

Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association
October 8, 2020

Fall Forum

CSEA members had an opportunity this past Monday to meet virtually and share ideas with other educators from southern Colorado on how we can tackle the challenges public education is facing. CEA President Ami Baca-Oehlert described the critical ballot items in the middle of a year that lacks the usual initiative and election campaigns. Among the issues raised were the conditions of the membership and sustainability in terms of resources and exhaustion of staff. As the topic of institutional bias came up, the conversation showed that we are leading the state in addressing how to meet students where they are, so that we can help them achieve their potential.

COVID Leave Questions

Over the past few days, we fielded a number of questions around leave, COVID-19, and the quarantine process. Hopefully, this provides some clarification and initial steps so that you can access COVID leave if you are placed in this unfortunate situation. These basic questions provide structure when you approach your supervisor/principal.

1. Am I being directed to (*not report/go home*) because of District protocols for COVID-19?
2. (*For people not symptomatic*) If so, I'd like to telework so I don't use leave. How does that work?
3. What is required to access the COVID 19 sub code?

For informational purposes, HR retroactively enters the COVID code because it is governed by Federal rules that require documentation. For most employees, the two pieces of documentation an employee must submit are a leave of absence form and some medical documentation that connects the leave to COVID (e.g. symptoms, directives to quarantine).

If you have a COVID test and the results comes back negative, you must provide an alternative diagnosis in order to return prior to the 10-day quarantine period.

What's Your Plan?

Voting in this year's election could be one of the most important things you'll do all year, so be prepared! Are you registered to vote? Have you confirmed your registration and address? Do you know where to drop off your ballot, or if you intend to mail your ballot, do you know the deadline to do so? NEA can help you [make a plan](#). Don't wait - make your plan now. If you have questions that are specific to Colorado, you can probably find your answers [here](#)



Thumbs Up!

Thumbs Up to Hunter Conde (Doherty) for serving on The Fund. This CEA committee reviews candidates and incumbents for political offices across the state and makes electoral recommendations. Thank you, **Hunter**, for your work in advocating for educators by devoting your time and energy to ensure that pro-public education candidates are elected.

Honoring The 2020 Crystal Apple Award Recipients

This week we are pleased to shine the spotlight on **Lori Koeser (Jenkins)**. Here is what **Lori** shared with us:

Teaching is my vocation in life. I am beginning my 33rd year as a choir teacher this fall, in a year like no other! I have been in Colorado Springs D11 schools for 17 years, spending the past 11 years at Jenkins Middle School. Among the many blessings that have been bestowed through the years include an amazing family, quality friends, incredibly talented students and their supportive parents, colleagues that have taught me more than I can ever express, and administrations that have valued the arts in education. I read recently, "Life is not about perfection. It is about growth and connection." This leads me, particularly in these times!

Announcements

Seniority List Is Available

The updated Seniority List is available in the member section of our website at www.cseateacher.org. Scroll down to the Critical Dates and Seniority section.

Benefit of Belonging – Educators Employment Liability Insurance

If you're a member of CSEA or ESPA, you're a member of CEA and NEA, and the NEA EEL policy covers you. The policy is available in the member section of our website.

Articles Of Note

[Are Teachers Ok? No, And Toxic Positivity Isn't Helping](#)

[Homeless Families Struggle With Impossible Choices As School Closures Continue](#)

[Teaching Students The Six Elements Of Digital Citizenship](#)

[Supreme Court Won't Hear Challenge To Union Exclusive Representation](#)

www.cseateacher.org
csea@coloradoea.org



This correspondence is intended for members of CSEA, ESPA, CEA, and their families. It is not intended for public distribution.