



# DCTA Slate

## #FullyFundEd

While Colorado is rated as having one of the top economies in this nation for several years running, our state ranks as one of the lowest when it comes to K-12 education funding. Our per pupil funding is \$3,087 below the national average. The National Education Association found that Colorado ranked 48th for starting pay in 2021, making it difficult to attract and retain educators. Sign the petition and ask Colorado law makers to:

- Completely buy down the Budget Stabilization (BS) Factor to \$0, fully funding our schools to the amount required by the constitution, and;
- Identify and implement long-term systemic solutions to sustainably and adequately fund our public schools.

[Sign the Petition >>](#)

## Lobby Days for Public Education Funding on 2/9/23 and 3/9/23

We are hosting a lobby day with other educators in Denver Public Schools on February 9th and March 9th. The purpose of lobby day is to meet with elected officials at the Capitol and asking them to fully fund public education during this year's legislative session. A fully funded education system means retaining and attracting essential school staff, smaller class sizes, safer schools and essential resources to support student success.

Please fill out the form below if you are interested in participating and we will contact you individually with more information.

[Sign Up Here >>](#)

## Planning on Retiring this Year?

If you are retiring from DPS this spring, we invite you to continue your public education advocacy as a member of DCTA Retired!

As a DCTA Retired member, your membership connects you to other committed peers, provides statewide and national opportunities to engage, and adds your voice to the collective voice in support of Colorado public schools and its children. Join

your colleagues in advocating for the retirement security you deserve. Your eligibility for NEA Member Benefits programs will continue, and you can continue to support your colleagues, students, and public education.

## DCTA Retired Membership Form

**Did you know?** DCTA members are eligible for a \$1,200 early retirement stipend if you notify the district before February 1st and complete the school year? To get your stipend, please [fill out this form](#).

## New Budget Guidance Document

The collaborative school committee (CSC) is a school based group that allows educators, school leaders, families and communities to provide feedback on important school decisions including how schools utilize their budgets for staffing. Many schools are experiencing substantial budget cuts for the 23-24 school year and the CSC will need to make decisions about staffing for the future. Please be aware that you **can** attend these public meetings.

Below is the link to the new budget guidance document. It includes the timeline for CSCs to set priorities, deadlines for reductions in buildings, as well as in-building bidding for positions at traditional schools. Please familiarize yourself with the considerations principals use when determining budgetary decisions for the upcoming school year (such as allocations for GT, MLE, Nurses, Specials, ECE, etc.).

### Helpful Resources:

- [DPS Budget Guidance Manual](#)
- [DPS Budget Guidance Webpage](#)
- [Spring Staffing Handbook](#)

## DCTA 100 Year Celebration – Denver Teacher, Marie Louise Greenwood

Marie Louise Greenwood was a teacher who made history in Denver Public Schools for many reasons however, she is remembered by many as the first black teacher to earn tenure in the district.

Greenwood was a product of the Denver Public Schools system. She attended East High School; however, she graduated third in her class from West High School. As a high school student, she was discouraged from pursuing higher education despite her many accomplishments. Nevertheless, she persisted and became a recipient of the National Merit Scholarship and moved on to attend the Colorado Teachers College, which is now the University of Northern Colorado.

After Marie Louise Greenwood earned her degree, she began teaching at Whittier Elementary in 1935. It was not until 1938 that Greenwood earned her tenure. Soon after, she got married and had children and left the classroom for a few years. It was not until her children were in school that she returned to the classroom as a teacher at Newlon Elementary, a previously all-white school. She is highly regarded for breaking down racial barriers throughout her career.

In 2001, a DPS school, the Marie Greenwood Academy was named in her honor. She published two books one titled, Every Child Can Learn and her biography titled, By the Grace of God. In 2010, she received the Martin Luther King Trailblazer Award and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree at the University of Northern Colorado. Later that year, she received another honorary doctorate from Denver Urban Studies and Adult College. Although Marie L Greenwood passed in 2019 one thing is evident, her legacy will never be forgotten.



## NEA Member Benefits Travel Seminar on 1/31/23

Tuesday  
Jan 31  
@ 5:00 PM

**PLAN AN UNFORGETTABLE VACATION WITH THE NEA TRAVEL PROGRAM**

Join David and Susan for a fun Travel Planning event.  
You will learn how to save money on upcoming travel by utilizing your \$500 Travel Dollars.

nea Member Benefits  
neamb.com/start

Scan or Click to Register

Did you know as a DCTA member you have access to a variety of perks/benefits through NEA member benefits? Join our partners with NEA Member Benefits and California Casualty Insurance for a fun **Travel Planning event starting at 5 PM on January 31st**. During this time you were learning to maximize your \$500 Travel Dollars to book a trip you won't forget!

To register, click the image or scan the QR code to the left.

## Latin American Education Foundation Scholarships Available for Students

The mission of the Latin American Educational Foundation (LAEF) is to provide access to higher education for the Hispanic/Latinx community in Colorado. Their scholarship application window is now open. Please share this opportunity with students and encourage them to apply.

[Scholarship Application/More Information](#)

## Membership Dues Increase

Please be aware that there has been an increase to the CEA and DCTA membership dues. This increase is equal to a \$1.32 monthly increase for full time educators. Please be aware that dues amounts are specified in our DCTA bylaws (specifically, tied to BA step 8 in the salary schedule). Since contract negotiations did not end until August 31st, the dues increase did not go into effect until recently.

## Mid Year Conversations Reminder

If you have not yet had your mid-year conversation, remember to review the [LEAP manual](#) for examples of evidence for each indicator and complete your sections. Advocate for yourself, as these are not final scores. Ask your evaluator for examples of evidence that you may collect to demonstrate progress towards your goals and continue to add to your body of evidence throughout the remainder of the year. As a reminder, keep some evidence in your back pocket so that you are able to share it during your end-of-year evaluation.



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