

## Fall Update

### VEA Membership Survey



VEA continues to collaborate with VPS around Dept. of Health, Labor and Industries, and OSPI guidance for providing remote and/or onsite services to students and we want to ensure our advocacy represents the most up-to-date needs and interests of our membership. We also remain in close contact with association leaders around Clark County in an effort to coordinate regional communication and advocacy. Your feedback on [this survey](#) will continue to guide subsequent agreements around services currently provided onsite as well as any future expansion of onsite services. It will also inform our collaboration with local associations within WEA Riverside (eg. Battle Ground, Camas, Evergreen, etc.)

Thank you for updating us on your experience and perspective by **noon on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**! All responses to [this survey](#) will remain anonymous.  
#StrongerTogether

### VEA Santa Event COVID-19-style

VEA's in-house Santa Claus is devastated to miss the opportunity to greet VPS staff and children in person this year due to COVID-19! Instead, Santa looks forward to encouraging kids both big and small to stay on the Nice List!

VEA will help Santa send out a **personalized postcard** for your child based on each of your [responses to this survey](#), indicating up to four ways each child can stay on the Nice List (please complete one response per child)! In addition, the postcard will come printed with a QR code that links to a **pre-recorded video greeting from Santa** to share with your children using your phone or other device!



Thank you for placing your request(s) for postcards from Santa (by responding to the survey linked above once per child) **no later than December 4<sup>th</sup>** to give Santa ample time to prepare and mail your

children's postcards in advance of The Big Day in December!

### Special Education Update

VEA is grateful to Special Education leaders and members alike for your outreach and advocacy! Based on inquiries you've brought to our attention, you should know:

**SpEd Paraeducator Vacancies and Para Sub Rate Payment:** VEA's advocacy around this issue is still a work in progress based on a few conflicting pieces of background info. During the original bargain when this language was added (2016), it was mutually agreed upon to place under "Article 10.23I Learning Support," consistent with VPS's claim and most recent communication this fall. However, when the contract was reassembled post-bargain, the language was placed within "Article 10.23, Certificated staff allocation: Special services, Preamble." Since then, VEA and VPS have exchanged several interim bargaining proposals and full bargain proposals, including proposals to modify this very language, without any formal request from VPS to have it removed from the preamble and returned to its agreed upon location under learning support.

VEA is consulting with WEA for further guidance to determine if this series of bargains since 2016 would warrant the language being grandfathered into place within the preamble and/or to determine if filing a formal grievance might be our next step based on VPS' response. VEA has also issued a public records request to VPS to confirm VPS' past practice in payment to SpEd classroom teachers for paraeducator vacancies. We also meet with admin in Special Services and HR tomorrow/Tuesday to further our discussion around this issue.

Please know that VEA recognizes whether the language applies only to learning support or not, the inequitable impact on several self-contained teachers is still significant, warranting this ongoing advocacy. For now, VEA still suggests tracking para vacancies even if VPS isn't willing to compensate for them at this point in time, as we will continue to advocate around retro-pay. Thanks you for your patience – we will continue to provide updates as this work proceeds forward.

### Institutional Racism & White Supremacy PD

VEA will host WEA's presentation on Institutional Racism and White Supremacy, Dec. 9, 2020 from 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm. The course is free to WEA members. Clock hours will be offered. Register using [this link](#).

This training introduces educators to the history of institutional racism and white privilege and explores how both have shaped and continue to affect society, including public education. During the training, participants work through scenarios that help them develop strategies for dealing with institutional racism. The course presentation and exercises help teach skills that, when applied in an education setting, contribute to a climate that encourages student success.

### Goodbye November, Hello Giveaway\$!

VEA is grateful for all the time and effort our members put in to support VPS students and their families! Congratulations to the following members (names drawn at random) on your forthcoming \$25 gift card to a local Vancouver restaurant - #TreatYourself on us! Please email [kvannostran@washingtonea.org](mailto:kvannostran@washingtonea.org) to confirm you'd like it inter-officed to your worksite or please confirm your home mailing address if you'd prefer to receive it in the snail mail!

**Steven Belinge, Bay; Jessica Blatt, Lincoln; Kelsey Bristow, Ogden; Tammy Carlson, Jefferson; Jenese Davis, Lake Shore; Lindsey Hathaway, Skyview; Somona Illingworth, Felida; Gilbert Luna, JPC; Mike Luzod, Salmon Creek; Julie McCloud, Alki; Pamela Pagel, Walnut Grove; Su Roehl, Hazel Dell; Jeffery Teusink, Walnut Grove; Brendon Wiksell, Roosevelt; Nate Young, Walnut Grove**