

Union Pulse

Colorado Springs Education Association
January 26, 2023

Censorship of Classroom Materials?

Many of our vigilant members have shared the direction from central office about classroom materials, particularly use of materials from Teachers Pay Teachers. OK, since the board has not approved this vendor, it doesn't allow district funds to be used to cover materials from this respected source. However, the e-mail goes on: "*Personal funds cannot be used for student facing materials because of this policy as well.*" This is wrong.

You have rights, beginning with the ability to spend your earned money as you wish. As teachers, you are the experts in pedagogy for your students within D-11. There is extensive Policy and Regulation on the subject, starting with your [Master Agreement](#). Article XI.B, Academic Freedom, outlines your right to use professional discretion in instruction. This includes the types of things teachers bring to class to enrich student learning, provide interesting samples, illustrations, or models, etc. Obviously, we're not talking here about buying the class different textbooks that students are required to use. Other district Policy and Regulation (IB, IJJ, IJJ-R & its Handbook) speak to this, too, and even they make the point.

Policy IB speaks of "an atmosphere which is free from censorship and artificial restraints upon free inquiry and learning," while the Handbook notes that materials-selection procedures "*recognize any judgment a teacher makes in the utilization of materials which are not selected within this process is the sole responsibility of that teacher.*" Perhaps easiest to see are so-called limited use supplemental resources that "*are selected based on teacher professional judgment...*"

At least one BoE member has indicated from the dais recently, in conjunction with an interest in restricting books available in libraries, that he wants more oversight of all materials brought into classrooms. It's no surprise, then, that this misleading statement on policy has cropped up now. Members, you secure your professional decision-making authority with your solidarity and support of fellow teachers and your Master Agreement. Thank you for supporting one another!



Thumbs Up: to everyone that self-nominated to become a delegate for Delegate Assembly. Because of the strong response, we will have an election to fill all seats and have a full delegation to represent Colorado Springs at the state level!

Thumbs Up: to members for sharing mailers, letters and other information to help keep the Association and other members informed, as well as for stepping forward with the willingness to sign onto the placement grievance.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Teacher Advocacy Workshop – Credit Available

CSEA will offer opportunities intended to strengthen your leadership in D11 (counting towards your teacher evaluation Standard IV) and to build educators' confidence and voice in promoting the teaching profession in a positive way. Reaching our community through this work is critical

to create change and improve public perceptions regarding public schools. Credit available and spaces are limited. Use [THIS FORM](#) to sign up.

Election for Delegates to CEA DA

We will be hosting an election for delegates to represent CSEA at this years CEA Delegate Assembly starting Friday, January 27. Look for an email with voting information

CEA policy is established at this assembly of members from across the state that convenes each spring. At CEA Delegate Assembly, representatives make decisions regarding school reform issues, legislative agendas, philosophical resolutions, and member rights advocacy. All members are encouraged to consider running to serve as a delegate.

Member Benefits

California Casualty has a new quote portal available for CSEA members to use in requesting an insurance quote. Check it out by clicking the image below.



Article of Note

[Video Game Workers Get a Union Foothold at Microsoft](#): The outcome, involving about 300 employees, is one of organized labor's biggest victories at a major U.S. tech company.

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