

## Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association  
November 5, 2020

### **What Our Students Need Now: Virtual School Culture That Is Healthy, Just and Strong**

“School is a place where childhood happens. And most of us believe that every child, whatever their color, background or zip code, has the right to learn in a supportive environment that respects their humanity, upholds their dignity, and responds fairly to mistakes and missteps.

“At a time when many students are learning in virtual settings, educators and administrators must address discriminatory policies and practices that often contribute to disproportionate discipline. For far too long data has shown that Black, Brown, Indigenous and LGBT students are more likely to be disciplined and disciplined more harshly than their white peers for the same behavior.

“We are in unprecedented times, and now more than ever, the school community has the opportunity and the responsibility to focus on what matters most — safe, just, and healthy students and school communities. States, districts and educators can create safer and more inclusive learning environments using evidence-based strategies that empower students to learn and thrive”. Check out the full article from [EdJustice](#).



**Thumbs Up** Thank you, Veterans. We honor you and thank you for your service and sacrifice.



**Thumbs Up** to the voters of District 11! Congratulations and thank you for voting to De-Tabor the District.

### **Reminder: READ Act Action**

Tell the State Board of Education to provide Elementary educators some relief by giving an extension on the READ Act Mandate. Use this [link](#) to respond today!

### **Honoring The 2020 Crystal Apple Award Recipients**

This week we have the opportunity to hear from **Bart Mann (Penrose)**, who was one of the 2020 Crystal Apple Award winners:

*Thank you CSEA and Union Pulse for recognizing my 2020 Crystal Apple Award.*

*To say this year has been hard is an understatement. It has looked different for all of us, but I'd like to encourage you to lean in on your teammates, find out what is going well for them and what has been the absolute pits. Be a listener, people*

*just want to be heard when they are feeling overwhelmed. These are private conversations that aren't meant for the masses or social media, just someone you trust. When they ask about you, be honest and transparent. I've heard more teachers say, "I'm fine". I'm not always "fine". This year, I've felt demoralizing emotions I haven't felt since my first year of teaching! The expectations put on us this year are huge, coming from all directions. We need to find safe places to vent and let out the agony of dealing and learning this new normal. It's okay if your game is not as smooth as last year. It's okay to feel lost somedays. But, we are a resilient bunch. Together, we will take one day at a time and push through this. My mom always says, this too will pass. And it will – and we'll all be the better from it.*

### **Free & Virtual Professional Development Opportunities**

#### **NEA Webinar for Members- Social Emotional Learning in a Virtual Space**

*November 9, 2020, 7:00-8:00 PM EST*

How can you create meaningful relationships with and between students in a safe virtual space? This webinar seeks to answer this question with "tried and true" practices. Learn about different strategies, exercises, and activities that put SEL at the forefront in an intentional and transparent way. [Register here.](#)

#### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness:**

##### **Teaching Across Lines of Differences Parts I & II**

*Part I: DEI in the Classroom*

*Thursday, November 12, 6:00-7:30 p.m.*

*Part II: Supporting LGBTQIA+ Students*

*Thursday, November 19, 6:00-7:30 p.m.*

Our sister organization, the Pikes Peak Education Association, is inviting CSEA members to participate in two 90-minute virtual seminars exploring concepts like culturally relevant pedagogy, community responsiveness, the legacy of racism in public education, and how to support ALL our students. Click [here](#) to register.

#### **Teacher Reflective Practices**

*Tuesday, November 17, 6:00-7:30 p.m.*

Step back from the daily routines of teaching and move into a more conscious form of practice. Learn to examine particular events and lessons in order to create change. Free recertification credit provided upon completion. Register using this [link](#).

### **Articles Of Note**

[Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress Celebrates 20 years](#)

[CEA Statement on Governor's Proposed State Budget](#)

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