

Dear Members,

Bargaining teams continue to work on a K-1 return to school. As you know, the bargaining team divided into three groups: staffing, instructional model, and health and safety. We can't really predict when we will be done, but we can say that teams are making steady progress and our IBB (interest-based bargaining) process has helped to keep our entire team productive and focused on mutually beneficial solutions.

We want to thank you for reading this bargaining update (and all the ones that came before it). Since March, we have communicated more information to our members than ever before. The changes to our communication efforts have not just been influenced by COVID; changes to our Association, unrelated to the pandemic, have also influenced the ways we are communicating with our members. LWEA has more members participating in Association work than ever before (through our Competency Teams model). More participation = more information moving through our organization.

- Information related to the efforts of our Competency Teams is shared through Rep Assembly and building reps, through the Update, through some PD offerings, and sometimes through our social media channels, website, text line, or email.
- Information about our bargaining and COVID-related updates is shared through these communications (which are shared via email, text line, and the website) and through Rep Assembly and building reps. [All our bargaining communications are available on our website.](#)

We know that everyone is suffering from information overload. There is so much information to keep track of these days. Our goal is to provide you with information that you need, information you want, and information that's "good-to-know" in different formats so that you can access what you need when you need it.

We will continue to stay in touch with you and advocate for a safe reopening of our schools. In the meantime, remember that, in addition to our work locally, WEA and NEA are also advocating on behalf of educators and students for a safe reopening of schools.

Safe Reopening of Schools

Local superintendents and school boards use the **School Reopening Decision Tree** to guide their reopening plans.

LWEA is advocating for the safe reopening of schools by sharing your stories and experiences and by making decisions based on sound science and practices.

WEA and NEA continue to talk with federal and state leadership (Governor Inslee, DOE, DOH, CDC, L&I, OSPI) about a safe reopening.

Our next bargaining update will be sent on December 4. Please enjoy some rest and relaxation during the Thanksgiving holiday!

Howard and Katie