

# Tumwater Education Association

## ADVOCATE

[TumwaterEA.org](http://TumwaterEA.org)

January 2026



Please use the following link to view the full flyer for more information about the [Replacement Safety, Technology, and Capital Improvements Levy](#) election on February 10, 2026.

## Alternative Learning Experience MOU

### Joint workgroup

The Association bargaining team negotiated an MOU for the Alternative Learning Experience programs during our last round of bargaining. The Association and the District entered into the MOU in an effort to review current program offerings and determine a direction for the future. According to OSPI, “the Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) is public education where some or all of the instruction is delivered outside of a regular classroom schedule. It is available to all public school districts and public charter schools in Washington state. The intent of ALE is to ensure that students have educational opportunities designed to meet their individualized needs. ALE follows all public education requirements as well as [Chapter 392-550 WAC](#).” The District has an interest to expand ALE offerings which benefit students within these parameters as defined by OSPI. The Association shares that interest as we strive to make sure student needs remain at the center of the decision making process.

The Association committee members include Alternative Learning Experience program educators. The Association committee members will develop potential contract language proposals for the upcoming bargain in 2026. Here is the MOU language:

“The Tumwater School District and the Tumwater Education Association (TEA), collectively referred to as the “Parties,” share a commitment to providing all students with high-quality, flexible, and innovative educational opportunities that prepare them for graduation and postsecondary success. The Parties acknowledge that some students benefit from non-traditional learning environments.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a joint workgroup to explore the development and implementation of flexible educational models.

### President’s Corner

The Tumwater School District will place a **Replacement Safety, Technology, and Capital Improvements Levy** measure to the voters on the February 10, 2026 ballot. The District provides the following information about the levy on the Community page of their website. **Please remember to vote on February 10!**

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### [Replacement Levy Information](#)

“This Replacement Safety, Technology & Capital Improvements Levy would replace the existing approximately \$0.55/\$1,000 that is currently being collected for the existing Levy that was previously approved by voters. The reason the per \$1,000 of assessed values increases over time is due to the bond debt that will be decreasing over time. The intent is that the **combined tax** rate for district bonds, Educational Programs & Operations levy, and Safety, Technology & Capital Improvements levy will remain stable over the next six years. The tabs below include more information and frequently asked questions about the replacement levy. If you have additional questions or comments about the content of this page, [send us an email](#); mail Superintendent Kevin Bogatin a letter at 621 Linwood Ave. SW, Tumwater, WA, 98512; or call 360-709-7001. The state provides less than 10% of the funding for the District’s capital needs. This funding is not enough to keep our schools safe, modern, and welcoming for students and our community. If you live in Tumwater School District, this measure will appear on your ballot as Proposition No. 1 — Replacement Safety, Technology, and Capital Improvements Levy Resolution No. 05-25-26. You can read the full resolution text on our website or in the Thurston County Voters’ Guide.

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# Alternative Learning Experience MOU

## Joint workgroup

The purpose of this workgroup is to collaboratively design models that will serve the needs of the student population while ensuring the integrity of the instructional program and the professional rights of educators.

The workgroup shall consist of an equal number of representatives from the District and the TEA. Each party will appoint its representatives, and the workgroup may jointly invite other stakeholders, such as parents, students, or community members, to participate as needed. The workgroup shall be co-chaired by one representative from the District and one from the TEA.

The workgroup is charged with the following tasks:

Research and analyze successful educational models, including ALE and other flexible educational models from other school districts within and outside of Washington state. Identify the needs of Tumwater students who could benefit from alternative learning models. Develop a set of recommendations for potential new educational models and models to be offered by the Tumwater School District. Determine what, if any, modifications to the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) would be necessary to implement these new educational models.”

### President’s Corner

This levy would generate \$49.1 million for Tumwater School District over six years. The district estimates that the combined school tax rate would not increase during this period. As the district’s bond debt decreases, the capital levy amount would increase. The replacement levy rate is projected to be lower in 2027 than in 2026. For a ratepayer with an average priced home in Tumwater, the estimated amount collected beginning in 2027 is approximately \$286, which is less than the amount collected in 2026. If approved, the levy would fund dozens of projects across school safety, technology, and capital improvements. This funding would help replace aging projectors in classrooms and damaged playground equipment. The levy funds improvements at all 11 schools to help our facilities and technology meet each child’s educational needs. This levy helps close the gap between what the state provides for capital improvements, and what our system needs to educate our students in modern school buildings with current technology. Because bond debt will lower over the next six years, the rate from the replacement capital levy will range from 53¢ to 74¢ per \$1,000 of assessed property value to keep combined taxes stable and provide necessary funding across Tumwater schools.”

# OSPI Learning Standards Review

Provide input on new standards as a professional educator



The following information comes from WEA at [OSPI Learning Standards](#).

“As WEA members and educators, we know how important it is that our expertise and perspectives are reflected in the state’s learning standards and goals. Those of us who work directly with students can also help ensure that these policies reflect the diversity of our school communities and account for issues of equity. Right now, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) needs your input on learning standards for mathematics, financial education, social studies and science. There will also be future opportunities for input on standards for English Language Arts (ELA), world languages, health education and physical education.

### Mathematics

[Initial Adoption Math Feedback Survey](#): Please review the proposed standards (see list below) and provide feedback by **Feb. 13, 2026**.

- [What's New in the Math Standards](#)
- [Initial Math Learning Standards](#) (Word)
- [Initial Math Learning Standards](#) (PDF)
- [Initial Math Learning Standards](#) (Excel)
- [Key Shifts in the Math Standards](#)

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# Washington Office of Superintendent of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

## OSPI Learning Standards Review

Provide input on new standards as a professional educator

### Financial Education

[Draft Financial Education Standards Public](#)

[Comment Survey](#): Please review the proposed standards (see list below) and provide feedback by **Feb. 13, 2026**.

- [Summary of Financial Education Standards Changes](#)
- [Draft Financial Education Learning Standards](#) (Word)
- [Draft Financial Education Learning Standards](#) (PDF)
- [Draft Financial Education Learning Standards Crosswalk](#) (Excel)

### Social studies

These are specific to elementary or secondary grade level. Please complete the relevant surveys by **Feb. 13, 2026**:

- [Social Studies Elementary Teacher Survey](#) (open until February 13, 2026)
- [Social Studies Secondary Teacher Survey](#) (open until February 13, 2026)



Together with WEA and NEA, WEA-Retired stands strong for our profession and for Washington students.

## WEA-Retired Scholarships 2026

### WEA members \$1,000

WEA-Retired is offering up to ten \$1,000 scholarships to help WEA members in enhancing skills for their current position, obtaining an endorsement in a new area and attaining or maintaining a teaching certificate. Applicants must be current WEA members and have not received a previous WEA-Retired Scholarship.

Questions? Email: [wearetired.scholarships@gmail.com](mailto:wearetired.scholarships@gmail.com)

From its inception in 1996 WEA-Retired Scholarships has awarded more than \$140,000 to over 170 WEA members, providing “vital support to those seeking to enhance their skills or earn new endorsements.”

Many people have a list of organizations they support. They make donations commemorating a birthday or an achievement, in memory of a loved one, or “just because.” Consider adding WEA-Retired Scholarships to your list. Checks are still good! They should be made out to WEA-Retired Scholarships and sent to: WEA-Retired Scholarships, PO Box 820708, Vancouver, WA 98682. For those who are tech-savvy, transfers via Zelle can be made using the tag **wearetiredscholarships**.



# NEA Student Debt Navigator

## Member benefits

Access this student debt relief tool for educators to find legitimate options to better manage your student loan debt.

### NEA Student Debt Navigator

As an educator, you may be able to have part, or all, of your federal [student loans](#) forgiven. The NEA Student Debt Navigator can help you find and apply for student loan forgiveness programs.

- NEA-vetted student loan forgiveness tool for educators provides trusted sources that give you legitimate options
- Calculate how much money you can save through this tool that’s easy to use on your desktop or mobile device
- As an NEA member, you can run your numbers at no cost to see if you qualify for student loan repayment or forgiveness programs
- If you need additional help, you can access student loan forgiveness experts via telephone or chat
- Receive a complete list of relevant debt-relief programs based on your situation
- Prevent errors and improve your odds of qualifying for student loan forgiveness programs by e-filing your paperwork

How to use the NEA Student Debt Navigator:

1. Make sure you’re signed in to your NEA Member Benefits account.
2. Click “Get Started”.
3. Enter your personal and loan information in the online software program for free.
4. View the results. See which repayment plan works best for you, and whether you qualify for a federal loan forgiveness program.
5. Access the Navigator’s essential features including electronic form filing and access to our student debt experts for one year compliments of the NEA members Insurance Trust.

