

Ursetta, Angelina [CO]

From: DCTA <DCTA@coloradoea.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:02 PM
To: Ursetta, Angelina [CO]
Subject: (HTML VERSION): DCTA Slate 1/11/22



COVID Update

The district has outlined new isolation and quarantine guidance for individuals infected with COVID-19. This guidance states that anyone who tests positive should isolate at home for at least 5 days before returning to work, as long as symptoms are greatly improving and the infected individual has no fever for 24 hours. **We advise anybody who is feeling sick to not report to work and stay home until you feel better. We ask that you not let the 5 day minimum quarantine period pressure you into returning to work before you are feeling well.** We need to do all that we can to ensure COVID spread is minimal. Please continue to wash hands regularly, wear masks (your principal should be able to provide you with K95 masks, these are the most effective masks), social distance and get your booster shot (if you have not already).

We will continue to send updates as soon as they become available.

DPS Letter Campaign Update

Last week we organized an email campaign to DPS leadership demanding safety, transparency and action to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our schools. With over 800 emails sent, you all have spoken loudly and clearly about the supports needed to ensure safe and viable learning and working conditions for our students and educators. The district is responding to our demand to deploy central staff into our schools as we have been advocating for this for the last four months. We believe this is a wonderful start in alleviating the pressures that educators continue to face.

We are hopeful that the district will begin responding to our additional demands that include:

- Giving students and educators additional access to antigen tests at the end of a quarantine period
- Providing open and honest communication with families about the challenges schools are facing
- Allowing site-based decision making by school staff and leadership

- Schools that have waived the expectations of the educator contract (i.e innovation schools) should make an effort to engage their educators, parents, students and communities to determine specific needs instead of determining those needs without stakeholder voice
- Allowing educators and students to remain in quarantine if they are not feeling well after 5 days
- Partnering with state/local leaders to make testing more available for anyone experiencing symptoms
- Utilizing ESSER funding to help maintain school staffing ratios and to retain educators & support staff
- Finding ways to limit additional mandated burdens to educators and staff, such as limiting standardized testing, school closures for performance, and ineffective evaluation systems

If you have not already, click the image below and tell DPS that safety must come first!

TELL DPS:

SAFETY COMES FIRST

SEND A LETTER >>



How to Request COVID Leave Through TruePay

During our COVID MOU bargaining sessions, we negotiated for educators to access the sick leave bank (rather than personal sick leave) for personal COVID related illness. As a reminder, you can request COVID leave through TruePay. In order to request COVID leave, please select the “Emergency Leave - Employee” option on the TruePay site and contact HR. If you have any questions please call 720-423-3092 or email LeaveofAbsence@dpsk12.org. You can also visit the ['COVID Leave for Self' page on the commons website](#).

**Know Your Contract - \$35 Per Hour for
Additional Class Coverage**

During our COVID MOU bargaining sessions, we negotiated for educators to be compensated \$35 per hour for covering classrooms. We are short staffed and do not have enough substitute teachers. It is important that we are paid for doing extra work that is often taking away from our planning time. If you cover another class, please remember to request this additional pay with your principal.

MOU Language: To address the exacerbation of the guest teacher shortage created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the parties agree to amend Article 28-6-1 to reflect that a teacher directed to cover assignments for other teachers will be paid \$35.00 per hour.

[See Entire COVID MOU Here](#)

Apply to Become a DCTA Member Organizer

This year we have a unique opportunity through the NEA Community Schools Initiative to support members and organize around topics that directly affect our working conditions and student learning conditions through an NEA Safe and Just Schools grant. We are calling this program the “DCTA Member Organizer Program”.

Member organizers will earn a \$2,500 stipend between January and June of 2022 for approximately 60 hours of work over 5 months. Member organizers will report to a lead member organizer [i.e. DCTA lead organizers] that will coordinate support with the DUU UniServ Staff and DCTA Leadership. Each member organizer will focus on one of four advocacy areas that will build power towards our next contract negotiations in the Spring of 2022. Member organizers will commit to supporting throughout the 21-22 school year and will participate in training to support the organizer roles.

We invite you to apply to participate in the member organizing program to help us win better educator contract language and public schools that our students deserve! We have approximately 16 positions open. We have a group of lead organizers that will help to make the final selections from the applications that we receive. **The deadline to apply has been extended to January 21.**

[Apply Here!](#)

Standing with King Soopers Workers on Strike

Tomorrow morning (1/12/22) at 5 a.m. King Soopers employees will go on strike for livable wages and respect on the job. These workers have been on the front lines, doing the essential work of making sure our communities have what we need in this pandemic. **At this time we ask that you not cross the picket line and refrain from shopping at King Soopers until an agreement is reached.**

Please feel free to visit the [UFCW Local 7R Facebook page](#) to stay informed on the strike and any actions to support them during this time.

Need Teaching/Instructional Support?

Please join us Thursdays from 5:30-6:30pm as Early Career Learning Labs hosts a weekly meeting to help meet the needs of our DCTA educators. If you encounter anything during the week that needs support or collaboration, please join us during our Thursday Zoom using the link below! Anything from union questions, to goal writing, content support, and beyond! Educators of any kind and any years of experience are welcome.

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/95032195452>

Email katthegreat1313@gmail.com with questions!

California Casualty Athletics Grant



The California Casualty Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant was established to provide support to public school sports programs impacted by reduced budgets. Right now you can apply to receive \$1,000 for your middle/high school's team.

[Apply Here](#)



If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please (Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).