

COVID-19 Update

VEA #UnionFamily,

Thank you for your patience and perseverance during this unprecedented and challenging time! Please know that the VEA and WEA are advocating for the needs of you and your families as well as those of our students and their families. **Common sense, compassion, and connection** are at the heart of that advocacy at the local and state level, and we ask for the same of you. Together, let's maintain a common sense approach to distance learning and other work requirements; let's show compassion to one another, assuming everyone is doing the best they can; let's remain connected as colleagues and as a #UnionFamily with reassurance that we can and will weather this storm together.

In solidarity,

Kari Van Nostran, VEA President



“Work from Home” Begins Today

Beginning today, VEA members will “work from home.” Access to a device

with internet and a home or cell phone is needed in order to:

- Check your work email at least three times a day
- Respond to emails within 48 hours
- Remain available for calls from colleagues and/or admin
- Review and familiarize yourself with [VPS' Online Learning Resources](#) and [OSPI's Online Learning Resources](#) per content area and grade level band
- Connect with students/families to suggest **optional** learning activities

*SPED members, please see the [March 24 VEA COVID-19 Update](#) for details relevant to your respective roles.

Personal Leave through April 24

If you entered personal leave in AESOP/Frontline for dates between March 27 and April 24, **VPS has directed members to cancel your absences.** Fulfilling your “work from home” responsibilities can still be accomplished and there's no need for personal days to be deducted from your leave bank!

Employee Assistance Program



VEA recognizes the social and emotional impact school closures and “work from home” arrangements have on all of us—especially amidst other family obligations! If you could use assistance in navigating these challenging circumstances, please remember you and your immediate family have access to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The district contracts with Solutions Employee Assistance to provide up to six one-hour counseling and consultation sessions per family member per school year. Participation is voluntary and completely confidential. More information can be found [here](#) and you can call 360-836-8260 or email sea-llc@live.com for an appointment.

Distance Learning

VPS is still developing a plan for distance learning. In accordance with OSPI guidelines, our “soft launch” will take place before spring break – connecting with families and sharing optional learning resources for now. The “hard launch” will roll out after spring break. VEA is collaborating with VPS to ensure details and communication around the distance learning plan align with our [VEA-VPS negotiated Memorandum of Understanding](#). We should have clearer understanding of this plan to share later this week—thanks for your patience!