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# Update - stay connected

[www.lakewashingtonea.org](http://www.lakewashingtonea.org)

February 22, 2023

## Olympia Watch: tracking our priorities

**SCHOOLS THAT WORK FOR STUDENTS**

**SAFE LEARNING & WORKING ENVIRONMENTS**

**INVESTMENTS TO ATTRACT & RETAIN A DIVERSE WORKFORCE**

➤ **Almost to the mid-point:** today is day 45 of 105 in this legislative session.

➤ **Legislation is moving out of committees of origin:** cutoff deadlines mean that legislators are starting to vote on bills.

➤ **WEA members have made an impact this year:** Educators across the state participated in Lobby Day on Feb 20.

➤ **Important decisions will be made in the next 60 days:** lawmakers still need to hear from as they vote on legislation!

- SpEd funding increases
- Improving access to FAPE for students with disabilities
- Free school meals for all K-12 students
- Adequate and predictable student transportation
- Transition to Kindergarten
- Recess requirements for elementary students
- Dual & tribal language education
- Expanding media literacy and digital citizenship programs
- Diverse, equitable, and inclusive curricula
- Inclusive learning standards and materials
- Universal HiCap screening
- Teacher residencies and early career educator supports
- Professional learning communities
- PK-12 COLAs
- ESP wage increases
- K-12 experience factors
- Enrichment levy authority
- Exempting benefit enrollment info from public disclosure
- Health benefits/SEBB for subs
- Protecting survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking from information disclosure
- Protecting communication between employees and unions
- Provision of accurate employee information to unions by employers
- Minimum paraeducator requirements

## How to stay engaged and participate

- Subscribe to the [WEA Advocacy Blog](#)
- Subscribe to text message action alerts by texting **Advocacy** to 833-258-6815
- [Consider testifying](#)
- [Give to WEA-PAC!](#)
- Follow WEA Advocacy
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**LWEA Officers and  
Executive Committee**

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[Howard Mawhinney](#)

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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



# ***Know Your Contract***

## **Elementary Teachers Returning from Leave for 2023-24**

Elementary teachers who have been granted a leave of absence without pay and benefits for the current 2022-2023 school year will be returned for the 2023-2024 school year to the same building/program assigned to prior to the leave, provided such position is available and the leave did not exceed one (1) full year.

Human Resources (HR) will notified elementary teachers on such leaves by USPS and/or electronically via Frontline Central on February 10, 2023 that they are **obligated to notify the District of their intention to return upon the expiration of their leave no later than March 3, 2023**. Should an elementary teacher fail to notify HR of their intention, the District will assume that teacher has resigned effective the last day of school of the 2022-2023 school year. The teacher's position will be deemed vacant and subject to fill or elimination based on staffing needs.

**Elementary teachers must submit confirmation to HR on or before March 3, 2023 that they will proceed with one of the following:**

- Return from leave for the 2023-2024 school year;
- Resign or retire their position; or
- Request an additional leave of absence for the 2023-2024 school year.

These requirements apply only to voluntary leaves of absence and do not apply to teachers on leave due to illness. Refer to LWSD/LWEA Collective Bargaining Agreement Section 19.11, Leave of Absence, for more information.

# ***Know Your Contract***

Cont.



## **LWEA Annual Leave Carry Over**

LWEA members are permitted to accumulate up to 37.5 hours of annual leave. For the past few years, the accumulated hours were increased due to difficulty of using time during the pandemic. **For the 2023-24 SY, annual leave accumulation will be in accordance with the CBA, Section 19.9.2. - maximum accumulation of 37.5 hours (5 days).** Employees are granted up to 3 days (prorated by FTE) at the beginning of the SY. This means **you are able to carry over up to 15 hours (2 days)**. To carry over unused annual leave, employees must complete the annual survey sent by payroll. The survey will be sent the last week of May and must be completed no later than June 30th. Unused annual leave not requested to be carried over will be automatically cashed out at the substitute teacher rate of pay at the end of each school year.

If you currently have more than 2 days accumulated, you may want to use these days prior to the end of the SY.



## **A Friend In Need**

Stacey Smith, 5th grade teacher at McAuliffe, is beginning a medical leave to fight ovarian cancer and is looking for shared leave donations to help make this journey just a little less difficult. Thank you for donating if you can to her, life doesn't always go as planned and any little bit can help.

Please consider a [Shared Leave Donation](#) by filling out the donation form and sending it to [HRLeaves@lwsd.org](mailto:HRLeaves@lwsd.org) . Thank you.

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## **OFFICE STAFF**

Office Manager: Terri Neely  
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# WEA Member Benefits



**WEA-Retired Scholarships** is offering up to ten \$1000 non-renewable scholarships for 2023.

These scholarships are available for WEA members only: Certificated, Classified/ESP, SWEA (those currently enrolled in a college or university pursuing a degree in education). The scholarships can be used aid WEA members in

- 1) enhancing skills for their current position,
- 2) obtaining an endorsement in a new area or
- 3) attaining or maintaining a teaching certificate.

The scholarships cannot be used to pay for incurred debt for past classes, reimbursement for pre-paid classes, or personal expenses. All questions must be addressed in order for your application to be considered. Other factors considered will include, but are not limited to:

- Meeting the criteria for the category of the scholarship
- Following directions
- Providing complete answers
- Demonstrating need

To apply: <https://wea.mobi/2023RetiredScholarships>

The application must be received by March 10, 2023, no later than 12:00 pm.

Recipients will be notified in early May 2023.

Questions? Contact Linda McGee at

[mcgee4748@gmail.com](mailto:mcgee4748@gmail.com)

## 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 27**

PoliSparks

**FEB 28**

Mock RA

**MAR 1**

**Red 4 Ed**



Show Your Support for the LWEA Bargaining Team Efforts!

# Hug A Friend!

