



Update - stay connected

www.lakewashingtonea.org

February 8, 2024

Breaking News from Olympia

Monday was the last day for bills to pass out of fiscal committees, which means we now have a sense of which bills are moving forward this session and which bills have failed.

3 big headlines from yesterday's legislative action:

1. ESP staffing bills (**HB 1960** and **SB 5882**) are moving forward but were significantly amended. They now increase staffing only for instructional paraeducators and only for one year.
2. ESP pay bills did not make yesterday's deadline. We need to regroup and build an even stronger push for passing this in the 2025 session.
3. Several of our priorities are still moving, including increasing the special education cap (**SB 6014**).

This is mostly disappointing news.

- While the ESP staffing bills moved forward, they were significantly pared back by the committees so their impact will be diminished.
- ESP staff need adequate pay, respect, and funding.
- Public schools in Washington are not yet fully funded.

Key take-aways:

- Improving ESP staffing and pay is shaping up to be a multi-year fight.
- Members will need to continue to speak out on behalf of students and schools.

Today is the 32nd day of the 2024 Legislative session. The next cutoff date is February 13 - the last day for passing bills of out of the chamber of origin. Bills that make the February 13 cutoff will go through a similar process in the opposite house.



Important Dates

2024 Legislative Session

Feb 5	last day for bills to pass out of committee
Feb 13	last day for bills to pass out of house of origin
Feb 26	last day for bills from opposite house to pass out of committee
Mar 1	last day to pass bills from opposite house
Mar 7	last day of regular session

Our students deserve great public schools! We need to raise our voices together to get it done.

LWEA Officers and Executive Committee

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RSAR/ 425-936-1544

High School Rep:

[ShineMay Woodcock](#)

JHS / 425-936-1600

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



Important Deadline Approaching



By Friday, February 16: Sick Leave Buy Back Survey

If you are eligible to buy back your 2023 excess sick leave, you received an email from AskPayroll on 2/5. **You have just 8 days left to submit your response by next Friday. This is during Mid-Winter Break. Don't delay, do it today!**

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

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



WEA Virtual Workshops

February 21st Wednesday Membership Deals and Discounts

Come learn about how to save money, manage your finances and live your best life by using your NEA Member Benefit programs. Planning your next vacation, saving money on your everyday purchases, insuring your most valuable things and taking charge of your financial life are all made easier through your membership.

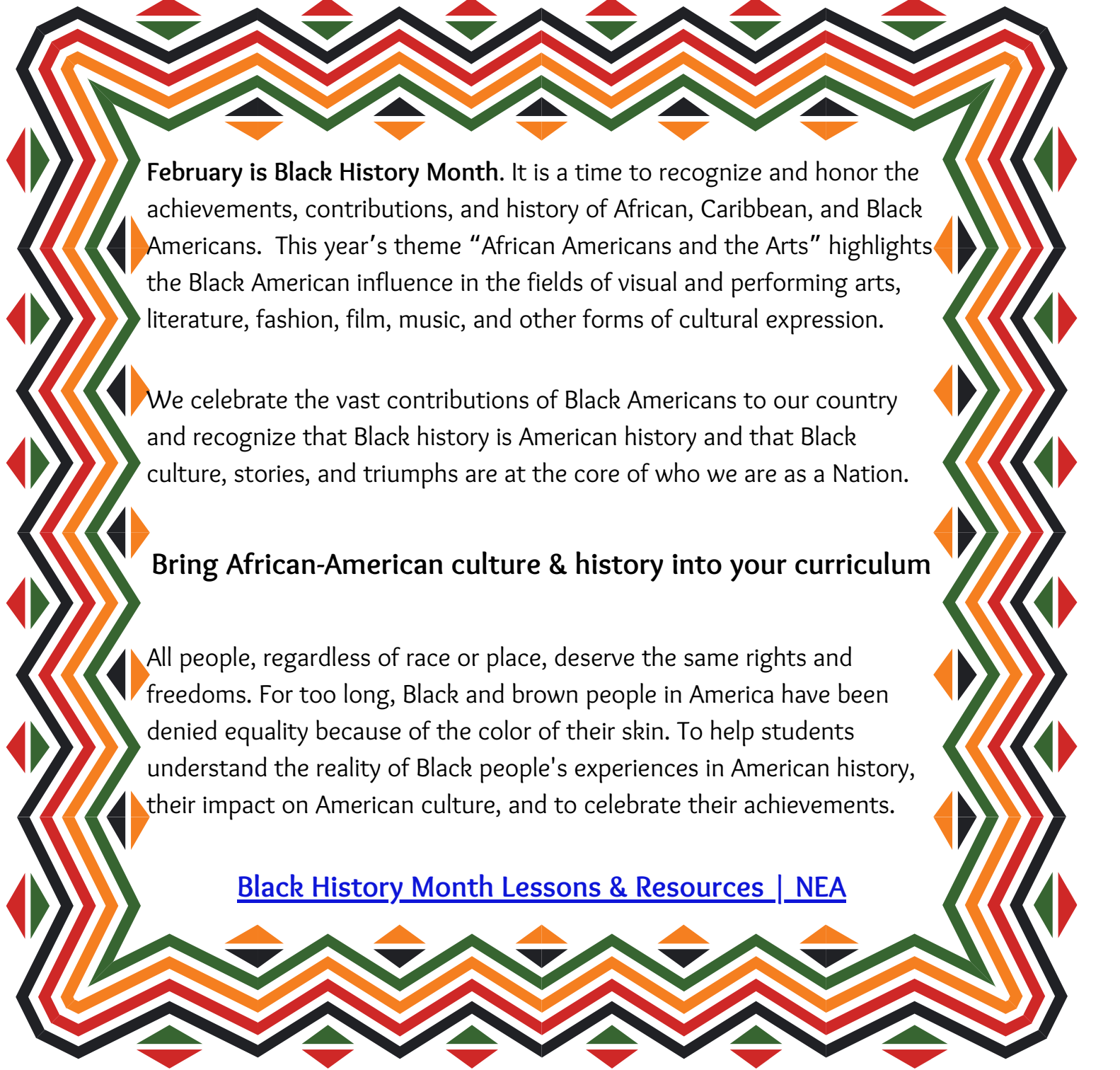
Get started at www.neamb.com/start before the session and bring your questions. We will make sure you all have access to the website and all the valuable programs and services before we wrap-up. 45 minutes that will certainly be fun and might change your life! **Registration Link:**

<http://forms.washingtonea.org/forms/pdregistration?cevid=7779>

March 14th Thursday Life Stage Investing

Learning how to invest vs save money will have a significant impact on your financial future. Join us to explore the concept of long-term investing while addressing retirement income sources, gaps, and the potential impact of healthcare in retirement. We realize that for many of you, retirement seems a long way away, but the sooner you learn about the basic concepts of financial security the better off you will be in making decisions between now and then. And, what you learn here is not just applicable to retirement planning but to all your savings and investing goals between now and then as well. **Registration Link:**

<http://forms.washingtonea.org/forms/pdregistration?cevid=7780>



February is Black History Month. It is a time to recognize and honor the achievements, contributions, and history of African, Caribbean, and Black Americans. This year's theme "African Americans and the Arts" highlights the Black American influence in the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, film, music, and other forms of cultural expression.

We celebrate the vast contributions of Black Americans to our country and recognize that Black history is American history and that Black culture, stories, and triumphs are at the core of who we are as a Nation.

Bring African-American culture & history into your curriculum

All people, regardless of race or place, deserve the same rights and freedoms. For too long, Black and brown people in America have been denied equality because of the color of their skin. To help students understand the reality of Black people's experiences in American history, their impact on American culture, and to celebrate their achievements.

[Black History Month Lessons & Resources](#) | [NEA](#)



Mid-Winter Break

February 15-19

Hang in there, a well deserved and needed break is coming soon!!

LWEA OFFICE STAFF

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MONEY MINUTE

Get Ready for Retirement



Department of Retirement and VEBA: Teams Meetings
Wednesday, February 28

and
Tuesday, March 19
4:00-6:30 p.m.

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 10

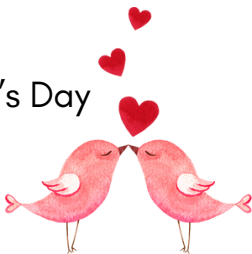
Chinese New Year
Year of the Dragon

FEB 13

Exec Committee

FEB 14

Valentine's Day



FEB 15-19

Mid-Winter Break

FEB 19

President's Day

Are you planning on retiring within the next few years? If so, you may have questions relating to:

- VEBA
- Early Retirement
- Benefit Options
- Purchasing Service Credit
- COLA
- Working After Retirement

Register for a session by emailing Linda Hannah at lhannah@lwsd.org to reserve your space and to receive a retirement packet.



Friend In Need



Laura Crocenzi, Para at Kamiakin MS, is in need of sick leave hours. She has been tending to her husband's health issues and is now dealing with her own health. She would be so grateful for any hours you are able to contribute.

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

