



## We Believe In...

- \*Developing the whole student in preparation for lifelong success.
- \*Developing highly trained educational leaders who support the academic, functional, and social/emotional needs of all students.
- \*Developing educational leaders with effective problem-solving skills, interpersonal skills, and resources to support our families for students' success.
- \*Advocating so all students receive equitable academic, functional, and social/emotional opportunities.
- \*Engaging various stakeholders on effective practices to improve outcomes for all students.
- \*Developing and sustaining collaborative relationships among organizations and stakeholders.
- \*Developing and sustaining meaningful relationships with families to facilitate student success.

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WISCONSIN COUNCIL  
OF ADMINISTRATORS  
OF SPECIAL SERVICES

4797 Hayes Rd  
Suite 101  
Madison, WI 53704  
(o) 608.245.2511  
www.wcass.org

# WCASS

Back to  
School Edition  
2018

*Devoted to Students and Student Service Leaders Through Professional Learning, Advocacy & Educations*

## And the Winner Is...

As I shift into the legislation representative on the WCASS Board, I am excited to share that Caleb Feidt, now the Director of Student Services for the Stevens Point Area Public School District, will be your new Social and Awards chair. As a reminder, Caleb was the recipient of the WCASS Rising Star Award at this year's spring conference. Congratulations Caleb!

I am also pleased to share that Ken Kassees was selected as the Outstanding Special Services Administrator! I have included a few excerpts from Ken's nomination below:

*Ken has dedicated his career to student services. He has participated in legislative matters and has encouraged his staff to be involved and informed as well. Ken has spearheaded the mental health initiative in our district that involves trauma sensitive care, professional development for all staff, and teams in each building trained in these areas...*

*Ken is a strong leader who always puts students and families first. He has strong positive relationships with families and staff. He advocates for the needs of the students and always circles back to what is best for the student...Ken leads by example, supports his staff, and advocates for the students.*

Ken will be recognized at the Wisconsin Association of School Boards 2019 Joint State Education Convention January 23-25th, 2019. Congratulations to Ken!  
Finally, a few date reminders for you:

**March 15:** Rising Star Nominations Due

**May 1st:** Outstanding Special Services Administrator nomination due

Best wishes for an amazing school year!

Sara Totten | stotten@deforestschoools.org

As a new member to the WCASS Board of Directors I would like to take a moment and introduce myself. My name is Caleb Feidt. I am the new Director of Student Services for the Stevens Point Area Public School District. I am very excited and honored to be apart of the Board of Directors for WCASS and stepping into the position of Awards & Recognition. I am very excited to continue growing with such an organization and looking forward to another exciting year. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions.

Caleb Feidt | cfeidt @pointschoools.net



# WCASS' Strategic Plan Goals for the Next Three Years

Over the course of the 2017-2018 school year, the WCASS Board of Directors went through the Plan Do Study ACT (PDSA) process to develop and finalize our strategic plan goals for the next three years. This process took several meetings, including many hours outside of our Board meetings. Representatives from the Board shared our three priority areas and corresponding goals under each area from the strategic plan at the membership meeting at the WCASS spring conference in Oshkosh.

This strategic plan will be the Board of Directors guide throughout the next three years, and we will be reviewing progress on each goal on a regular basis at our Board meetings. We have had significant turnover in the Board in the last two years and this has brought several new ideas to our meetings. With these changes in our leadership, my hope is that you still feel that you are well represented and that this strategic plan represents the most pressing issues for our organization. If you would like further information about the WCASS strategic plan (including the strategies that the Board has set out to accomplish each of our identified goals), please visit our website at [www.wcass.org](http://www.wcass.org) and click on "About."

I wish you much success in the upcoming school year and look forward to seeing you soon!

WCASS Past President

John Peterson | [petejo@hamilton.k12.wi.us](mailto:petejo@hamilton.k12.wi.us)



08

PreCon |  
Leadership Academy

Glacier Canyon Lodge | WI Dells



6-8

WCASS |  
Winter Conference

Radisson Paper Valley | Appleton

## A More Responsive, Strategic, And Dynamic WCASS Executive Board

This summer we held our WCASS Leadership Meeting in Green Bay. At that time, I was reminded of our journey as an organization and board over the last two years.

During Kurt Eley's presidential term, we changed our board make-up to match our CESA region representation. We have seen this result in a more diverse, ever changing and vibrant board. The regional connection and relationships have improved our ability to bring new members onto the board and increased the rate of those volunteering to get more involved. Due to this, I will be strictly following our term limits for board members within our constitution with a focus on bringing new leadership opportunities and voices to the board as we move forward. This change keeps us strong and more responsive to the needs at the local and regional level. In addition, it fits my core belief of developing future leaders both at the local level and within our organization.

During John Peterson's presidential term, we worked to revisit our mission and belief statements. He guided the process of developing three priorities as an organization and the goals under each of these priorities. Several members of our board previously shared these priorities with you. This summer during our leadership meeting, we revised our board structure to align into three priority groups and to schedule work time in each of our quarterly meetings to continue this work and document our efforts. Each priority team created goals, strategies, and action steps to complete over the next two years. The goals and priorities are:

### Priority: Strengthening of our Organization

Goal 1: To increase, recruit, retain, and engage diverse membership as measured by membership rates, conference attendance, and survey results.

Goal 2: Begin initial plan of succession for the WCASS Executive Director as measured by the completion of the board-approved job description, timeline, and fte.

*Continued on Pg 3*

**Priority: To increase Relationships and Outreach with key stakeholders**

Goal 1: Identify important and essential relationships with organizations throughout Wisconsin as measured by creating a resource chart.

Goal 2: Create learning opportunities across organizations to empower all educators to close gaps for students with barriers to their learning as measured by conference evaluations and sharing of best practices through the regional and state level.

**Priority: Increase communication around organizational Advocacy efforts and individual members participation in advocacy**

Goal 1: Increase membership participation in advocacy efforts as measured by membership survey results.

I hope to build on this foundation as we continue to move our organization forward in serving our mission of being devoted to students and student services leaders through professional learning, advocacy, and education.

WCASS President

Jerry Nicholson | [jnicholson@depere.k12.wi.us](mailto:jnicholson@depere.k12.wi.us)

Because of this work, we have revised our membership survey to help us measure our progress towards our goals. We shortened it up in many areas and limited the questions to data we will use as part of our strategic action plan. It is a short survey and we want to hear from each of you. The survey will be coming out about the same time as this newsletter. The responses will help us to make decisions about conference structures, speakers, topics, and to learn more about your local efforts/needs. Please take the time to complete this revised survey and know that your responses will be used to make critical adjustments and to create a baseline for measuring future growth.

As I mentioned previously, I believe in developing the gifts of the many great leaders we have within this organization and across the state. In an effort to reflect this internally, I hope to increase the visibility and opportunities for our Executive Board Regional Members on state committees and within our conference presentations/networking. This sharing of leadership opportunities and obligations strengthens our organization. I believe we all benefit when we hear from many other leaders and it is beneficial to those organizations we collaborate with as well. I know other directors and board members have taught me so much as I have had the opportunity to network with them. I hope to provide opportunities for all of us to bring our voices and talents to the forefront as we serve our student and families together.



25-26

DPI-WASBO-WCASS |  
Federal Funding

Glacier Canyon Lodge | WI Dells



1-3

WCASS |  
Spring Conference

Glacier Canyon Lodge | WI Dells

## Special Needs Vouchers, Are They Impacting Your District?

The impact of the legislation allowing for private/parochial schools to capture additional funding under the Special Needs Voucher program is occurring throughout the state this school year. WCASS plans to send out a survey to directors in a few weeks with hopes of capturing details of the impact at the local level. Earlier this summer Danica Lewis from Fond du Lac shared this letter:

*As the Pupil Services Director in Fond du Lac, I am very concerned about the impact of the Special Needs Scholarship program during the upcoming school year. The rules of student eligibility have changed and, therefore, so has the impact. In my district, my two largest private schools have been accepted into the program.*

*One of the schools, St. Mary's Springs Academy, enrolls 800 students (grades PK-12) and anticipates that all 50 of their currently enrolled, IDEA-eligible students will apply for a Special Needs Scholarship. These are students who currently attend, and have always attended, the private school. Though they have never been in a public school setting, and though we have always provided services as required through equitable services, St. Mary's Springs Academy will now receive an additional **\$12,424 per student**. This will have a tremendous financial impact on our district as my understanding is that these payments are made to the private school by withholding this amount from the general aid paid to our district. For this one school alone, that is a payment of **\$621,200**. We will, of course, still be required to provide equitable services to the students at that site and the others in our district.*

As this letter has been shared with various groups, there is amazement of the impact this is having at the local level. I believe Fond du Lac is not the only district experiencing this financial nightmare. I encourage all directors to share their local stories with me. I am looking for details regarding:

- Total number of students enrolled in private/parochial schools that have applied for Special Needs Vouchers;
- Total estimated payment for Special Needs Vouchers for your district (total for all private/parochial schools);
- Total amount of IDEA funds reserved for equitable services offered in private/parochial schools;
- Total amount of ESSA (Title dollars) set aside for private/parochial schools
- Examples of the impact to the public schools (e.g. programs cut/staff reductions/increased taxes/etc)

These stories along with the data received via the upcoming survey will be shared with the Scholl Administrators Alliance (SAA) Legislative Committee and shared with our legislative representatives. I realize this adds to your 'load' for the start of the school year, yet I believe we need to demonstrate the unintended consequences caused by the creation of this legislation. I believe if we do not share this information, legislators will not realize what has happened.

WCASS Executive Director  
Gary Myrah | [garymyrah@wcass.org](mailto:garymyrah@wcass.org)

# Legislative Summit | July 2018

As outgoing Legislative Chair, I am so excited to recap our legislative trip to Washington DC this past July. I had the privilege of collaborating with Linda Baldus (CESA 1) and Executive Director, Gary Myrah. We met with staffers from the offices of Senator Ron Johnson, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner, and Congressman Mark Pocan.

It was an amazing professional experience. The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) did a thorough job preparing us for our Capitol Hill visits over the course of one and half days. We also had the pleasure of participating in a rally with Senator Cory Booker (NJ) supporting his sponsorship of a bill that will address our growing teacher shortage.



Legislative Summit  
Washington D.C.

In all of our meetings we made sure to touch on the following points:

- ☒ Thanking our legislators for the IDEA and Title funds.
- ☒ Special education and early intervention provider shortages-IDEA
- ☒ Social and emotional learning and mental health-Title II and Title IV
- ☒ Federal budget and appropriations-IDEA
- ☒ Keeping public funds in public education

Linda shared her experience with public funded charter schools and I also shared a video of how IDEA funds are spent at a local level. One of the highlights is that the staffer for Congressman Pocan remembered the previous year's video where Past-President, John Peterson, showed the Congressman a video how an expensive

communication device purchased with IDEA funds is used in the classroom. It was obvious that our visits are having some impact at the Capitol. Executive Director, Gary Myrah, shared the letter from Fond du Lac regarding the local impact of the special needs scholarship program. Those dollar amounts that we lose to private schools definitely got the attention of the staffers. We expressed our commitment to be a resource for our legislators as they navigate through these educational issues.

I have LINKED the summary of our legislative recommendations and some of photos of our trip. This legislative trip was by far the best professional development that I have participated in my career. I would strongly encourage those to attend in the future. Have a great start to the school year and I am excited to serve your President-Elect this year.

Barb Buffington |  
bbuffington@mcpasd.k12.wi.us



## Professional Development Committee

We are excited for another exciting conference schedule this year for WCASS. Mark your calendars for the following networking opportunities and keep an eye out for registration as the dates get closer.

### Leadership Academy

October 8, 1:00 - 4:00  
Glacier Canyon Lodge, Wisconsin Dells

### 2019 WCASS Winter Conference

February 6 - 8  
PreCon | Leadership Academy on Feb 6  
Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton

### 2019 WCASS Spring Conference

May 1 - 3  
PreCon | Leadership Academy on May 1  
Glacier Canyon Lodge, Wisconsin Dells

In addition to registration opportunities, please look for a Call for Proposals after the start of the school year settles. One of the powerful components of the conference is to learn about the great initiatives going on in districts around our state. Please consider developing a break-out proposal to share your success stories around some of the following topic areas:



- ☒ Mental health initiatives
- ☒ Results Driven Accountability
- ☒ Serving students with dyslexia
- ☒ Safe Schools initiatives
- ☒ Other exciting initiatives that make you proud to serve your district

We look forward to seeing you!

Kelly Kapitz | kkapitz@mcse.k12.wi.us  
Jeff Lindell | jlindell@dce.k12.wi.us



**Region 1 | Amanda Mack**  
amack@sfsd.k12.wi.us

Please join me in welcoming four new Directors in the CESA 1 area! New Directors include Arthur Anderson in Shorewood, Leo Eckman in South Milwaukee, Jenny Shohoney in Cudahy and Laura Stautz in Grafton. The RSN calendar has been finalized and includes the following dates held at CESA 1: September 26th, 2018, November 27th, 2018, January 14th, 2019, March 20th, 2019 and April 25th, 2019. We are also excited to announce we will be welcoming Dr. Ross Green to CESA 1 September 13th-14th, 2018 for a training on Collaborative and Proactive Solutions.

**Region 2 | Todd Graco**  
tgraco@email.parkview.k12.wi.us

New Region 2 Chair! Please welcome Todd to the WCASS Board! For more information regarding Region 2 please contact Todd.

**Region 3 | OPEN**

Contact Gary Myrah if interested in leading Region 3 at garymyrah@wcass.org

**Region 4 | Tracy Hogden**  
thogden@cesa4.org

Mark Your Calendars!  
Here are the CESA 4 RSN Meeting dates for the 2018-2019 school year.

- 09/21/18 - RSN #1
- 11/16/18 - RSN #2
- 01/18/19 - RSN #3
- 03/15/19 - RSN #4
- 05/17/19 - RSN #5

**Region 5 | Barbara Gransee**  
gransee\_b@afasd.net

Greetings! I am the new Regional Chair for CESA 5 and am very excited to be on the team. The CESA 5 Region has seen many changes over the summer, as there seem to be new directors everywhere. Here is a list of the new directors in CESA 5 at this time:

- Cara Christy | Port Edwards
- Lisa Blochwitz | Columbus
- Katie Sroka | Iola-Scandinavia
- Mary O'Brien | Mauston
- Erikk Nystrom-Grothouse | CESA 5
- Caleb Feidt | Stevens Point
- Theresa Stolpa | RSN for CESA 5

In addition to many director changes in the CESA 5 region, the federal government also visited our very own Adams County this past July. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, and representatives from the Federal Commission on School Safety visited Adams-Friendship Middle School in Adams, Wisconsin to learn how Adams-Friendship incorporates our statewide behavioral health framework into our daily practices. Adams-Friendship Area School District was selected for a visit as they were previously awarded a Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience Education) grant which promotes youth mental health awareness among schools and communities and improve connections to services for school-age youth. Adams-Friendship is planning to offer learning opportunities for Wisconsin school districts during the 2018-2019 school year. For more information, please contact Crystal Holmes, Grant Coordinator, for Adams-Friendship Area School District at Holmes\_c@afasd.net.

Best wishes to a great school year.

# WCASS Regional News



**Region 6 | Marci Thiry**  
thiry@mjsd.k12.wi.us

Region 6 met on July 26th for a summer retreat. Many directors in the region took the opportunity to network and get caught up on DPI updates and current issues. Chad Wade, attorney with Strang, Patteson, Renning, Lewis & Lacy, spent the afternoon with the region directors discussing section 504 and answering real life questions for the group. A celebration was held for Jan Chapman, Kewaskum, who is retiring and joining the Concordia University staff.



**Region 7 | Caroline Mihalski**  
 mihalski@wrightstown.k12.wi.us

Welcome to the 2018/2019 school year! As the Region 7 WCASS rep, we would like to personally invite you to connect with this supportive network of administrators through WCASS.

“The most valuable resource that all teachers have is each other. Without collaboration, growth is limited to our own perspectives.” -Robert John Meehan

☒ State Superintendent’s Conference on Special Education and Pupil Services Leadership Oct 9th and 10th, 2018

☒ Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special Services (WCASS) Winter and Spring Conferences

☒ CESA 7 Learning Leader Network Meetings:  
 Sept. 28, 2018, Nov. 16, 2018, Jan. 25, 2019 and May 17, 2019. VIRTUAL: Oct. 19, 2018, Dec. 14, 2018, Feb. 22, 2019, Mar. 15, 2019, and Apr. 12, 2019. You can sign up for these meetings by going to the CESA 7 website.

Also, we want to congratulate the following individuals for the awards they received this spring of 2018 for their excellent services to children:

**Regular Education Teacher/Team**

1. 4th grade Team (Sandra Roeck, Kelly LaCrosse, Scott Jadin) - New Holstein
2. Amanda Kaminsky - Two Rivers

**Administrator**

1. Brenda Shimon - Southern Door

**Paraprofessional**

1. John Heinz - Pulaski
2. Cindie Hoefner - Manitowoc

**Special Education Teachers**

1. Ashley Post - Wrightstown
2. Noreen Borhardt - Two Rivers
3. Special Education Team (Joy Jirikowic, Hailie Steinberg, Tanya Pautz) - Two Rivers

**Pupil Services**

1. Kim Krenz Wozniak (School Psych) - Pulaski
2. Jenny Schneider (Social Worker) - Manitowoc

**Related Service Professional**

1. Laura Katasch (Speech/Language) - Manitowoc
2. Patti Wendland (Physical Therapy Assistant) - Manitowoc



**Region 8 | Brenda Jozwiak-Boldig**  
 bjboldig@cesa8.org

CESA 8 Directors met in June with discussion related to end of year information with a focus on determining needs on how to support paraprofessional development through training.

Spring 2018: April 27th Awards Banquet @ Waubee Lodge  
 16 CESA 8 staff received awards at our spring banquet and included:

**Special Education Teachers**

- Peggy Gretzlock | Wittenberg-Birnamwood
- Eliza Koeller | MISD
- Kristen Elliott | Oconto Falls
- Elyse Nygard | Florence

**Special Education Teachers Assistants**

- Taylor DePerry | MISD **Special Education**

**General Educaiton Teacher/Inclusion Team**

- Pam Smith | Florence

**Pupil Services**

- School Psych Team | Marinette
  - Stephanie Noir
  - Carly Drew
  - Anne Langlois
  - Joe Deegan
- Social Worker | Marinette
  - Shannon Sexton

**Related Services / Support Staff**

- Melanie Mursau | Bonduel

**Administrator**

- Vicky Haas | Wittenberg-Birnamwood
- Dan Moore | Oconto Falls
- Matt Hanson | Marinette
- Ben Nichaus | Florence

Events at CESA 8:

- ☒ PCSA Training August 13 for districts in process
- ☒ CCR IEP Training August 23

Director Meetings for 18-19 School Year:

- ☒ September 21
- ☒ October 26 (joint meeting with principals-Gsafe)
- ☒ December 14
- ☒ January 28 (joint ESSA meeting)
- ☒ March 7 (joint mtg with principals-Legal)
- ☒ June 7



Get Social...  
 @WCASS\_WI

**Region 9 | Trish Teichmiller**  
trish.teichmiller@ldfschool.org

Hello! I am truly excited to introduce myself as the new Region 9 Chair. For the past twenty two years I have worn a variety of hats in the Lac du Flambeau Public School District, including School Psychologist and Director of Special Education & Pupil Services. Outside of school, I spent thirteen years as a local school board member. In July, I was able to attend my first board retreat as a member of the WCASS Board. I left feeling a rejuvenation for my role within schools. In addition, it hit me just how fortunate Wisconsin students and families are to have the WCASS organization. I am looking forward to being a more active participant!

**News from our region:**

Congratulations to Jeff Lindell and Angela Lloyd on their new positions! Jeff is the new Director of Student Services at DC Everest and Angela will be serving as the new Director of Pupil Services for Wausau School District.

Region 9 held a **Directors Meeting on May 16, 2018** with the following agenda items: Discretionary Grant Updates  
TIG-Kathy Tuttle  
EC – Beth Tepper  
WSPEI – Evelyn Azbell  
RSN – RDA: PCSA Statewide Results  
Gary Ruesch, Esq. - Summer School (Not ESY) and Summer Extracurricular Activities: What are District Obligations? And Gary's Top Five Hot Items

Region 9 held (by the time of publication) a **Directors meeting August 29, 2018** with the following agenda items:  
Updates regarding LEA Determinations  
CESA 9 Technical Assistance Network  
Title I Highly Qualified Paraprofessional requirements  
CESA 9 Three Year License With Stipulations plan  
Parent Engagement  
Transition  
RSN  
Legal Updates

**Upcoming events:**

**Joint Leadership Network Meetings --September 20, 2018 & December 19, 2018**

A great opportunity for Special Education Directors, Title I Coordinators, Curriculum Directors, and Principals to continue to grow in professional practice, network with colleagues, and help connect the work. Agenda will include:

- ☒ Just in Time/State Level Updates
- ☒ Professional learning around hot topics in the state
- ☒ Building a culture of professional collaboration
- ☒ Opportunities to “work on the work”
- ☒ Tools that allow for practical application within your schools

**Safe and Healthy Schools Coordinator & School Counselor Meeting--Oct 2, 2018**

**Everything You Need to Know About the Early Childhood Indicators -- Oct 5, 2018**

**Region 10 | Lorna Margenau**  
lmargenau@cesa10.k12.wi.us

As we begin another school year, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning special education and pupil services staff. There is a buzz around the CESA 10 campus and in every school district campus as student life begins to unfold. Throughout the year, I look forward to getting to know the new faces and catching up with those returning.

Beginning on August 1st, CESA 10 hosted a professional development workshop to prepare regular and special education educators, and other school staff who will be working with hard of hearing students in the upcoming school year. Every hard of hearing student has the right, as do their hearing peers, to auditory access in the learning environment. Goals for the day included:

- Teacher awareness of hearing loss and its impact on a student in their school day.
- Familiarity of hearing assistive technology (HAT) that their student will use, and classroom accommodations that will allow their student to have equal auditory access their hearing peers have.
- Classroom accommodations that will help their hard of hearing student be successful in getting the auditory information being presented to the class.
- Practical tips to use with their hard of hearing student in the fast-paced school day.

On August 7th, CESA 10 hosted a professional development workshop to support paraprofessionals and classroom support personnel in building capacity for with behavior and instructional supports. Learning objectives included:

- Understand the differences between aggressive, confrontational, and students breaking rules.
- Engage in practical methods designed to address student behavior.
- Share and collaborate with other Paraprofessionals, and problem solve areas of need at your schools related to behavior and classroom instructional methods.
- Return to your school with ideas for practical solutions around behavior.
- Be exposed to “Best Practices” related to Guided Reading and Math classroom practices.
- Discuss and understand how Paraprofessionals can best support classroom teachers during instructional group times.

*Continued on Pg 8*

8/23/18 - Join us in welcoming Anthony Muhammed back to CESA 10! Successful school improvement requires both will and skill--the belief that all children can learn and perform academically and the ability to use responsive engages and reaches all students.

- Learn 4 broad steps to develop systems for aligning philosophy, managing frustration, creating a culture of collaboration, institutionalizing a healthy culture.
- Define and develop the components of a responsive pedagogy focused on classroom management, academic vocabulary, academic literacy, and learning environment.

9/27/18 – Join us in welcoming bestselling Author, Diane Sweeney to CESA 10! Diane puts students' front-and-center in her evidence-based Student-Centered Coaching Approach. She has found that by focusing the coaching goals around data-driven student learning, and not on fixing teachers, we can directly impact instructional practice and student achievement. Learning outcomes include:

- Participants will learn practical coaching strategies that they can apply to their work in district.
- Participants will gain new knowledge and ideas from other participants in similar roles.
- Participants will use data to drive discussions during meetings.
- Participants will learn from state and national experts.

As Region 10 Chair, I am excited to meet with WCASS Region 10 members throughout the year to assist districts in helping students reach their fullest potential. We (WCASS organization) realize the hustle and bustle of the school year can become overwhelming however; we are here to assist you. I welcome you again and hope that your year is a rewarding and enriching one.

### Region 11 | Carol Kline [ckline@unity.k12.wi.us](mailto:ckline@unity.k12.wi.us)

The veteran Directors of Special Education working within CESA 11 would like to welcome four newcomers to the scene. Leah Voelker will be the director at Osceloa and St. Croix Falls School Districts, Brad Baumgartner is at Amery School District, Amy Vesperman is at Plum City, and Cecelia Marc is at Cumberland. We wish them all the best in their new positions.

CESA 11 is excited to focus the Directors Meetings throughout the year on Closing the Gap. Directors will be meeting on August 17th, September 20th, October 19th, January 25th, March 15th, and April 12th. The meeting dates in December and June will be determined later to allow for planning of guest speakers and the Summer Summit.

Other planned events at CESA 11 include: Co-Teaching Training on August 22 and September 19. Non-Violent Training course on August 28, with a Non-Violent Refresher Training course on September 10. Other events happening in September are a School Psychologist Networking meeting on the 20, a CCR-IEP meeting with an emphasis on Earl Childhood on the 21st, and a New Special Education Teachers Network meeting on the 25th. Please visit the CESA 11 website at [www.cesa11.k12.wi.us](http://www.cesa11.k12.wi.us) for all planned meetings and more information.

### Region 12 | Carol Lynn Wheelock-Mashlan [cwheelockmashlan@hayward.k12.wi.us](mailto:cwheelockmashlan@hayward.k12.wi.us)

Summer was busy in the northwoods. Many districts are working on their mental health programs within their districts. Ashland is expanding their children's day treatment pilot program to include other districts, and Hayward received the school based mental health grant, and will be hiring a mental health navigator.



SAA Blog | Latest Legislative  
and Political News | [wsaa.org](http://wsaa.org)



# Membership Corner

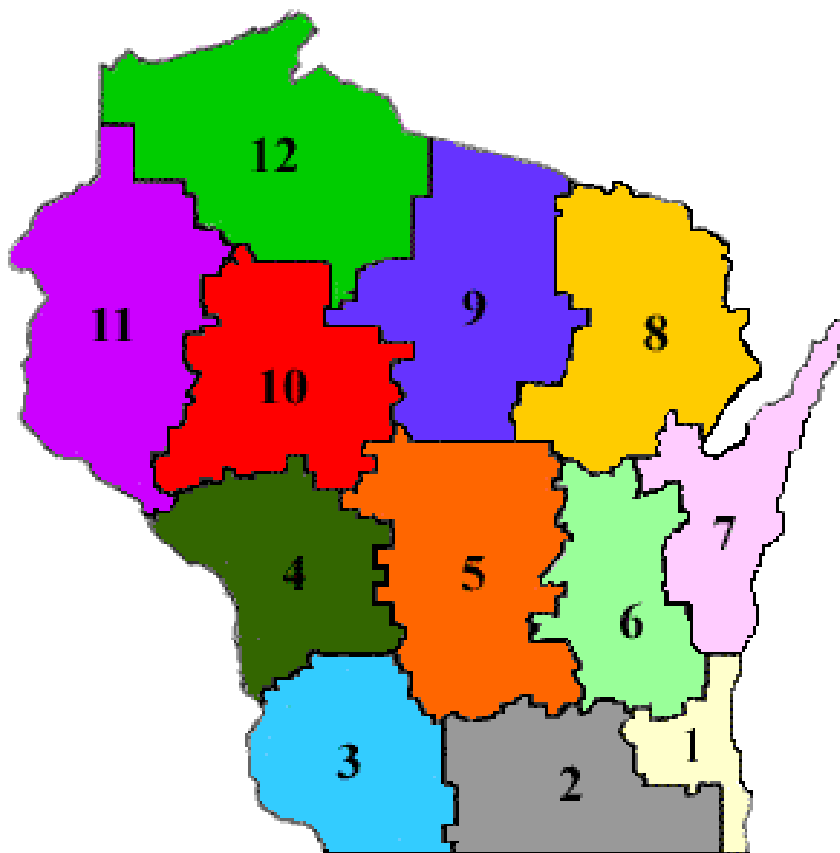


We are WCASS! This is a strong organization that offers valuable resources to directors across the state. Our ties to DPI and other state organizations keep us up to speed on the ever changing world of education. We offer networking opportunities and valuable training opportunities throughout the year. Reach out to learn more or use the links below to join now.

Numbers are starting to roll in and I am excited to share that we have over 30 new directors that are either new to the field or new to a district this year. WOW! New directors: Please reach out to your local region rep as you make this transition. They are a great resource for you. I encourage all directors to continue making yourself available to the new directors. Even those with experience might be new to a CESA region and need to learn the ropes of that area. Working together is key to success. Let's all help support our new directors!

Register for WCASS <http://www.wcass.org/join-renew>  
Register for CEC/CASE <http://www.cec.sped.org/Membership>  
\*make sure to select the WI CASE division\*  
Check out the CASE link to see all it has to offer  
<http://www.casecec.org/>

Tammy (Lampereur) Nicholson |  
[tnicholson@ashwaubenonk12.org](mailto:tnicholson@ashwaubenonk12.org)



# Charter Schools Latest Developments

On August 16th, there was a convening of the new State Superintendent's Advisory Council on Charter Schools. Dr. Tony Evers asked me to accept the appointment to this Council as a representative for WCASS. Each of the 22 members have varying timelines for their appointment and mine is only for one year. My replacement will serve for a three-year term. The purpose of the Council is to become familiar with the Charter Schools purpose and share information with our members. This article offers a summary of the first meeting.

The convening of the 'new' Council was sparked by the federal government awarding Wisconsin with the second largest grant under the FY 2017 State Entities Grant Program. Wisconsin is one of nine (9) states receiving a grant. Wisconsin's grant award is for \$95 million, to be distributed over the next 5 years. The grant requires 90% to be designated for 'subgrants':

The first round of grants has been awarded. Of the 45 applications received, 26 were awarded. The following is a breakdown of the grants that have been awarded for 2018-19:

- 10 grants totaling \$6 million are for implementation,
- 10 grants totaling \$7.5 million are for planning/implementation,
- 6 grant totaling \$3.7 million are for expansion

Subgrants will be awarded to eligible applicants to:

- Open and Prepare for the Operation of New Schools
- Open and Prepare for the Operation of Replicated High-Quality Schools
- Expand High-Quality Schools

The objectives for the new grants are:

- Support the growth of high-quality charter schools in Wisconsin, especially those focused on improving academic outcomes for educationally disadvantaged secondary (6-12) charter school students.
- Strengthen and improve authorizing quality and promote the adoption of best practices for all authorizers in Wisconsin.
- Promote and support collaboration and sharing of best practices between high-quality charter schools and other schools in the state, especially those that experience difficulty in adequately serving educationally disadvantaged students.

Many confuse 'charter' schools with 'private' schools. Some of the confusion occurs because of what is known as independent authorizers. Yet ALL charter schools are classified as PUBLIC schools and must comply with many of the same regulations as other public schools, especially as it relates to special education.

Currently there are 236 Charter Schools operating in 98 school districts in Wisconsin (at least one in every CESA). The breakdown of the type of charter schools is as follows:

- 210 schools that are District-Authorized Charter Schools
- 26 that are Independently Authorized Charter Schools (these are also referred as 2r and 2x schools because it is in reference to the subparagraph within the statutes that define these schools)

For more information regarding the charter schools program, go to the WDPI webpage: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sms/charter-schools>

WCASS Executive Director  
Gary Myrah | [garymyrah@wcass.org](mailto:garymyrah@wcass.org)



# 2018-19 WCASS Board of Directors | Directory

www.wcass.org

**Jerry Nicholson**

President

920.983.2456

jnicholson@depere.k12.wi.us

**Barb Buffington**

President - Elect

608.829.9054

bbuffington@mcpasd.k12.wi.us

**John Peterson**

Past President

262.246.1973 x1184

petejo@hamilton.k12.wi.us

**Wendi Dawson**

Secretary

920.324.9341 x2188

wdawson@waupun.k12.wi.us

**Lisa Misco**

Treasurer

920.855.2114 x233

lmisco@cesa8.org

**Gary Myrah**

WCASS | Executive Director

608.729.6652

garymyrah@wcass.org

**John Forester**

SSA | Executive Director

608.242.1370

john.forester@wsaa.org

**Sara Totten**

Legislation

608.842.6526

stotten@deforestschoools.org

**Tammy Nicholson**

Membership

920.492.2905 x1010

tnicholson@ashwaubenonk12.org

**Kurt Eley**

Public Relations

608.849.2015

keley@waunakee.k12.wi.us

**Kelly Kapitz**

Professional Development

715.261.1980

cfeidt@pointschools.net

**Jeff Lindell**

Professional Development

715.359.2056

jlindell@dce.k12.wi.us

**Nissan Bar-Lev**

Research & Special Projects

920.849.9384

nbarlev@wi.rr.com

**Caleb Feidt**

Awards & Social

715.345.5456

nbarlev@wi.rr.com

**Jan Chapman**

WCEC Liaison

262.243.4299

janis.chapman@cuw.edu

**Diane Brzezinski**

Newsletter Editor

608.245.2511

wcass@wcass.org

