



Update - stay connected

www.lakewashingtonea.org

February 8, 2023



Important Deadlines are Approaching

Certificate Renewal Applications submitted beginning July 1, 2023:

***New* Equity Requirement**

In 2022, the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) approved new Cultural Competency, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (CCDEI) standards. The CCDEI standards provide the foundation for the new equity certificate renewal requirement.

- As part of the 100 clock hours for certificate renewal, **teachers must complete 15 clock hours, or the equivalent in credits or PGP's, in equity-based school practices.**
- Teachers who maintain a valid NBPTS National Board certificate can meet the equity certificate requirement.

READ MORE about [certificate renewal requirements](#), including STEM integration requirements, and the [CCDEI standards](#)

Questions on certificate renewal can be directed to the OSPI certification office at cert@k12.wa.us.

By Friday, February 10:

Sick Leave Buy Back Response

If you are eligible to buy back your 2022 excess sick leave, you received an email from Payroll on 2/3. **You have just 2 days left to submit your response by Friday.**

READ MORE about [Sick Leave Buy Back and VEBA](#)

If you need assistance, please email askpayroll@lwsd.org

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Important Dates for Certs Retiring This Year



Understand the importance of and implications of your **retirement date**. Things to consider:

- Benefits end the same month that you retire.
- You receive a full service credit with DRS if you complete your contract regardless of the date you retire.
- If an employee separates from service June 30th – Retirement date is 7/1 and SEBB benefits stop on June 30th
- If an employee separates service August 5th- Retirement date is 9/1 and SEBB benefits stop on August 31st.
- If an employee retires on July 1st they will be eligible for the DRS COLA the following July 1st.
- If an employee retires on September 1st, they are not eligible for COLA the next July, as they have not been retired one year. The COLA they missed gets banked for future use.

National School Counselors Week "Helping Students Dream Big"

This week is a time to bring awareness to the important and unique contributions our school counselors make in the lives of our students. We would like to thank our counselors for being actively engaged in helping students examine their abilities, strengths, interests and talents; for working in a partnership with parents as they encounter the challenges of raising children in today's world; for focusing on positive ways to enhance students' academic, career and social/emotional development; and working with teachers and other educators to provide an educational system where students can realize their potential and set healthy, realistic and optimistic aspirations for themselves.

Thank you, YOU ARE:

AWESOME!



Interested in learning more about National Board Certification?

National Board (NB) Certification is the highest credential in the teaching profession and is a voluntary process established by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). Achieving certification is a challenging but flexible 1-5 year process, during which LWSD teachers, librarians, and counselors can participate in free Cohort support with trained NB Facilitators. The LWSD NB Cohort for those working on NB during the 2023-2024 school year begins in June.

This spring there are two information sessions on Teams to introduce the NB requirements, process, timelines, options, cost, benefits, and other logistics. We will also familiarize you with the support that LWSD provides to those working on NB certification. These information sessions will be hosted by Julia Vasiliauskas and Danielle Lankester, the current LWSD NB facilitators.

Each information session will have identical information. **To receive the Teams meeting link, please email [Julia Vasiliauskas](#) with the date that you would like to attend:**

- Thursday, March 16th, 4:30-5:30pm
- Tuesday, April 25th, 6:00-7:00pm

If you cannot attend these sessions, there are similar sessions hosted by WEA posted [here](#). Please let [Julia Vasiliauskas](#) know if you attend one of those instead.



DO YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN RUNNING FOR PUBLIC OFFICE?

The Washington State Labor Council will be hosting their annual **Path to Power candidate training March 29-31 in Olympia**. Path to Power is a candidate training for union members who are interested in running for office. This 3-day training covers everything from fundraising to crafting an effective message to creating a campaign plan and more. The staff delivering the training includes political directors, campaign gurus, and elected leaders. Whether you're considering running for school board or city/county government, this training is for you!

To apply, fill out the application by Friday, Feb. 17:
<https://bit.ly/Path-to-Power>

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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 13

Exec Committee

FEB 14

Rep Assembly
Valentine's Day



FEB 16-20

Mid Winter Break!



MONEY MINUTE



Retirement Savings Options

In addition to your state pension plans, the district offers two other ways to save for retirement. DCP Plans and 403(b) Plans. DCP Plans are provided through DRS and 403(b) are provided through a third-party administrator called Envoy. To learn more about these plans and how to sign up, please visit the Payroll & Benefits page on the Staff Portal.

Historically, 403(b) vendors received approval from building administrators for on-campus information sessions promoting their services. It has been up to each administrator whether they allowed a visit or not. This has created multiple challenges with consistency between buildings and has led some employees to believe that the district endorses those 403(b) vendors that visit campus. Too often, the vendors that attempt to schedule visits have comparatively higher fees for their services. For these reasons, the District's Benefit Advisory Committee is recommending that **schools no longer allow vendors on campus to promote 403(b) plans**. If you would like to schedule a meeting with a 403(b) representative, this should be done during personal time and preferably off campus.



WEA Retired and Pre-Retired Members

Our members delivered appreciation treat baskets to 10 schools in LWSD! A special shout out to DENIS VILLENEUVE, JULIE FIRTH, LYNETTE MARTIN, CHERYL PLATE, and KATHY COLUMBO for their amazing work to create the baskets and/or deliver to the schools! Also, a special thanks to Diana Wager at the LWEA Office for printing the tags!

The schools who got baskets in this round were; Redmond High, Redmond Middle, Stella Schola Middle, Horace Mann, Redmond EL, Ben Franklin EL, Peter Kirk EL, Mark Twain EL, Ben Rush EL, and Lakeview EL. We hope to do this for more schools in the spring!

Thank you for your help and support of teachers still in the field!