



DEAR WAESOL COMMUNITY,

Happy summer! I hope you are finding time to rest, recharge, and reflect. I'm excited to welcome you to the summer issue of WAESOL Educator. Whether you're enjoying a well-earned break or teaching summer classes, please know how much we appreciate the incredible work you do to support English learners across Washington state and from places far and wide.

As your 2025 WAESOL Board President, I want to take a moment to talk about the important changes happening in education—at both the state and federal levels—and what they mean for our students, teachers, and communities.

There are some major shifts in government right now that affect how we teach English learners—from kindergarten through adult education. At the federal level, funding for programs that support English learners, like Title III, is uncertain. There are discussions about cutting budgets and moving responsibilities to different departments. This could result in fewer resources for classrooms, less support for adult education, and reduced training opportunities for teachers. We're especially concerned about how these changes might impact adult learners working to improve their English to gain better jobs or support their families.

Following the guidance of TESOL International, WAESOL is expanding our advocacy efforts. Advocacy is a powerful tool for creating meaningful changes in educational policy. As WAESOL members, you can influence policies that affect English learners by engaging with lawmakers, participating in public forums, and sharing your expertise with decision-makers. Whether it's advocating for increased funding for EL programs, pushing for stronger protections at the federal level, or speaking out about the unique needs of English learners in your community, your voice matters. By staying informed, joining WAESOL's advocacy initiatives, and connecting with

fellow educators, you can help shape policies that prioritize the success of all students. Your participation in advocacy efforts can drive positive changes and make a lasting impact on the future of education in Washington and beyond.

As we look ahead, one thing remains clear: your work matters. Whether you're supporting newcomers in elementary school or helping adults achieve their goals through English classes, you are changing lives. Most importantly, WAESOL is here to support you.

Even though it's summer, WAESOL is busy! We're deep into planning our annual WAESOL Conference, which will take place November 8, at Renton Technical College. This event brings together educators from across the state and beyond to share ideas, attend workshops, and learn about the latest strategies in English language teaching. We're excited to offer sessions for both K-12 and adult education professionals, so there's something for everyone.

We also encourage you to check out WAESOL's webinars (WAESOL Online), workshops, and leadership opportunities happening throughout the year. These events are a great way to grow professionally, stay connected with fellow educators, and get inspired for the year ahead.

Thank you for being part of this incredible community. I hope to see you at the conference in November—and until then, have a wonderful and restful summer.

WARM REGARDS,

KELLI DAHMEN,

2025 WAESOL BOARD PRESIDENT