

Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association
November 12, 2020

American Education Week: November 16-20

Next week we will celebrate almost a century of American Education Week, born of the National Education Association's desire to inspire public support for education and recognition of its importance.

Public Education has been outed this year as a primary, perhaps *the* primary support of the American way of life. It's where we build citizens, where we level the playing field, where students begin their path toward inheriting the future. School is where families know their kids will be safe under the care of professionals who have dedicated their careers to students' growth and success. When their children are safe, parents are able to step into a difficult world with confidence. Schools' staff—teachers, support professionals, principals—this year have *themselves* stepped into a difficult and even dangerous world to provide students that bastion of learning and security that has allowed America to attend to business. American Education Week is a good time for the country to reflect on that and appreciate it.

Since March and through the summer the teachers of D11 have rallied to the call of their Association and engaged tirelessly in committees, task forces, and teamwork to share in the development of programs and processes to help address our students' and families' needs in a changing educational environment. Teachers have volunteered in community efforts to provide for families' needs and continue to invest untold hours in creating learning opportunities for their students—whether at home or in person, and often both at the same time—so that their opportunities in life don't slip away fruitlessly.

Perhaps this year makes even more clear why we celebrate American Education Week, and amid the extra work that's required and the anxious situation, why educators feel so deeply the importance of their mission.

Announcements

Election 2020 Recap #ForwardTogether

Thank you to every CSEA member who voted. Initial tallies suggest that over 95% of CSEA members cast their vote in this election. Political positions aside, this is an amazing reflection of you. As for results, the message was mixed regarding public education. Locally, District 11 voters overwhelmingly approved our De-Taboring measure, 4a. This is welcomed news and we again see the community supporting our schools. Local incumbents retained their seats, indicating status quo. Statewide, we repealed the Gallagher Amendment to the constitution. This repeal eliminates one of the challenges to school funding on the state level. Paid family leave (Prop 118) also passed. And Pre-K was a beneficiary of the success of Proposition EE. On the flip, the reduction of state income tax will provide a challenge to the state budget.

Primary Sources For Your Classroom

November is Native American Heritage month. Check out this [website](#) for classroom resources amassed by the nation's premier cultural heritage preservation institutions.

Keep Your Contact Information Current

If you have moved recently, please send your current mailing address to us so that we can keep our records current. In addition, we are continuing to collect home email addresses. If you have updated contact information, please send it to us [here](#).

Wanted: Building Handyman

CSEA and PPEA are seeking a general handyman/groundskeeper for the Unit building. This is an occasional, as-needed position that requires some flexibility and general knowledge and skill in basic building maintenance and grounds work. On average, we will have 2-3 hours of work per month and you will be considered an independent contractor. Job pays \$20/hr. plus reimbursement for supplies and materials with a receipt. Would love to offer the position to one of our members! Interested members should reply to mbarrett@coloradoea.org.

Member Opportunity**Webinar: Fighting Privatization in a Time of Crisis**

Thursday, November 19 at 5pm MST

Register: https://nea-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_c172oAz7T4yfpnfJWpegCq



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In collaboration with the University of Colorado Department of Psychiatry and
CDPHE Colorado Spirit's Crisis Counseling Program

Articles Of Note

[Colorado schools considered 'critical businesses,' able to continue in-person operations under new public health order](#)

[On COVID and schools, President-elect Biden has promised a different approach](#)

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