



EA campaign update

As a part of our campaign to raise up educational assistants, MTEA has met and conferred with administration on some key issues that would significantly improve career ladders and opportunities for educational assistants. These include:

- Reinstate steps for first five years of employment
- Provide incentive days for years of service
- Provide additional compensation for 2- and 4-year degrees
- More professional development opportunities for EAs

Educational assistants and all members should watch for updates soon via email and social media.

Considering retirement?

MTEA members who are considering retirement in the next two years will want to attend an important seminar titled “Get on Track to Financial Security” on Tuesday, February 3rd at 5:30pm at the MTEA office. Visit mtea.org to get details and register for this seminar, which is sponsored by WEA Member Benefits.

Important! If you will be 55 prior to June 30, 2015 and you have more than 30 years of service with MPS, it is critical that you investigate the possible negative effect on your retirement benefits if you work past this year. You are eligible this year for retirement health insurance, but if you do not retire this year, you will not be eligible again until age 60.

The fight is on: No more school takeovers!

Republican state legislators have introduced a bill that could turn over dozens of public schools to unaccountable third party charter operators. The bill, AB 1, will penalize and take over many of our poorest, most segregated and under-resourced schools, without providing accountability for voucher schools and privately run charter schools.

The bill creates an unelected Academic Review Board and charges that board with creating an “academic review system” to replace the current state accountability system by 2017-18. The new academic review system would, among other things:

- Require yearly A-F grades for all schools receiving public funds
- Create sanctions for all schools that receive Ds and Fs
- Allow voucher and privately-run charter schools to give a different test than the one public schools use, making true comparisons and accountability impossible

Schools with three straight years of Ds or Fs would be put on an improvement plan. Public schools that did not improve after four years on the improvement plan would be converted to privately-run charter schools. Voucher schools that did not improve would stop receiving public money; privately-run charters would have their charter revoked.

MTEA members are organizing against this bill and will fight any new legislation that would further privatize and destabilize our schools (such as a takeover zone bill). You can help! Sign the petition at mtea.org; attend a community meeting February 7 (see below); and call your legislator (more info at mtea.org).



Save Public Schools! Community Strategy Session

Saturday, February 7 from 9am-12:30pm

At the MATC Downtown Campus, 700 W. State St.

Free parking at 7th & State St. structure

Get updates on school takeover bills and strategize on how to stop the takeovers. Attend breakout sessions on: special ed vouchers, school safety and restorative justice, community schools, how to mobilize parents, how to organize students, using social media in our fight, and more.

Childcare is available and lunch will be served for those who register in advance. RSVP at mtea.org. Please encourage parents and students to attend!

Jan. 18 event to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., honor contest winners

About 4,100 students entered the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Writing Contest this year. The writing contest is co-sponsored by MTEA and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. This year's theme: "We have a great deal of positive work to do."

The writing contest winners will be honored along with the winners of the speech and art contests at a free public celebration on Sunday, January 18 at 1pm at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. All students and teachers who participated in the writing contest will also receive a certificate and button from MTEA this week at school. See your building representative for details.

The celebration of Dr. King's birthday at the Marcus Center is open to all members of our community. It is a free event with free parking and a reception afterwards. Please share information with your students and encourage them to attend!

The winning writing contest entries will also be published in a special section of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Sunday, January 18. Watch for it in the paper, or get the link on line at the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association Facebook page!

2014 Contest Winners

Grades K-1 (Group project)

Grade 1 room 133, Fairview Elementary, Ms. Michaud

Grades 2-3

1st: Blaise Wood, Trowbridge School, Ms. Desire Tyler, grade 3

2nd: Vincent McMurtry, Underwood Elementary, Ms. Kathy Sicula, grade 3

3rd: Jada Akins, Hi-Mount Community School, Ms. Mary Seewald, grade 3

Grades 4-5

1st: Alexa Hernandez, Hayes Bilingual, Ms. Hayes, grade 4

2nd: Edgardo Carrasquillo, Golda Meir, Ms. Richardson, grade 4

3rd: Jasmine Wright, Elm Creative Arts, Ms. Conrad, grade 4

Grade 6

1st: Aracely Esqueda, Manitoba Elementary, Ms. Bahr, grade 6

2nd: Richard Yang, Hartford University School, Ms. Joyce Peoples, grade 6

Grades 7-8

1st: Loyal Khreis, Salam School, Ms. Schauer, grade 8

2nd: Darien Crawford, Golda Meir, Ms. Razaa, grade 8



3rd: Kelaiah Smith, Golda Meir, Ms. Razaa, grade 7

Grades 9-10

1st: Pasua Chang, Hmong American Peace Academy, Ms. Meyer, grade 10

2nd: Noemi Gutierrez-Godoy, Riverside University HS, Ms. Gulbranson, grade 9

3rd: Chachee Lee, Riverside University High School, Ms. Gulbranson, grade 9

Grades 11-12

1st: Marissa Robertson, Milwaukee High School of the Arts, Ms. Katter, grade 11

2nd: Abigail Thompson, Milwaukee High School of the Arts, Ms. Katter, grade 11

3rd: Ufaira Shaik, Salam School, Mr. Jason Then, grade 11

Congratulations to the contest winners and to all the students and teachers who participated!

Upcoming events

Educator Effectiveness: Mid-term Reporting. Two sessions: Wed. Jan. 21 at 4:30pm and Tue. Jan. 27 at 4:30pm. Get more info and register at mtea.org.

"Get on Track to Financial Security" seminar, provided by WEA Member Benefits. Tue. Feb. 3 at 5:30pm. Get more info and register at mtea.org

Writing for Justice – Writing for Change, workshop with Linda Christensen, Tue. Feb. 3 at 4:30pm. Get more info and register at mtea.org.

Save Public Schools! Community Strategy Session, Sat. Feb. 7 from 9am-12:30pm at MATC. See announcement on reverse for more info.

Community Schools 101, Mon. Feb. 9 at 4:30pm. Register at mtea.org

Rethinking Mathematics workshop with Bob Peterson and Rico Gutstein, Sat. Feb. 14, 9:30am-12:30pm. Register at mtea.org.

Tech support

Want to share your thoughts on technology in MPS? The MTEA Technology Labor-Management Committee invites you to a listening session on Wednesday, Jan. 28 from 4:30 to 6:30 at the MTEA office.

Members should bring detailed examples of your concerns around technology and its impact on teaching and learning. We welcome viable solutions that we can present to administration in an effort to work collaboratively to resolve issues.

mtea

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