



Fight for public schools



The state legislature passed a plan to take over several public schools in Milwaukee. What's next?

- County executive Chris Abele will appoint a commissioner to oversee the takeover schools.
- The commissioner will identify 1-3 schools this year for takeover next year.
- Very few specifics are available about who will fund the commissioner's salary, how schools will be chosen, etc.

MTEA and our community allies are organizing to fight the takeover and to stand up for public schools that welcome and serve all children.

Here's how you can help:

- Form a School Defense Committee (see article on p.2).
- Get five people from your school community to attend a School Defense Committee Summit on Sat., Dec. 5.
- Organize a "walk-in" at your school on Friday, September 18 (see article at right).

Educational assistants and bookkeepers win raise; Teacher negotiations and salary steps are next

The MTEA educational assistant and bookkeeper units have negotiated a 1.62% base building raise for 2015-16 for all paras, safety assistants, interpreters, general assistants and accountants/bookkeepers. The increase is the maximum allowed under Act 10, and will take effect this fall. Unlike previous years, the increase will not be paid out as a bonus; it is a negotiated, base-building raise.

Educational assistants led the fight for a raise for all units last year by mounting a campaign to "Raise Up EAs." The campaign included several actions at school board meetings, an invitation to school board representatives to "walk a day in our shoes," and a phone/text campaign.

We will negotiate this fall for the teacher and substitute units. Any raise negotiated this year will be retroactive to the beginning of the 2015-16 school year. While bargaining for the teacher unit, we also continue to meet and confer with administration to fully fund the salary schedule we designed together in spring 2014.

The budget that the MPS administration submitted to the school board in spring 2015 did not contain specific information on how the \$1,500 salary steps would be funded in 2015-16. Hundreds of MTEA members contacted the school board and testified that a clear career path with yearly step increases is critical to teacher retention and student success. Because of this collective action, the school board voted in spring to partially fund the step increases, and said they would consider devoting additional money to step increases this fall.

Members, be ready to stand up this fall for a raise and step increases!



K4 teacher Rachel Schlueter testifying in favor of fair compensation and a clear career path

All schools: Organize a WALK-IN Sept. 18

Educators, parents and community allies will stage walk-ins to celebrate and protect our public schools on Fri., Sept. 18 at 7am.

Organizers at dozens of schools popularized the walk-in strategy last spring when they held early-morning events with parents, community leaders, and educators to

celebrate public schools and share information about school takeovers. At the beginning of the school day, participants walk in to the school together to affirm their support.

Want to organize or participate in a walk-in at your school? Talk with your MTEA building leaders or email amizialko@wi.rr.com.

New to MPS? Get help and support at MTEA

The Milwaukee Center for Teaching, Learning and Public Education, located in the MTEA office, offers support and resources especially for new MPS employees who are MTEA members.

This September, we offer four sessions to help new employees sign up for health, dental and vision insurance provided by the district. Come and get help filling out your paperwork on any of the following dates:

- Thu., Sept. 3 from 4:30-6pm
- Thu., Sept. 10 from 4:30-6pm
- Tue., Sept. 15 from 4:30-6pm
- Wed., Sept. 23, 4:30-6pm

The above sessions are open to MTEA members and any new MPS employee considering membership.

Teachers new to MPS will also benefit from the Educator Effectiveness workshops on Tue. Sept. 8 and Thu. Sept. 10 from 4:30-6pm. Get timely guidance from colleagues on how the evaluation process works, and how



MTEA members get free one-on-one support with Educator Effectiveness, licensing, PDPs, and more

to write a Personal Plan for Growth (PPG) and Student Learning Objective (SLO) that are meaningful to you and your students.

The Educator Effectiveness sessions are open to MTEA members only. You can sign up for membership before attending the workshop.

Classes at the Milwaukee Center for Teaching, Learning and Public Education are designed and taught by educators, for educators.

A full listing of courses, along with links to register, is available at mtea.weac.org/mke-center.

Organize a school defense committee

A School Defense Committee is a group of parents, students, educators, and community members who want to get involved at your school to oppose the MPS takeover.

Every school needs a School Defense Committee. Not all schools will be targeted for takeover, but the takeover plan affects the financial health of our whole district. A threat to one school is a threat to all schools.

School Defense Committees will reach out to the school community and mobilize others for action. School Defense Committees organize walk-ins, informational meetings, and



The Auer Avenue School Defense Committee and community supporters stand up for their school

community events to support their schools and all public schools.

Want to start a committee at your school? Email amizialko@wi.rr.com.

Stay connected

Do you currently receive email and e-newsletters from MTEA? If not, please update your contact info at mtea.weac.org/resources/membership-data-update, so we can keep in touch and share important information and opportunities.

Celebrate Labor Day

Celebrate Labor Day with the MTEA! Wear your MTEA green and join us at Zeidler Park (3rd and Michigan) starting at 10:30am on Monday, September 7.

The first 100 members to RSVP at mtea.weac.org/events will receive free food and drink tickets. You may purchase a t-shirt for \$10 at Zeidler Park, or ahead of time at the MTEA office.

Upcoming events

All events held at MTEA unless noted. For more info and to register, visit mtea.weac.org/events.

Professional development at the Milwaukee Center for Teaching, Learning and Public Education.

To view and register for all courses, visit mtea.weac.org/mke-center.

Meet and Greet for Educational Assistants, Sat., Aug. 29, 10am-noon. Corn roast, raffle, and door prizes.

Celebrate Labor Day with the MTEA, Mon., Sept. 7 at 10:30am at Zeidler Park. Full details and RSVP for free food tickets at mtea.weac.org/events.

New Employee Benefit Sessions.

Four sessions, all 4:30-6pm: Thu., Sept. 3, Thu., Sept. 10, Tue., Sept. 15, Wed., Sept. 23.

MTEA Leader Convocation, Wed., Sept. 16, 4:30pm at the Washington Park Senior Center, 4420 W. Vliet St.

School walk-ins, Fri., Sept. 18 at 7am. See article on front page.

mtea

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