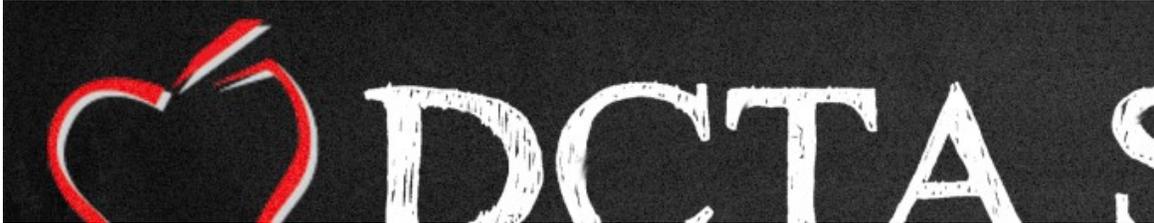


## Ursetta, Angelina [CO]

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**From:** DCTA <DCTA@coloradoea.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 2:36 PM  
**To:** Ursetta, Angelina [CO]  
**Subject:** [test] DCTA Slate - March 23, 2021



### **CMAS Bill Signed**

Last Tuesday, Gov. Polis signed House Bill (HB) 21-1161, *Suspend Statewide Assessments For Select Grades*, into law. The bill will allow educators to focus their limited time and resources on instruction and interventions to put students' learning and mental health needs first. Specifically, the bill will direct the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to formally request a waiver from the US Department of Education to suspend standardized testing for certain subjects and grades for 2020-21. It also prohibits a school district from using student academic growth measures or student performance measures when evaluating licensed personnel or for school accountability for the 2020-21 school year. Wins like this are not possible without the power of union educators across our state, so thank you for your constant advocacy!

### **Voting Begins Tomorrow**

As a reminder, voting for our 2021 DCTA officer elections will begin this Wednesday, March 24. Ballots will be sent through a third party election company by the name of Yes Elections. You should receive your ballot via DPS email addresses. Please note, the link with your voting ballot will only work once, so please allow yourself some time to fill the ballot out properly. We will have a customer service line available to you tomorrow to help address any concerns or issues about the voting process once the voting period has begun.

### **Membership Campaign Sneak Peek**

Beginning April 1, DCTA will be a part of a national membership campaign driven by NEA. This campaign provides potential members (who have not joined the union in the past) to join DCTA and receive 5 months of dues at no cost! This is in addition to the new educator incentive that we offer in the fall every year (~\$180 rebate check for dues). Association representatives will receive more information about our membership drive following spring break.

### **NEA Member Benefits - Sanvello Mental Health App!**

Because you are a DCTA member, this also makes you a member of the Colorado Education Association as well as the National Education Association. With your membership, you are given access to many benefits, including mental health resources! [Sign up for NEA Member Benefits.](#)

NEA Member Benefits has partnered with the Sanvello app to provide free mental health services to our members. Sanvello's goal is to help you rethink how you manage your mental health. It provides you with clinically-validated tools for stress, anxiety, depression, or whatever you're going through. [Start your free Sanvello account!](#)

### **What to Do if You are told you are Being Non-Renewed?**

Immediately request letters of recommendation from supportive district administrators and colleagues. Do not wait for board action to take this step. Obtain these letters immediately and do not wait until the end of the school year.

The district may pressure you to resign "voluntarily" rather than face non-renewal by asserting that a resignation will look better to prospective employers on their resumes. We advise teachers to reject the "voluntary resignation" offer in these situations because the act of resigning may make you ineligible for unemployment compensation and may also affect your future teaching license renewal. Prospective new employers understand lay-offs, while employment applications will ask you if you resigned in lieu of a non-renewal.

We recommend you apply for unemployment the day after the last day of school, as summer pay is for work already performed and you are essentially "laid off." **If your unemployment benefit is denied, contact DCTA immediately so we can appeal the decision within 20 calendar days from the date the denial was mailed.**

**It is important to maintain your CEA/NEA membership in case we need to seek legal help for you.** If you feel that the evaluation process was violated, contact DCTA immediately; however, this will not affect the non-renewal, but can change your evaluation as you seek other employment.

Lastly, if you choose to resign. You must provide 30 calendar days' notice (30 days before the next academic year resumes) or risk losing up to a month's pay. Only probationary teachers can be non-renewed. Contact DCTA if you are a non-probationary teacher and you have been told you are being non-renewed.

### **Action Required - RiBed Teachers Only!**

A couple of weeks ago, we sent out a survey that helped us better understand how your unassigned teacher hiring fair process went. After assessing member feedback, it is apparent that there were many concerns, so we would like to evaluate this situation further.

Please take the time to [fill out this additional survey](#) so we can take further action in advocating for you!



**Election Ballots are Emailed to DCTA Members** - March 24

**Spring Break** - March 27 through April 4

**Board Meeting** - April 13 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**Rep Council** - April 20 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

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Sent via [ActionNetwork.org](http://ActionNetwork.org). To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from Denver Classroom Teachers Association, please [click here](#).