

A Workers' Compensation Trust Progress Report December 2007

Note: One of the AESD's Strategic Plan goals is to improve the effectiveness of the statewide system of ESDs. Several of our current programs are actively involved in such efforts and the ESD Superintendents have requested updates during the year. The following report summarizes the Workers' Compensation Trust presentation to the ESD Superintendent's meeting in December.

Twenty-six million dollars is the estimated cost of work-place injury claims occurring in fiscal year 2006-2007 for the eight Educational Service Districts that operate Workers' Compensation cooperatives on behalf of their member districts. These individual programs function independently through their governing boards and charters with the state of Washington as Workers' Compensation Trusts. These trusts provide claims service and safety support to member school districts within each Educational Service District.

Five years ago, the Workers' Compensation Trust (WCT) administrators were asked to gather benchmarking data about the financial health of their eight programs. There were legitimate concerns that should one of the Trust's programs become insolvent, it could have a serious financial impact on the financial stability of the remaining seven Workers' Compensation Trusts. With this in mind, superintendents wanted to develop a method to monitor the financial health of this program.

During the past five years, this collaborative effort has been very successful as indicated through the following accomplishments:

- **Supported Safer Schools:** Evidenced by the lowest average accident frequency per worker hour in 22 years.
- **Working as a System:** WCTs collaborate in developing common best practices standards for claims and loss control.
- **Common Claims Management Support Systems:** iComp claims management system is used by all self-administered claims programs.
- **Inter-ESD Cooperation:** ESD staff have worked hard at developing a disaster recovery operation interruption plan.
- **WCT Administrators Collaborate on Operational and Regulatory Concerns:** Trust administrators have been able to encourage L & I to not adopt more stringent reporting guidelines for individual school districts.
- **Leveraging our Purchasing Power:** Trust administrators have worked closely with Insurance Broker to purchase reinsurance coverage at rates lower than any one Trust could get purchasing this coverage independently.
- **Shared Resources and Knowledge:** ESDs share information about the particular characteristics of our state's very safest school districts. Also WCT's provide external claims service support when potential conflicts of interest arise.

Current analysis shows that our state's Workers' Compensation programs are getting stronger and one of the reasons is that they are all working together wherever possible.

~Bill Keim, Chair
ESD Superintendents



WASA Executive Director Paul Rosier (left) visits with ESD 113 Superintendent Bill Keim, who is chair of the state ESD Superintendent group.

Coming Events	
Legislative Conference	February 10-11, 2008, Red Lion, Olympia
AESD Board Meeting	February 11, noon—4 p.m., WSSDA Office
2008 AESD Conference	April 24-26, 2008, Everett Holiday Inn
AESD Board Meeting	April 24, 1—4 p.m.
AESD Board Meeting	July 1, 1 – 4 p.m., ESD 101

AESD Dispatch*



*Dispatch: "The sending of a message with promptness and efficiency."

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www.aesd-wa.org

A Message from the President



President Robert Bauer
ESD 101

Hello to everyone from snowy Eastern Washington. I hope this finds everyone doing well, including Howard Coble, who had a nasty fall on the ice. Howard, we wish you a speedy recovery.

This fall, I attended a session at the WSSDA Conference in Seattle called "Challenge Day." The basis of Challenge Day is to bring students together to talk about problems in school with their peers. It deals with bullying and how it affects students. Some schools in the state already have held Challenge Days and they

speak highly of it. I think this is a good program the ESDs should consider sponsoring. I will get more information for the AESD Executive Board meeting February 11 in Olympia.

At that meeting, we also will have a report back from our performance audit subcommittee. By that time, all ESD should have a chance to discuss it at our regular ESD meetings. Also keep in mind our annual conference in Everett, April 24-26.

Finally, as many of you may already know, our ESD 101 Superintendent, Dr. Terry Munther, has announced his retirement. On June 30, he will cap a 30-year career that has included more than a decade at ESD 101.

Thank you, Terry, for all you have done for ESD 101, AESD and AESA. You will be missed.

~Robert Bauer
AESD President, ESD 101

Twyla Barnes honored at AESA Conference



Shown (l-r): Brian Talbott, AESA Executive Director; Dr. Twyla Barnes, ESD 112 Superintendent and Douglas Garman, Wood County ESC, Ohio, AESA President

Congratulations go to ESD 112 Superintendent Twyla Barnes, who was honored as the 2007 winner of the Justus A. Prentice Award at the 22nd Annual AESA Conference held November 30—December 2, 2007, in Tampa.

AESA annually recognizes outstanding accomplishments

of contributions to education and to AESA. Twyla was selected for outstanding contributions through executive leadership in the advancement of regional educational service agency programs at the regional, state and national levels.

AESD Dispatch is a newsletter for directors of ESDs in Washington State, published quarterly during the year, circulation 100.

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See the AESD Website www.aesd-wa.org for the calendar of events and other AESD information.

Editor, Eldene Wall, North Central ESD ~ eldene@ncesd.org

News from Washington State ESDs



(l-r) Terry Munther, ESD 101 Superintendent; Katie Proteau, ESD 114 Board; Larry MacGuffie, North Central ESD Board.

AESA Conference Highlights

The 2007 AESA Conference "Leading for Learning" was held November 28 through December 1 in Tampa, Florida. This excellent conference was the 22nd in the history of AESA, and the largest in AESA's history.

Representatives of 500 member agencies attended, representing 44 states. Many of those who attended shared their experience and expertise as presenters.

Keynote speakers were Raymond Reyes, Stan Collender and Pedro Noguera, who each presented their unique perspective on important research and issues that impact the educational community.

There were 90 concurrent sessions relating to the conference theme in the areas of Leading for Learning, Emerging Issues and Trends, Technology Transfer, Tools for Collaboration and Measuring Success.

Washington State ESDs were well represented at the conference, and presentations

were shared from several of the ESDs, including ESD 101, ESD 112, ESD 123, Puget Sound ESD and North Central ESD.

We were proud of Twyla Barnes, ESD 112 Superintendent, who received the prestigious Justus Prentice Award.

The next AESA Conference is scheduled December 3-6, 2008, in Phoenix, Arizona at the J.W. Marriott Desert Ridge Resort and Spa. The theme will be "Preparing students. Delivering success." This conference will focus on cost-effective, responsive and innovative programs and services that Educational Service Agencies provide schools and other clients.



ESD 101 Board and staff (l-r): Gary Coe, Robert Bauer, Kim Carlson, ESD 101 Board, and Jerry McDermott and Helene Paroff, ESD 101 Assistant Superintendents.



Lori Williams and Twyla Barnes from ESD 112 visit with workshop participants following their presentation at the AESA Conference.



Douglas Poole and Rich McBride from North Central ESD answer questions about the Math Leadership Alliance following their workshop.

Legislative Team Update

Our AESD legislative team, Jim Shoemake and Tom Kelly, ably guided by Bill Keim, has been actively pursuing the AESD Legislative Agenda. This brief summary will provide an update of our activities. It is important to note that our extensive discussions regarding an ESD regional delivery system have been very well received. ESD activities are recognized and highly valued!

Our discussions of ESD regional delivery with Senator Rosemary McAuliffe, Chair of the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee, have been particularly well received. To better understand the ESDs and the role they can play as a statewide system, she intends to host a dinner for her committee members and our ESD Superintendents to discuss ESD regional delivery. This informal setting will provide an opportunity for formative discussion.

The context for this session was set by the Governor who made it very clear from the outset that this '08 Supplemental Session would focus not on new policy but on adjustments to existing programs. Hence our activities have focused on defining the issues for potential budget adds this session or for legislative action next session.

Core Funding – ESD Staff Allocation Formula: A fact sheet describing the existing funding shortfall has been distributed to key legislators and to Senate and House staffers. We intend to follow-up with the Senate and House k-12 budget staff. We do not expect supportive legislation this session; however, the issue has been defined.

Fiscal Technical Assistance: Bill 5842 which was introduced in the last session has been reintroduced. However, no action has occurred to move it forward. The bill does address additional resources and an expanded

role for ESDs to provide proactive fiscal assistance to school districts. We are stressing the intent to develop the capacity to assist school districts, not monitor them. This monitoring issue was the major reason the bill failed last session. If the fiscal technical assistance issue moves forward we will work to influence provisions defining core funding for provision of assistance to districts in maintaining strong fiscal positions.

Dropout Prevention / Intervention: Building Bridges, a program designed to address dropout prevention, intervention and retrieval was created last session by HB 1573. Full implementation of Building Bridges is being addressed by "a state-level work group" as stipulated in the bill. With this Building Bridges work group we will continue to pursue a regional based system for dropout prevention and intervention operated by each ESD in collaboration with local school districts and other local agencies.

A related initiative proposed in this session by Bill 6536 creates pilot programs in ESD 105 and 112 to identify and address the needs of students at risk of dropping out.

Capital Funding Study: A request for \$150 thousand was in the SPI budget to fund a feasibility study to address development of a long-range capital facility plan for a funding mechanism to support ESD capital facilities and of clear roles and responsibilities with OSPI's capital budgeting process. We are following up on this request with

budget staff.

Statutory Change Certification Fee: We successfully drafted and obtained sponsors for Senate Bill 6740 which seeks change to RCW 410.060 language to allow a portion of certification fees to cover expenses of operating ESD certification offices. This bill will be heard by the Senate Education Committee on January 31st.

SB 6538 Adolescent Reading Program is a bill of interest. It proposes ESD based reading coordinators similar to the Math Coordinator role. Our interest is that these staff should be integrated into the partnership agreement and handled the same as the math and science coordinators.

Thus far it has been a busy, productive time. In the collective experiences of the legislative team we can not recall a time of greater legislative support for ESDs. We are optimistic that over time this support will generate additional capacities for ESDs to assist local school districts educate our children.

~Jim Shoemake and Tom Kelly
AESD Executive Services



News from Washington State ESDs

1983 after graduating with summa cum laude honors from the University of Idaho with a Bachelors degree in Computer Science.

~Elizabeth Hill
Public Information Officer
ESD 123



North Central ESD



North Central ESD's Greater Columbia Liberty Fellowship Teaching American History Grant, in partnership with the American Institute for History Education, kicked off in October.

Thirty-six teachers, representing fifteen of our region's districts, came together for two exciting days in October to learn from three nationally recognized historians: Dr. Alan Gibson, Dr. Bill Ross, and Dr. Chuck Chalberg.

Our teachers not only learned about the beginnings of American History through the study of founding documents, they also learned how to make history come alive for their students through the use of a technique called "Bracketing." Three of our teachers are focused on this month's AIHE on-line newsletter:

www.americaninstituteforhistory.org/

Our next colloquium is in February, and we do still have room for additional participants. If you are interested in applying for participation in this grant, please contact either Karen Schmittens karens@ncesd.org (509)

667-7101 or Shirley Mayer
shirleym@ncesd.org (509) 665-2652.

~Karen Schmittens
Teaching American History
North Central ESD



Puget Sound ESD is the lead agency for Reinvesting in Youth (RIY), a county-wide multi-organization effort to find and implement best practices to reduce the youth school drop-out rate.

Initially, RIY worked with the King County juvenile justice system to move to a coordinated, community-based system of cost-effective crime prevention and early intervention. With the realization that the majority of students involved in the juvenile justice system are high school dropouts (or have earned so few credits that they are unlikely to graduate), RIY is focusing on drop-out prevention, intervention and retrieval strategies that are most likely to increase graduation rates.

RIY will work with district leaders to develop a comprehensive dropout prevention action plan that includes the best research-based school practices and programs and will provide technical assistance, resources and support to help with implementation and evaluation. Plans will involve staff, students, parents and community in a comprehensive effort. RIY is also working with legislators and education stakeholders on policy reform and potential incentives to address the dropout challenge.

RIY is supported through funds from the City of Seattle, King County, suburban cities, United Way, and the Bill & Melinda Gates, Paul G. Allen, and Norcliffe Foundations.

~Kerry MacDonald, Manager
PSESD Communications

February 11 AESD Meeting

The next AESD Executive Board meeting is scheduled Monday, February 11 in conjunction with the WASA/WSSDA Legislative Conference in Olympia. The meeting will be held in the WSSDA Conference Center beginning with lunch at noon.

To review the agenda, minutes and check on directions to the WSSDA Conference Center, see the AESD website at www.aesd-wa.org.

If you have questions, contact Cindy Sands c.sands@wssda.org or (360) 252-3018.



ESD Superintendents, AESD Executive Board members and ESD Board members met November 15 at the Mayflower Hotel in Seattle during the WSSDA Conference. Shown below: Ron Schmidt, ESD 101, and Katie Proteau, ESD 114.



AESD Conference/ News from N.W. ESD 189



The AESD Annual Conference, hosted by NW ESD 189, is coming soon, April 24-26 in Everett. You won't want to miss this enriching and enjoyable conference!

Make your reservations now at the Holiday Inn, Downtown Everett (866-770-1188). Be sure to request the NWESD rate of \$105 per night. This reduced rate can only be held through March 25th!

~Jerry Jenkins
ESD 189 Superintendent



The NWESD Board is excitedly planning for the annual AESD Conference it will host April 24-26, 2008 at the Holiday Inn, Downtown Everett. The conference will focus our time and learning around the proactive services ESDs can provide to meet current school district challenges—primarily in the area of mathematics and science education.

To highlight the conference theme, **Soaring to Success: ESD Flight Plan**, Friday afternoon's program will take place at the *Future of Flight Aviation Center*.

The conference schedule in brief:

Thursday, April 24	1:00 p.m.	AESD Board Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	President's Reception
	6:30 p.m.	Banquet
Friday, April 25	7:30 -11:30 a.m.	Breakfast/Morning General Session Keynote Speaker, Andrea Peterson, National Teacher of the Year
	10:00 – 11:15 a.m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions
	11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.	Lunch/AESD Business Meeting
	2:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Future of Flight Aviation Center Speaker, Astronaut Dr. George "Pinky" Nelson Narrated Tour of Future of Flight Aviation Center Legislative Update
	6:00 p.m.	Dinner On Your Own
Saturday, April 26	8:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Breakfast/Morning General Session AESA Update & issues AESD Systems Planning Gift Basket Drawing/Closing



Ellensburg's Dick Wedin joins ESD 105 Board



The ESD 105 Board of Directors welcomed Dick Wedin of Ellensburg as its newest member on December 18. Dick is representing District 1, which includes the Cle Elum-Roslyn, Damman, Easton, Ellensburg, Kittitas, Royal, Thorp, and Wahluke school districts. His position had been held since 2002 by Royal City's Denise Andersen, who left the Board this past fall.

Dick recently retired from the Ellensburg School Board, where he had been a member during 1981-1987 and 1999-2007 and had been its president. He has also been active with Kittitas County 4-H, serving as a past president and member of its Council since 1986 and as a member of its Endowment Trust Fund Board since 1988.

Dick has a B.S. degree in agricultural economics from Oregon State University and an M.S. in organization development from Central Washington University. He retired from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources in 2004 after a 31-year career that included working as a land manager, a natural resource specialist, an asset stewardship section manger, and a property transactions facilitator.

The son of a longtime agricul-

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ture teacher, Dick is now serving as a distance learning instructor with Yakima Valley Community College. His wife, Audrey, chairs the YVCC's business technology department. The couple has four children who all graduated from Ellensburg High School and Washington State University.

"The greatest gift you can give to a child is an education," says the new Board member. "Education is a great enabler. I want to enable these kids to be anything they want to be. I look at this as a new opportunity in the field of education to learn and hopefully make a difference."

ESD 105 expands with new parking site

A new parking lot across the street from the ESD 105 Conference Center officially opened in early October. The 60 additional parking spaces at the 21,000 square foot lot nearly doubles the available parking at the agency. ESD 105 purchased the site of the lot (formerly a fenced storage area) and an adjacent warehouse at 108 S. 2nd Ave. in Yakima in 2006. Work on the new landscaping, lighting, and asphalt at the site began last spring.

Math-Arts Integration Project begins

ESD 105 has launched a program designed to boost students'

success in their third year high school math courses by incorporating visual arts concepts into their instruction. The Math-Arts Integration Project is being funded by a two-year grant of \$60,000 from the state's Transition Math Project (TMP) through a contribution by the Ford Foundation. ESD 105 is the only K-12 organization to receive a Math-Arts TMP grant, with the other going to Green River Community College

From January through June, ESD 105 will work with art and math teachers from the Easton, Grandview, and Toppenish school districts to develop modules that will integrate artistic theories such as perspective, ratios, or repeating patterns as ways to help students connect with mathematical concepts. Each school's team will devise a module that they will test and teach together, and the ideas will be shared among the three groups.

Plans are to include the complete modules on the ESD 105 ArtFusion Web site this fall for others to use. During the second year of the project, the modules will be refined and piloted in the participating districts, and possibly shared with additional schools.

~David Goebner
ESD 105 Communications



ESD 112 and early learning partners selected to help design rating system

The Department of Early Learning has selected Vancouver as one of five sites in Washington to design a pilot rating system for child care, preschool and school-age programs throughout the state. Educational Service District 112 will help bring key partners together to create a model rating system designed to help parents find the best early learning opportunities for their family.

This is the first phase of Washington's efforts to test a statewide voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The QRIS is an opportunity for educators and programs to demonstrate the quality of care they provide for children, and for parents to easily access the kind of information they want. A key component of the QRIS is providing incentives for providers to boost their rating through professional development opportunities for staff and other program quality improvements.

"The goal is to improve the quality of care so all children thrive in a positive environment," said Debbie Ham, ESD 112's Director of Early Learning. In addition, Ham said parents will have a strong voice in designing the system and the needs of child care providers will be identified. "We are enthused about partnering with the Department of Early Learning and the other communities in this planning effort," she added. Creating a voluntary QRIS was a key recommendation of the Early Learning Council as part of Washington Learns, Governor Chris Gregoire's 18-month review of Washington's public school system.

The communities have until July 1, 2008, to design their QRIS pro-

gram. DEL expects to work with these same communities on implementation of the pilot testing of specific ratings that the state will determine in conjunction with parents and communities.

~Lori Williams, Deputy Director
ESD 112 School/ Agency Operations



ESD 113: Students who do not meet standard on the WASL have a number of options that will allow them to demonstrate mastery of our state standards. One of them is the Collection of Evidence (COE). Last summer, ESD 113 facilitated the scoring of 785 student collections and is preparing to do so again this spring. More than 15,000 students are registered to submit their COE. Districts will be sending the collections in early February and scoring will occur from mid March to early April.

ESD 113 will be hiring over 200 people from around the community and across the state to help in the intake, processing, distribution and scoring of the submitted

collections. The ESD is preparing to ship over 10,000 binders to districts, and anticipate that they will receive nearly this number for scoring which would mean a contract with OSPI totally nearly \$2,700,000.

For information, contact Dana Anderson, Assistant Superintendent, danderson@esd113.k12.wa.us or (360) 464-6721.

~Judy McDaniel
ESD 113 Communications



Olympic ESD's Olympic ESD 114 received one of 14 Reading Readiness Grants from the State Department of Early Learning / Thrive by Five. The grant will be used by the Kitsap-Olympic Reading Foundation—READY! for Kindergarten partnership to develop regional early learning initiatives. The primary message of these programs is **Read to your child 20 minutes a day and Play with a purpose.**

The South Kitsap and North Mason School Districts piloted the READY! program last fall. Almost 200 families participated. Family



ESD 114 pilots the READY! for Kindergarten partnership, funded by a Reading Readiness Grant, to develop regional learning initiatives.

involvement is vital to the success of these programs.

For 2007-2008, the program is expanding to include the Bremerton, Brinnon, and Cape Flattery School Districts, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, and child care providers. United Way of Kitsap County and the Parenting Matters Foundation in Sequim are key members of this regional partnership.

~Sidney Michael
ESD 114 Special Services/
Communications



ESD 123 Lee Ann Dudney appointed as new ESD 123 Board member



Lee Ann currently serves as the Manager of Information Analytics at Battelle in Richland, where she manages a group of approximately fifty computer scientists, software engineers, and human computer interaction designers. Prior to her current assignment, she managed a variety of information technology (IT) research, software engineering, and IT infrastructure groups and projects, including overseeing development and operation of the IT infrastructure and leading development of the IT Strategic Plan. Lee Ann joined Battelle in

