



DCTA Slate

Today is the FINAL day to take the CEA Healthcare survey!

As the cost of healthcare rises, you and your fellow educators are paying more for health insurance than ever before. All the while, health care, and health insurance corporations are enjoying record profits. This concerning trend is reducing the impact of your salary increases and prevents us from making progress towards all educators being paid livable wages. Many of you have shared your frustration with healthcare and health insurance, and you have been heard.

CEA is conducting a survey of members' experiences with health insurance. [Click here](#) to take the survey, and read on below to learn more about this effort.

[Take the Survey Today >>](#)

Volunteer and Support Pro-Public Education Candidates and Ballot Measures



We are quickly approaching the November 2023 Elections and some of our largest priorities are on the ballot: Denver School Board Election in the At-Large, District 1 and District 5 races and Proposition HH. CEA has recommended a "YES" vote on proposition HH to all Colorado educators. The DCTA Fund and DCTA board are going through the endorsement process and will come out with a recommendation decision next week.

These elections impact our work and students' education as the school board makes decisions that directly impact our working conditions and our students' learning conditions. By having partners on the board, we can ensure that our voices are valued in the decision making process. Proposition HH deals with parts of TABOR and could mean more funding for our schools. Please sign up below and let us know how you can help us win these elections.

[Volunteer Sign Up >>](#)



No matter our color, ZIP code, or language, we want all our children to have a public education that imparts honesty about who we are, the integrity in how we treat each other, and the freedom to pursue our dreams.

Hispanic Heritage Month is not only a time for those of Hispanic and Latino descent to celebrate their cultural roots but also an occasion for people from all backgrounds to learn, appreciate, and celebrate the rich tapestry of Hispanic and Latino cultures.

We invite you to explore, learn, and celebrate the vibrant heritage and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities to our world by looking at the resources provided by NEA.

[NEA Hispanic Heritage Month Resources >>](#)

COVID Leave

The DCTA office is receiving many questions about sick leave for educators who may have COVID or caring for their family members who are ill. The district has stated that educators will need to take their personal sick leave and quarantine for 5 days if an educator tests positive. We are concerned about this protocol due to early career educators having limited sick leave. We continue to advocate for more appropriate avenues to address COVID leave.

[DPS Guidance on Positive Test Results >>](#)

Whole Child Distinguished Schools Award Considerations

Every year, 10 schools are awarded the Whole Child Distinguished Schools Award. The goal of the Distinguished Schools Award is to ensure schools across the district are excelling in

providing equitable and inclusive environments where students are healthy, supported, engaged, challenged, safe and socially and emotionally intelligent. Thanks to the hard work of the bargaining team during negotiations in 2019, DPS is leading the nation in focusing this level of effort and attention around Whole Child supports because it will not only improve academic outcomes, but also ensures that students have the supports they need to thrive in the classroom and beyond.

The selection process is conducted by the ProComp Implementation Team, a collaboration between district and DCTA members. They will be looking at various aspects, including:

- Health Education
- Physical Education and Physical Activity
- Nutrition Environment and Services
- Health Services
- Counseling, Psychology, and Social Support Services
- Physical Environments
- Social and Emotional School Climate
- Employee Wellness
- Family Engagement
- Community Involvement
- Support for historically marginalized student groups
- Implementation of the Black Excellence Resolution
- Implementation of the Know Justice Know Peace Resolution
- Recruitment and Retention of BIPOC Educators

Don't miss this opportunity to show your school's outstanding efforts in supporting the whole child. Stay tuned for more information on when the applications open and how your school can apply!

Association Rep Training on September 27th

DCTA Staff will host our first rep training of the year from 9 AM - 4 PM on Wednesday, September 27th at the CEA Building (1500 Grant Street). All reps should attend as trainings are catered to both new reps and reps with advanced training needs.

[Register >>](#)

A Friendly Message from the Leap Collaborative Committee (LCC)

Teachers: Make sure that you take the time to complete the LEAP training which can be found at <http://thecommons.dpsk12.org/LEAP> under LEAP Changes and Requirements 2023-2024 (30 min). This is mandatory for all teachers and it helps you take ownership in your evaluation. If you don't know the changes then you don't know if your rights are being violated.

ILT members: If your team has not yet calibrated on LEAP this year, talk to your team and consider opting in to have a peer observer host that calibration and take some of the lift and planning off your team and meet this mandatory requirement.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/u/1/d/e/1FAIpQLSe75EsK2lq0Nei33bOm1XFNQpKcp4he6zP2WKHoJXbDggLaSQ/viewform>

Labor Union Lecture with the The Denver Project for Humanistic Inquiry on Thursday, 9/28/2023

The Denver Project for Humanistic Inquiry is hosting a keynote lecture of the semester with Dr. Vivek Chibber titled "Making Class Matter Again." As Dr. Chibber is an outspoken champion of labor unions as a primary means of supporting workers' interests. The lecture and Q&A will take place on Auraria Campus on Thursday, 9/28/2023 at 11:00 AM at the Tivoli Turnhalle (900 Auraria Pkwy, Room 250).

This event is free and open to the public, but if you would like to reserve seats for you or your classes (and/or submit questions for the Q&A ahead of time), please reach out to dphi@msudenver.edu. The event will also be live streamed at www.live.dphi.org. A limited number of questions for the Q&A will be selected from the livestream chat.

New CEA Co-Pilot Courses



If you didn't get signed up for some COpilot classes in August, CEA still has plenty of online professional learning options for you in September! COpilot is CEA's online learning community where we offer flexible, self-paced classes that can meet any learning need you may have.

Every class on COpilot is taught by someone like you: a full-time educator who is always looking for new strategies and ideas to use in classrooms and schools. Also, don't forget that every COpilot class qualifies for graduate credit that you can use to move up on your salary schedules

If you have questions, please fill out the [Contact Us](#) form on the COpilot website or send a direct email to ceacopilot@coloradoea.org.

★ **Recommended Course: Leadership Voices for Public Education and Teacher Professionalism** - Participants in this course will embark on an intellectual exploration of the problems that have resulted from education reform efforts over the past twenty years, shedding light on the motivations of some education funders and policy-makers. Through in-depth discussions, case studies, and critical analysis, learners will gain a comprehensive understanding of the system forces that are attempting to undermine public education at various levels and be prepared to take local action to support public education.

ACCESS Committee Updates

Calling all Specialized Service Professionals and Special Educators! Join us for our next Solidarity Happy Hour on Thursday, 9/21/23 4:30-7:00 pm at Junction Food and Drink. Come when you can and meet/mingle fellow SSPs and SpEd Teachers!

Elementary Mild/Mod Teachers: If you have not received your TouchMath curriculum yet and are being told it is "lost" in your building, please let [Jen Holtzmann](#) know!

The SSP GPS Collaborative Committee is in need of additional SSP members to join and support the work of this committee. School Psychologists, School Social Workers, and School Counselors are especially needed (one of each). [Reach out to Lisa Cannon](#) if you're interested in joining!

The LEAP Collaboration Committee is in need of special education teachers for the special education subcommittee. [Reach out to Rob Gould](#) if you're interested in joining!

DCTA Membership Blitzes

Over the next couple of months, members will have several opportunities to spend the day with DCTA staff on Membership Blitzes. The purpose of a "Blitz" is to visit different schools, connect with fellow educators and add more voices to DCTA. If you are interested in being a part of a Blitz on one of the, please fill out the form below and a staff member will contact you.

[Sign Up >>](#)

Join a DCTA Committee

As a union, we are committed to creating the change that all students and educators deserve in Denver. This change starts with the advocacy and work of our members to address issues like, equity for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ educators, school funding, class size, case load, LEAP evaluations, and organizing. Creating change also includes ensuring that our internal union structure is strong. We are currently looking for members to join various committees. Please [fill out this form if you are interested in joining a committee](#) and committee chairs will contact you!



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