

AEA Viewpoint

March 2007



Take the lead.

Top Ten Reasons Why You Should Care About What Happens in Olympia

1. Your COLA

The Legislature has the power to fund your COLA (Cost of Living Allowance). Several years ago, in fact, they decided to suspend it. This year, you received a 3.3% increase from the state. If you are a beginning teacher, that's an increase of \$1,000 over last year. If you're at the top of the salary schedule, you're making almost **\$2,000 more than you did last year.**

2. Your salary Educator's salaries in Washington have fallen to dead last among the west coast states. In the early 1980s, we were 5th in the nation.

3. The high cost of living in our area.

The Legislature has refused to pass legislation that would allow regions to run levies for salary supplements to help offset the high cost of housing. WEA will be advocating during this legislative session to get funding for this important concern.

4. Your Benefits

Health insurance premiums continually rise at a rate much higher than inflation. The Legislature decides whether to fully fund the increase, like they did this year, or make you shoulder the additional costs.

5. Your retirement

Right now, those in Plans 2 and 3 won't be eligible to retire with full benefits until they reach age 65. For some, that means teaching for 43 years. The Legislature will be considering ways to reduce the retirement age to a more reasonable number.

6. Your class size

Washington is now 47th in the nation in class size. It's up to the Legislature to fund basic education so that you're able to give your students the individual attention they need in order to succeed.

7. How much more money is spent educating your students

According to Education week, Washington ranks 42nd in per-pupil funding. If funding was simply raised to the national average, Auburn would be able to hire more certificated teachers, more instructional assistants, more counselors, playground supervisors, cooks and bus drivers.

8. Your certification.

The new professional certification (pro-cert) requirement, which came into effect in September 2000, is an extremely burdensome system that badly needs improvement. Legislation is needed that would make the requirements more reasonable and meaningful for teachers new to the profession or to the state.

9. Special Education Funding

The state significantly under funds special education, causing school districts to use funds from other programs to meet federal special education mandates. Take some time to visit with the Special Education staff member at your work site and ask them how under funding impacts the work they do with students.

10. School Funding

In 1981, Judge Doran ordered the Legislature to fully fund education. The Legislature responded by creating the Basic Education Act and devoting 50.4% of the state's general fund budget to K-12 education. Today, only about 42% of the budget is earmarked for K-12 education—a loss of billions if the same percentage had been maintained over the years.



News You Can Use: Waiver Days



The number one issue identified by educators in the Auburn School District as we entered the 2006 contract negotiations was the need to provide time within the current work day to address the ever increasing workload demands brought about by education reform in the state of Washington.

One facet of our attempt to alleviate these ever increasing workload demands is the addition of Waiver Days to the school calendar. The language that was bargained states, “On Waiver Days, an employee may determine to work individually or collaboratively. If employees choose to work individually in their buildings, then the employee must submit an Individual Choice SIP form to their principal.”

The Washington State Board of Education has granted a waiver from the 180 day student attendance requirement to the Auburn School District. The waiver was granted to provide Auburn educators with the time needed to work on individual building School Improvement Plans.

Commonly asked questions and answers about Waiver Days

Q: What will a Waiver Day look like in my building?

A: We anticipate it will be interesting and exciting. Some educators will decide to work individually. Some educators will decide to work collaboratively with a colleague or small group. Others

will opt to attend a training or staff development. All Options must align with School Improvement Plans.

Q: Who determines what I do on a Waiver Day?

A: You do. Your activities must align with your building’s School Improvement Plan.

Q: That sounds good. What kind of work can I do if I choose to work individually or in a small group?

A: The intent of a waiver day is to supply staff members the time they need to address the demands of education reform as targeted by their building’s School Improvement Plan. Planning future instruction, thoughtfully assessing student work, and/or analyzing relevant data are just a few of the creative possibilities that would address almost any building’s School Improvement Plan. You’ll need to check yours and review its targets.

Q: Just to clarify, does my work have to relate to my building’s School Improvement Plan?

A: Yes. Since the curriculum, scope and sequence, and instruction in each building is already guided by these School Improvement Plans, it was the agreed upon that this was the natural guideline for Waiver Day work. Current teacher practices may be restructured to better align with SIP plans so, whether you are working of IEPs, planning a Spring Concert, or implementing CBAs, the flexibility of the Individual Choice SIP Plan form should allow you to explain how your work helps

to address the SIP plan in your building.

Q: Can my department or grade level team meet on that day?

A: Yes. Keep in mind, however, that any individual can opt out by submitting an Individual Choice SIP Plan form to their principal with their own plan.

Q: What if my building administrator is offering a staff development or training that is important? Am I required to attend?

A: You determine what you do on a Waiver Day. Your building administrator cannot mandate your attendance at a staff development or training on a Waiver Day. An employee cannot be negatively evaluated for not attending an in-service training on that day. Education reform brings with it many important priorities. We believe that the individual educator is best suited to make this decision.

Q: Do I need to let my Principal know what I plan to do that day?

A: Yes, if you want to work individually. You will need to complete an Individual Choice SIP Plan form and turn it in to your building administrator

Q: Is there anything else I need to know about Waiver Days?

A: It is a seven and a half hour work day inclusive of a thirty minute duty free lunch; unless you have worked with your building administrator and mutually agreed to another time schedule for the waiver work days.

Cool Community Ideas

“Trees are Terrific...and forests are too!”

This is the theme of the 2007 Arbor Day National Poster Contest. Last year, over 75,000 fifth grade classrooms participated in the contest. Visit the National Arbor Day Foundation’s web site for your free classroom materials at www.arborday.org

(Carolyn Logan-Dick Scobee)



Hometown Helper?

Hamburger Helper is looking to lend a helping hand to neighborhoods nationwide with its “my Hometown Helper” grant program. Individuals from communities and organizations can submit a 250 word essay describing how the grant would help improve their community project. The maximum award is \$15,000.

Requests for funding must be sponsored by a civic organization or public school. The deadline to apply is May 31. More information is available online at www.myhometownhlper.com

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Did You Find It?



We have secretly placed the name of an AEA member within the pages of the Viewpoint.

If this is your name, you have won a \$5.00 gift card to Starbucks!~

To redeem your prize, contact AEA office manager, Kimberly Greene at aubrnea2@mindspring.com or by phone at 253-804-6010

Shared Sick Leave



Melissa Powderface—Custodian
Deonna Steffy—Admin. Asst.
Sheri Adams- Certificated
Kathy Turner-Bus Driver
Tracy Adams- para educator
Jennifer Swanson-Certificated



If you have over 22 days of accumulated sick leave and would like to share extra days, please contact the office manager in your building for the shared sick leave form. You may donate up to 6 days each year.

THE AEA MARKETPLACE

Your source for goods and services from our membership community

992 Honda Accord LX, 4-door, 5 speed, burgundy with gray interior. Great commuter car or first for new driver! A/C, power windows/doors, cruise control, well-maintained. Second owner, \$2000 OBO.

Beautiful & Classy square coffee table, dark wood inlaid with 9 (3x3) stone blocks. Dimension are about 3 ft X 3 ft X 2 ft tall. Perfect condition, we paid \$300 asking only \$150.

Call Laura Hogenson (Olympic) (253) 376-4580 or email her at lhogenson@auburn.wednet.edu for more information and pictures on the table & car.

Beautiful Rosewood Baby Grand Piano circa 1890's, \$500 OBO. Con tact Michelle Dutoit (Lea Hill) (253) 891-0102 or (253) 820-1015.

27" Proscan Color TV \$25.00

Call Jennifer Bogard (Mt. Baker) (253) 804-4555

26 Ft. Motor Home, 1990, excellent condition. Ford 460, 68K miles, sleeps 6, runs great, nothing to do but drive to your favorite spot and enjoy!! \$10,500. Please call Beth Raines (Dick Scobee) (360) 678-6495 or (253) 891-7270.

Share my home – I am a teacher in the Kent School District wanting to share my house. The house is located near Muckleshoot Casino (Riverwalk). \$600 per month includes all utilities. No smoking or pets. Call Judy at (253) 804-3199.

HOUSE FOR SALE – Cozy 2 bedroom 2 bath rambler with spectacular views of the mountains in Leavenworth, WA for sale. Completely new inside and out. Discount to AEA members and extended families. Golf, hiking, fishing and shopping close by. \$299,900. Contact Rick Nelson (AHS) or call (253) 380-2984.

LOOKING FOR SOME SUN?

Spacious 3 bd/3ba luxury condo in St. George, UT. Five minutes from golfing, access to Green Valley Spa, across sidewalk from outdoor pool and hot tub. Amenities included. 2 rooms w/private bath, 50" flat screen TV, fully stocked kitchen, washer & dryer, covered patio w/BBQ & more. Close to Zion Nat'l Park, Snow Canyon & Tuacahn. Contact Chad Guisinger (ARHS) (253) 653-9887.

THE BODY STUDIO

www.TheBodyStudio.org
253-321-2181

Located at Tall Firs Cinema Center in Bonney Lake.

Kickboxing ~ Pilates ~ Yoga ~ Reformer Training ~ Step Spinning ~ Strength Training ~ Kid's Club ~ Core Conditioning ~ Nutrition Consulting

Auburn School District
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NO JOINING FEE on all monthly memberships (\$75 savings!)
FREE 15 minute training session on the Pilates Reformer.
5 Private Reformer Sessions (30 minutes each) for only \$120.00.
Come try any of the classes for 2 weeks FREE. Call or check the website for more information.

Sucre Specialty Cakes

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Contact Amy Underwood (253) 820-8547



HOUSE FOR RENT—4 bd, 2 ba, 2 story home in Federal Way. 1 car garage w/fenced in yard. Freshly painted and updated. \$1250/month w/\$1000 damage deposit. Nordic Trac in excellent condition – \$350
Call Debra Landis (Olympic) (253) 735-8170 or email dlandis@auburn.wednet.edu

- Ads are run in the AEA Marketplace on a first come, first served basis pending available space.
- Ads are accepted only in written form.
- Direct ads to Kimberly Greene via e-mail at auburnea2@mindspring.com
- Ads are subject to approval from the Executive Board and content may be edited for length.