



Update - stay connected

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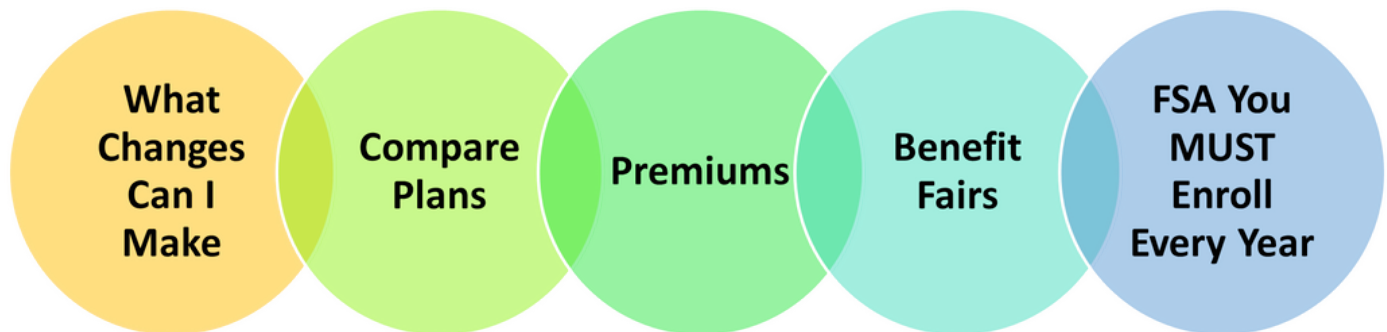
Oct 5, 2022

SEBB Benefits – Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for SEBB is October 31 through November 21, 2022. Forms and SEBB My Account will be available to make changes for open enrollment on October 31. Enrollments, changes, and premiums are effective January 1, 2023.

Start your research now and be prepared.

Visit [Open Enrollment - SEBB](#) to find information regarding:



Tech Stipend Reminder

Did you notice your \$1,300 Tech stipend was **NOT** in your September paycheck? If you noticed that it wasn't there...Awesome for You!! That means you reviewed your paycheck. Keep up the great habit.

The Tech Stipend will be paid in November

LWEA Officers and Executive Committee

President:

[Howard Mawhinney](#)

LWEA / 425-822-3388

Vice President:

[Katie Badger](#)

LWEA / 425-822-3388

Primary Rep:

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Rush / 425-936-2690

Intermediate Rep:

[Fareeha Nasir](#)

Alcott / 425-936-2490

Middle School Rep:

[Hattie Midboe](#)

Stella / 425-936-2475

High School Rep:

[Bethany Shoda](#)

LWHS / 425-936-1700

Specialists Rep:

[Nikole Lalas](#)

RHS / 425-936-1800

Special Services Rep:

[Karyn Taggart](#)

KaMS/ 425-936-2400

Ethnic Minority Rep:

[Michael Finley](#)

RHS/ 425-936-1800



It's unfortunate, but we have all experienced bullying at least once in our life or know someone who has. With every new generation, bullying continues, and only it's gotten more complex.



Physical attacks have given way to cyberbullying which cause emotional trauma that can be spread to hundreds, thousands, if not millions of people.

October is National Bullying Awareness Month, and this is an opportunity to encourage the nation to take action at the local level to create safe and supportive organizations. Bullying is unacceptable and comments or conduct that disparages or demonstrates hostility or aversion should not be tolerated. By being accepting, kind and inclusive, you can help make the world a better place. Together we can create a world without bullying!

To learn more, find ways to help, and resources visit: [STOMP Out Bullying™ | Cyberbullying & Bullying Prevention](#)

Public Service Loan Forgiveness - October 31st Deadline

Last year, educators fought hard for - and won - a significant PSLF student debt waiver from the federal government. **But borrowers only have until 10/31 to apply.** The waivers are saving our members hundreds of thousands of dollars. But they have to apply!

Find out more about this program by visiting the [Department of Education's Federal Student Aid website.](#)

AFFINITY GROUPS FOR NEW EDUCATORS: LOOKING FOR FACILITATORS

One of the core belief statements of the New Teacher Support Program (NTSP) is that “each teacher brings unique assets to the classroom.” Some of our unique assets and identities can result in us being part of a minority within the NTSP and LWSD community.

Affinity groups create a way to bring people together around a shared commonality to deepen connection and boost friendship, collaboration, and productivity.

NTSP has established several affinity groups for our new (1st and 2nd year) educators over the past year. These affinity groups provide a safe space at a monthly or quarterly meeting to support the continued growth of the new educators. We would like each affinity group to continue to be facilitated by LWSD staff who also belong to the specific affinity group and not necessarily just the mentors of NTSP.

Please look over this list of potential affinity groups. Do you identify as a member of any of these groups? Would you be willing to work with NTSP to act as a facilitator for such a group? NTSP knows this is a big ask and we would compensate you for your planning and facilitating time.

If you'd like a little more information to understand affinity groups and their purpose before responding, please read the [FAQ](#). If this sounds like an opportunity you would be interested in, please reply to [Vicki McCarter](#)

Current Affinity Groups

Race/BIPOC, Biracial/Multiracial, LGBTQ+, Second Career Educators, Educators with Disabilities (ex. ADHD, Neurodivergence, mental health, 2E, physical), Educators with English as their Second Language

Potential NEW Affinity Group

Jewish Heritage

Explain The Days

The LWEA has put together this informational brochure, [Explain the Days](#) to explain the different days that are provided within the LWEA/LWSD negotiated contract.

If you have any questions about the days in this school year calendar, please contact asklwea@washingtonea.org.

OFFICE STAFF

Office Manager: Terri Neely
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Indigenous Peoples' Day

Indigenous Peoples' Day is celebrated on the second Monday of October, on October 10 this year, to honor the cultures and histories of the Native American people. The day is centered around reflecting on their tribal roots and the tragic stories that hurt but strengthened their communities.

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.



OCT 10

Indigenous Peoples Day

OCT 11

Rep Assembly

OCT 17,18 & 20

Elem Half-Day
Conferences

OCT 21

LEAP Day
NO School



Indigenous Peoples' Day is a holiday that celebrates the Native Americans, the original inhabitants of North America. It honors the beautiful indigenous traditions, cultures, and lives all around the world.



Did you know your Union membership Entitles you to NEA Benefits?

Check out all the benefits available to you as a member. See: [NEA Member Benefits](#)

WEA Retired: You do not have to be retired to join!

Benefits include flowing seamlessly from pre-retired to retired when the time comes, continues NEA Member benefits such as credit card and insurance programs, attorney referral program offering two free 30-minute consultations, and \$1,000,000 liability insurance if you choose to work as a substitute! There are also travel benefits, opportunities to get involved as an advocate for retired and current educators and our public-school students! WEA Retired also offers pre-retirement seminars and creates camaraderie! You can become a lifetime member with a one-time payment or break it down into smaller payments. It's never too early or too late to join WEA Retired!

You can join at www.washingtonea.org/retired or email wearetired@washingtonea.org for more information. (Brigitte Tennis, WEA Retired Board Member, tennissb@outlook.com)