

January Update

Semester Break – January 27

The Semester Break Day is a non-student attendance day for transition between semesters. Employees are NOT expected to report to the building – expectations around this day have not changed.

TRI duties look different for various educators as job responsibilities are unique. As this day is noted as a “Mid-Year TRI” day in the contract, the purpose of this day is for TRI duties – whatever that looks like for the employee. If TRI duties (as determined by the educator) can be completed outside of the building, there is no need for them to report. If they need to come into the building, that would be determined by the work that they need to complete. This day should NOT be directed or managed by admin, nor is it a day for professional development.

There is no mandatory check in or check out on this day. This is a DAY OFF for Elementary. Should ESA staff determine they have nothing to complete, it’s a day off for them as well.

Vacancies and Movement for 2025-26

As you know the PIR was disbanded in the current contract in favor of a more transparent placement and staffing process. Following notification dates for long-term leave (March 1) and retirements (April 1), and taking into consideration enrollment projections, buildings will conclude the in-building staffing process no later than June 1. Remaining vacancies will be shared with HR and the in-district staffing process will begin.

Following the assignment of individuals who are returning from leave and those being rebalanced, remaining vacancies will be posted on the District intranet (VERN) and sent out each week via district email. These additional positions will be posted weekly and remain open for five days to internal applicants only (through June 30). Voluntary movement will be accomplished through this application process.

Openings that occur July 16-October 14 may have the posting period reduced to three working days in order to make transfers and reassignments of employees from school-to-school or class-to-class. Individuals who were placed on the recall list at the end of the 23-24 school year, who have not yet received a continuing position, will remain eligible for recall until the 15th day of the 25-26 school year.

SPARKS Application Extension

VEA was granted a short extension on our SPARKS reservation. Currently there are 10 spaces available. SPARKS is a weekend of networking, learning, and fun – March 7-9!

VEA sponsors release, mileage, meals, hotel, and all program needs including clock hours. If you are considering attending, [apply today!](#) If we do not fill all of our available spaces, we will not hold this event this year.



Rainier Educators of Color Network Conference

Jan 31-Feb 1

Members are invited to attend the 6th annual RECN Conference – an inspiring event filled with powerful tools, strategies, and skills to support the work of equity and social justice across the state. Come fill your cup, connect with amazing people, and engage in transformative learning. Together we will stand in the gap and drive change! January 31 in person 5-8:30 pm Location Puget Sound Skill Center and February 1st via zoom 8:30-4:30 pm. Contact VEA for assistance with release time on January 31st.

NEA Webinar Series

NEA members are a crucial part of the community coming together to protect public education. As we prepare for this new era, we know we must be united, proactive, and focused on our vision for the future of students, educators, and public schools.

Join NEA Aspiring Educators January 15 – 18 via Zoom for daily one-hour conversations exploring ways all NEA members can prepare for the incoming Trump



administration. [Register online](#) to join one, some, or all of the discussions listed below 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. PT

- Jan 15 Preparing for a Second Trump Administration
- Jan 16: Defending LGBTQ+ Civil Rights in Public Schools
- Jan 17: ICE Out of Schools
- Jan 18 Fighting Vouchers and Charter Privatization



Watch for information on how you can help spread the word to vote YES on the VPS levy supporting technology and safety. Contact VEA if you would like a yard sign.