

## Summer Update

### VPS Updates

**Extended Year Contracts:** If you hold an Extended Year Contract with VPS for additional work hours/days and typically return to work in early August, please note that **working on-site is optional and an opportunity to complete your work remotely remains in effect through the end of our current MOU (August 31)**. This MOU remains in effect for all members, not just those with Extended Year Contracts.

**Building Health & Safety Protocols:** If you choose to work on site, you and your VPS colleagues in-building are required to follow the health and safety protocols VPS shared in both our SafeSchools Training related to COVID as well as the [Reopening Announcement](#) Kathy Everidge shared in early June. **Masks are required while at work, especially in the presence of others.** If a colleague does not comply and they do not respond when you provide them a friendly reminder, please contact building admin for additional support. Thank you for respecting the health and safety of all workers in our system!

### Ready to Up Your Involvement?

Are you interested in getting more involved at the local (VEA) or state (WEA) level of our association? Or, do you recognize something special in a colleague who might need a subtle nudge towards getting more involved themselves?

As new committees are developed locally, related to equity, Special Education, and member engagement in particular, we'd love to have your input around who we might call upon! Please contact VEA President Kari Van Nostran ([kvannostran@washingtonea.org](mailto:kvannostran@washingtonea.org)) to express your interest or to identify a colleague who might be interested as well!

### REMINDER - Specialist Listening Session

If you identify as a Specialist (eg. VAPA, Teacher Librarian, TOSA, etc.), please join us for our 3rd Listening Session this Thursday! We may not have all the answers yet, but we value member voice and the bulk of the agenda will stem from member questions and suggestions:

#### Specialist Listening Session

Thursday, July 30th

2:30-3:30 PM via Zoom

[Click here to RSVP](#)

### Follow Up to Previous Listening Sessions

Thank you to those who joined us last week via Zoom for the VEA Special Education and/or General Education Listening Sessions! We are grateful for additional member input to continue directing discussion and upcoming MOU negotiations with VPS admin.

As a follow up, please see the first round of [Q&A](#) based on those questions/suggestions framed by participants from the Special Education Listening Session. We hope to update this same document with Q&A from the General Education Listening Session by this Friday and further updates from this week's Specialist Listening Session will follow next week.

After sharing a core list of 10 initial questions/suggestions with VPS Special Education Admin last Friday, including specific requests generated by leads among our ESA groups, **we are looking forward to partnering with Daniel Bettis and Laura Bergeron to gather focus groups of classroom teachers and related service providers to ensure direct member input drives reopening planning with Special Education in mind.** More details to follow!

### "Only When It's Safe" Frame

As a show of solidarity and advocacy around a safe open to school this year, please consider changing your Facebook Frame to one that reads "[ONLY WHEN IT'S SAFE: WASHINGTON SCHOOL REOPENING 2020.](#)"