

Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association
January 7, 2021

Why does CSEA exist? A Short History

“How We Became the Organization We are Today” (part 1)

Adapted from work by Michael A. Coughlin, former CSEA President

Before 1960, the Colorado Education Association (CEA) was for administrators only. Teachers could belong only to their local association and to the National Education Association.

Before 1968, there was a mish-mash of educator groups in D11: the Classroom Teachers Association consisted of teachers from a few elementary schools, West and North Junior High Schools, and Palmer High School. The Colorado Springs Education Association was only principals and administrators, and a group ancillary to that was the Department of Classroom Teachers. It wasn't working for teachers, and *that* CSEA began to fall apart, because teachers lacked power to effect change or improve their situation. They saw CEA as an obstacle to the strength found in bargaining collectively.

In 1968 the two teachers' associations tried to merge, but the administrators of CEA resisted strongly, despite NEA pressure. When Colorado Springs, Denver, Jefferson County and other local associations threatened to form a new Colorado Teachers Association, CEA gave in and *excluded* administrators from CEA membership. On December 4, 1968, in a mass meeting the membership of the Colorado Springs Teachers' Association ratified its first Master Agreement. The base salary for a teacher in District 11 was a whopping \$6,100! As the old saying goes, “We've come a long way, Baby.” The rights and benefits in our current contract reflect the huge progress we have made since our initial Master Agreement.

The inherent right of all employees to be treated with dignity and respect and to receive appropriate and fair compensation has always been one of the primary goals of CSEA. As our Mission Statement says, “CSEA endeavors to ensure that all teachers enjoy the benefits of professional working conditions, fair treatment, just compensation, and the support needed so that students and schools thrive.”

Your rights came from hard work. Next: A strike!?!

Announcements

Look for Election Information Next Week

We will host an election for CSEA Executive Committee Officers and CSEA delegates to attend our state assembly, known as the CEA Delegate Assembly, the end of this month. Be on the lookout for additional details next week.

Virtual Events

14th Annual Educating Children of Color Summit ~ Infinite Hope with Deliberate Effort~

- Saturday, January 16, 2021
- The Summit provides a unique opportunity for educators, juvenile justice, and child welfare professionals to enhance their ability to retain and inspire the students they serve. It is also an opportunity for high school students to learn about themselves while they explore higher education. Finally, the Summit is an opportunity for parents to learn to communicate with schools and with their children to maximize their child's success.

- For additional information or to register for the event, please click [here](#).

Distance Learning Pro Tips

- Monday, January 11, 2021, 5-6pm MST
- Join us as we explore our favorite PK-13 edtech tools while also considering what quality lesson design at a distance looks like. We'll share how we use guidelines like The Triple E Framework (Dr. Liz Kolb) to figure out how well our favorite tools are helping us engage our students, enhance, and extend their learning goals.
- Register: <https://www.mobilize.us/nea/event/365266/>

Articles Of Note

[New Year, New Patchwork Of Policies Across Colorado School Districts Send Some Kids Back To Classrooms](#)

[He survived the Columbine massacre. Now Frank DeAngelis is applying the coping lessons he learned to coronavirus](#)

[Raise your mittens: Outdoor learning continues into winter](#)

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