



You're Invited! School Board Candidate Forum




With school board elections approaching, we invite you to be a part of the decision-making process. As educators, we play a vital role in shaping the schools our students deserve and we are the trusted individuals who families and communities count on to make decisions that are supportive of educators and students.

While the DCTA Fund has already conducted interviews with School Board Candidates, your voice is needed to determine our endorsements for the At-Large and District 5 races. We are pleased to announce that we have organized two School Board Candidate Forums, to hear directly from the candidates about their vision for Denver Public Schools. Please note that the school board forums are intended for DCTA members only. If educators who are not yet DCTA members would like to participate, they can join at the door.

Forum Details:




*Forums are intended for DCTA members only

At Large Forum

 Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2023
 Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
 Location: East High School Cafeteria
(1600 City Park Esplanade, Denver, CO 80206)

[RSVP >](#)

District 5 Forum

 Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2023
 Time: 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
 Location: Valdez Elementary Cafeteria
(2525 W 29th Ave, Denver, CO 80211)

[RSVP >](#)

Supporting the Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Our hearts ache witnessing the devastating wildfires on Maui, especially in Lahaina, a place of deep cultural importance. To stand by our fellow educators in Hawai'i, the board of directors overwhelmingly voted to utilize funds from our worthy causes line item in the DCTA budget to donate \$1,000 to the Hawai'i State Teachers Association (HSTA).

You can also directly support educators affected by the wildfires by visiting: <https://www.hsta.org/news/recent-stories/donate-to-teachers-affected-by-maui-wildfires/>.

Association Rep Elections

Last spring, we urged schools to elect an association rep for this Fall. If your school waited to elect a rep, those elections should have taken place last week. If you need help with conducting an association rep election, please contact your UniServ Director.

A reminder, your Association Rep is your voice in school – they represent your concerns and needs. Make sure your voice counts by electing a rep.

The Power of the SLT: Heat Related Closure or Early Release

As the school year begins, students and educators within unairconditioned schools will endure the challenge of uncomfortably hot classrooms. It is important to remind you that Article 5-5-3 of our [DCTA Collective Bargaining Agreement](#) gives educators who serve on the School Leadership Team (including your DCTA association rep) a voice to determine whether conditions would warrant a recommendation for early release or a closure. Please note that all schools must follow the District's Heat Mitigation procedures before moving forward with recommendations and implementation.

Student Loan Reimbursement Incentive

Article 37-4-4 of our [DCTA Collective Bargaining Agreement](#) allows educators to be reimbursed up to \$6,000 in total for repaying student loans or for expenses related to their professional development. Each school year, educators can receive up to \$1,000 in reimbursement. Student loan reimbursements is something that our DCTA Bargaining Team fought extremely hard for and it is one of the benefits educators receive for being a member of our union. Additionally, this is a benefit that most school districts don't yet have in their collective bargaining agreements.

Please visit [The Commons](#) for more information about the application process.

Ready to Start the School Year off STRONG? Back to school checklist!

As the school year starts, it is important to ensure that all schools and departments have a strong plan in place to set ourselves up for success. Please take a moment to review our back to school checklist as it serves as a guide to ensure everybody is on the right track. Strong systems = strong schools!

Please note that the checklist includes guidance around Association Rep elections. DCTA Association Reps who sit on the SLT are now paid stipends for their extra duties. The SLT is responsible for many important decisions outlined in article 5 like substitute contingencies and heat days. If these decisions are being made without the SLT's consensus, this is a violation of our collective bargaining agreement.

[Back to School Checklist >](#)

Apply for Tuition Assistance through the Teacher Education Fund (TEF)

The Teacher Education Fund is a trust fund that has been established through the negotiated Agreement between the Denver Classroom Teachers Association and Denver Public Schools. Educators can apply for up to \$500 to assist in the payment of tuition for courses that will provide college or university credit or other professional development offerings. Applications are accepted throughout the year in Fall, Spring and Summer. **Fall applications are due by THURSDAY September 1st.** [See guidelines.](#)

[Apply >](#)

Were you a Non-Probationary teacher in another US public school district last year or were you non-probationary in DPS before moving to a DPS innovation school? Transfer your Non-Probationary Status now!

Why is having non-probationary status important?

State law says Probationary teachers can be non-renewed (laid off), for no reason as long as it is not illegal (such as discrimination). If a Probationary Teacher's job is cut, the district owes them no help in finding another position. A Non-Probationary teacher in good standing can only lose their position because the school had to reduce positions – not just because administration would prefer someone else. The district owes a Non-Probationary teacher a 12 month placement if he/she is unable to find a new position on his/her own. Probationary teachers must get three consecutive years of effective ratings and return to the same district for the 4th year in order to gain non-probationary status.

Innovation Schools

Even if you've accepted a job at an innovation school, you should port your Non-Probationary Status. Some innovation schools recognize Non-Probationary Status, some do not. However, even if your school doesn't recognize your status, the district will put a hold on your Non-Probationary Status in the event you transfer jobs to a traditional DPS school at which it *will* be recognized. **It is important to note that many innovation schools have restored educators TECEA rights through their newly written innovation plans due to the new innovation language in our contract!**

Questions: Call the DCTA Hotline for advice 303-243-5221

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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