-up Day Announced:** May 31 will be a full school day

Lake Washington School District has finalized plans to make up for the one day missed due to the January 3, 2022 snow day. May 31 was built-in as a snow make up day, meaning that if we had snow days this school year, we would make them up by changing this day from a non-student day to a regular school day.

The 2021-22 calendar has been modified to reflect this change:

**Tuesday, May 31: change from a non-school day to a full day for students**

**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!**



# Money Minute



Did you know that the WA Department of Retirement Services has webinars that explain what your options are for saving for retirement? Find the full schedule of webinars by clicking [here](#).

You can learn more about savings options in WA state, Withdrawals and Retirement, Financial Wellness, and Specialty Topics. Many of the webinars are recorded, and you can watch them on demand. There are several webinars scheduled during spring break next week if you want to watch them live and submit your questions.

To submit a general question to be considered for this column, please send an email to:

[moneyminute@washingtonea.org](mailto:moneyminute@washingtonea.org)



Hosted by Cascade WEA

## Life Stages Investing

This workshop discusses how to save for the long term and provides guidance on how to identify retirement income sources and gaps. Additionally, this workshop unpacks the long-term financial impact of the Social Security and health care decisions that emerge as retirement approaches to help attendees feel better prepared and empowered. Presented by NEA Member Benefits.

**Register:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/life-stages-investing-registration-166956995869>

## WEA Scholarships



The Washington Education Association is offering six Magnuson scholarships of \$1,500 each this year to educational support professionals who are pursuing professional advancement through trades, technical or collegiate institutions. All current ESP members of a WEA local affiliate or bargaining unit are eligible. [Online application](#) is due April. 4.

## 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.



**April 4-8**  
Spring Break

**April 7-9**  
WEA Rep Assembly

**April 12**  
Exec Committee

**April 17 Easter**  
Spring Break

**April 19**  
Rep Assembly

It is almost here!



ENJOY!!

## We appreciate our WEA-Retired and Pre-Retired Members!

Your retirement does not have to be the end of your connection to WEA. WEA-Retired and pre-retired members share decades of experience in our schools to help improve public education in Washington. We support public education and the enhancement of the quality of life for WEA's active and retired members. WEA-Retired membership allows you to access WEA and NEA member benefits for the rest of your life.

When you join WEA-Retired as a life member April 1-30, 2022 you will receive a \$50 rebate from WEA-Retired!

Certificated life membership is \$550 (before the rebate), and the ESP/Classified life membership is \$430 (before the rebate). To receive the WEA-Retired rebate after joining, the new pre-retired member needs to forward the email receipt from WEA to Neva Luke, our financial director, at [bigmom2g@msn.com](mailto:bigmom2g@msn.com) by June 30, 2022.

### Some benefits of WEA-Retired membership

- Membership is for a lifetime in a powerful, active retiree organization that understands the value of public education and unions because of its affiliation with WEA. (WEA-Retired is the only retiree organization with this affiliation.)
- Membership includes eligibility for NEA Member Benefits such as credit card and insurance programs, including the \$1,000,000 liability insurance if you choose to work as a substitute educator, and WEA's Attorney Referral Program offers two free 30-minute consultations a year.
- Membership provides opportunities to continue advocating for the rights of retired educators, current educators, and public school students. Your voice still matters!
- Membership provides access to AIG/VALIC financial advisors for a 360 Plan with a complete evaluation of your financial needs for FREE.
- Membership establishes access to leadership opportunities and training for lifelong learning!
- Membership creates camaraderie with other educators.
- Membership offers involvement as part of WEA-Retired; you can attend local chapter lunch programs, help out at pre-retirement seminars, join current educators at events within UniServ Councils and WEA, and other endless possibilities.
- Membership informs you about education and issues important to retired educators. You will receive WEA and NEA newsletters and other informative materials.
- Membership flows seamlessly from pre-retired to retired status.