



Update - stay connected

www.lakewashingtonea.org

February 1, 2023

Olympia Watch: tracking our priorities



Members across the state established WEA's 2023 legislative priorities:

- Schools that meet student needs and grow their joy of learning
- Safe learning and working environments
- Investments to attract and retain a diverse workforce

Many bills related to these priorities are moving through committee right now.

Bills in green align with WEA's legislative priorities.
Bills in yellow do not align with WEA's priorities and present a concern.

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Increasing districts' per-student levy maximum (HB 1244) | Improvements to the Special Education funding formula (SB 5311) | Parents' Rights (SB 5024) | Free school meals for all students (SB 5339) |
| Student Transportation Funding (SB 5174) | Special Education evaluation and access (HB 1305) | Establishing minimum employment requirements for paras (HB 1015) | Ensuring elementary students get enough recess (SB 5257) |
| Washington Future Fund (SB 5125, HB 1094) | Inclusive learning standards & inclusive curricula (SB 5441, SB 5462) | Reviewing reprimands for educators (HB 1113) | Expanding ML & tribal language education (HB 1228) |
| More equitable safety net award distribution (SB 5031) | Transitional Kindergarten (HB 1550) | Supporting student access to school library info & tech programs (SB 5102) | Ensuring universal screening for highly capable students (SB 5072) |

We need YOU to Take Action:

1. [Sign in PRO, testify in favor.](#)
2. [Learn more about the bills of concern.](#)
3. [Consider testifying in person on these bills.](#)
4. [Share your experiences as an educator with your legislators!](#)

**LWEA Officers and
Executive Committee**

President:

[Howard Mawhinney](#)

LWEA / 425-822-3388

Vice President:

[Katie Badger](#)

LWEA / 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:

[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



LOU



22-23 Covid Leave Provisions

LWSD and LWEA have a shared interest in protecting members from entering a negative leave balance due to Covid isolation requirements. When someone runs out of leave, they enter unpaid status and risk of losing their benefits. Over the last few years, a majority of members have grown their leave balances (both sick + annual), and these larger leave balances present a financial liability to LWSD.

However, in order to meet the shared interest of protecting members from negative leave balances due to Covid isolation requirements, LWEA and LWSD have come to an agreement that:

- No member will enter an unpaid status due to required Covid isolation during the 2022-23 SY.
- LWEA and LWSD will regularly review low leave balances (5 days or less of sick+annual leave) of members.
- Any member who would enter unpaid status due to Covid isolation requirements will be made whole in accordance with required isolation days, even if the required isolation period was in semester 1.
- For more information, review the [COVID LOU 2022-23](#)
- Questions? Write asklw@washingtonnea.org



Change to 2022-23 LWSD Calendar



The LWSD 2022-23 school year calendar has been modified to make up the November snow day.

Tuesday, May 30 will be a full school day

May 30 was originally built into the calendar as a "snow make-up day."

Congratulations to Our New NBCT's and MOC's

You

Rock!

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 a one- to five-year process and according to the **NBPTS**, completing the certification shows that each teacher knows and practices “the definitive standards of accomplished teaching.”

The National Board’s **Maintenance of Certification** (MOC) process is designed based on best assessment practices and by teachers to ensure that National Board Certified Teachers continue to grow professionally while maintaining a strong impact on student learning.



New NBCT's

Victoria Jacobson
Amber Owen-Clifford

Fareeha Nasir
Jessica Soltani

Mia Orloff
Kelly Wescott



MOC's

Jyoti Bawa Julie Bergevin Patricia Bergstrom Eric Carlson Lua Carlson
Amy Chackel Whitney Clarkin Jackie Coons Sandra Don Chokr
Christine Everson Tracy Felton Laura Flagg William Gardner Jeff Gehring
Rachelle Horner Alison Kairis Kelly Kirkness Jennifer McCreary
Tim McFaul Heidi Menzenberg-Zvilna Robin Miller Emma Morris Thomas Nash
John Norris Michelle Okroy Rachael Perkins Alexandra Pike
Mark Rayder Sara Rigby Judy Ronning-Larson Shelby Ruge Casey Rummel
Bethany Shoda Krystal Stephens Natalya Stine Debbie Sung
Jordan Swain Julie Thomas Kyla Thompson Stephen Thornsberry Michelle Toth
Michelle Vallene Klint Van Cleemput Theresa Vasquez Seema Vaze
Sara Ward Macy Zwanzig

OFFICE STAFF

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you
are
not
alone

Newbie Nights

Series for "newer" teachers

Newbie Nights is a series of gatherings designed for teachers with 6 or fewer years in the profession, but all are welcome. This is a time for connecting and collaborating with other new(ish) teachers to the profession. You will have the opportunity to hear from "experts" as they share strategies for surviving your first few years in the classroom. Come to hear from your peers. Stay for the hospitality, to make alliances and enjoy a meal.

The first Newbie Night of 2023 will be hosted on:

Thursday, February 9, 4:30-6:30

at the LWEA Offices

8575 164th Ave NE, Suite 100

Redmond

For more info and to register see: [Newbie Night](#)

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 13

Exec Committee

FEB 14

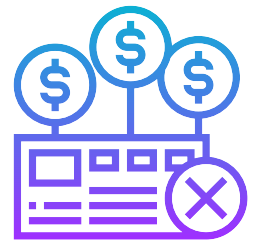
Rep Assembly
Valentine's Day

FEB 16-20

Mid Winter Break!



SEBB Premium Deductions



January's paycheck reflects the new employee premium deduction for the SEBB benefits that you signed up for during open enrollment. Please review your paycheck in [Employee Access to view the deductions](#). If you think your deduction is incorrect, please first review the amount with the SEBB rates by clicking [here](#). If you still believe your deduction is incorrect, send your plan choice information along with an explanation to SEBBbenefits@lwsd.org.

MONEY MINUTE

FSA Carryover and "Use It or Lose It"



What is carryover and "Use it or lose it"

If you have not spent all the funds in your FSA by December 31 – and you are still employed and didn't lose eligibility for the FSA – you may be able to take advantage of the carryover feature, where certain unspent funds may "carry over" into the following year without affecting annual maximums.

To carryover your unspent funds:

- You must enroll in either the Medical FSA or Limited Purpose FSA for the following year, or
- Have at least \$120 left in your FSA balance.

For funds carrying over from 2022 to 2023, any amount above \$570 or below \$120 remaining in your account on December 31 will be forfeited to the plan administrator, the Health Care Authority. This is referred to as "use it or lose it."

Claim submission deadline:

You must submit all claims to Navia Benefit Solutions for reimbursement by March 31, 2023. If you are no longer employed or have retired and still have money left in your account, you can still submit claims for reimbursement by March 31, so long as the services took place while you were employed.

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

