

ETA Weekly Wrap-up

Volume 1, Issue 16: Week of November 29 - December 3

[What Am I Not Hearing?](#)

[President Lori Young](#)

ETA NEWS:

- **OUR VOICES MUST BE HEARD!** ETA's Red 4 Ed Committee is planning what we will do locally to support ISTA's 2022 legislative campaign. [#RestoreFullCollectiveBargainingRights](#).
- **GRANTS FOR EDUCATORS.** Could you use \$1500 to \$5000 for your classroom or for professional development? Of course you could! Check out these grant opportunities. [#GrantMoney](#)

THE NEA FOUNDATION
EQUITY. EXCELLENCE. OPPORTUNITY.

GRANTS FOR EDUCATORS
Grants between \$1,500 and \$5,000 for classroom projects and professional development.
2022 Application Deadlines
Feb. 1, May 1, and Sept. 15
Visit neafoundation.org to learn more.

Global Learning Fellowship
A unique, year-long professional development opportunity for educators to help students thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.
Apply between Dec. 1 and Mar. 1
Visit neafoundation.org to learn more.

Points of Interest: Q & A Style

- **I've heard a few teachers talk about returning to "full collective bargaining rights." How would restoring full collective bargaining rights impact me?**

The state stripped us of the right to bargain most working conditions in 2011. As a result, our workload has doubled or maybe even tripled while our salaries made minimal gains. Our state legislators left us with an impossible choice between ... work outside of school for free or fail our students. [#MoreWork4LittlePay](#)

Restoring full bargaining rights would mean ETA could bargain contracts that include more than salary and salary related benefits. We would be able to bargain health and safety conditions, class sizes, prep periods used for preparing lessons and grading work, evaluation procedures, length of lunch periods, dismissal procedures, etc. [#TeachersAreExperts](#) [#ListenToUs](#)

- **When should you use a sick day?** Sick leave days are used for illness or medical or dental appointments for yourself or for your spouse, child, parents, or any regular member of your household. [#SickDays](#)
- **When should you use a personal day?** Personal days are a form of leave used for any non-illness related personal business. Typically, teachers use personal days for a variety of reasons. Here are a few examples of when you might want to use a personal day:
 - Special occasions, such as a child's performance, moving to a new place, meeting with a lawyer, attending a wedding, etc.
 - House emergencies, such as burst pipes or a heating/cooling system issue.

- **I've been told that I will be on a PFI (Program for Improvement). What is a PFI?**

Per the EVSC, an "administrator can initiate a [Program for Improvement \(PFI\)](#) based on an educator's observation and artifacts anytime during the school year calendar [after a minimum of 2 observations but before spring break]. The goal of the PFI is to support educators early in the school year in order to improve performance prior to the Final Summative Rating. The PFI is designed to improve the effectiveness of the teacher, provide the teacher with ongoing feedback, and monitor steps toward improvement."

- **What should I do if my principal shares that I will be placed on a PFI?**

1. Contact [ETA](#) or call us at (800) 382-4037 Ext. 3403.
2. ETA will help you through the process by helping you write PFI goals and action steps.
3. ETA will attend meetings with you, the principal, and other EVSC administrators.

ISTA NEWS:

INDIANA OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP TO ADDRESS SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER SHORTAGE

The Indiana Department of Education is partnering with the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning at the University of Indianapolis to provide required coursework and training to help fully license special education teachers.

[READ](#)

USE THE NEWEST NEA MEMBER BENEFIT

Whether you're a sports, theater or music fan, the newest NEA Member Benefit from the Entertainment Benefits Group can get you discounted tickets. National Education Association (NEA) members, spouse/domestic partners, eligible dependents and family members may participate.

[MEMBER BENEFITS](#)

FIRST WAVE OF BORROWERS GETS \$715M IN STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS UNDER NEW PROGRAM EXPANSION

Earlier this month the U.S. Department of Education disbursed funds for thousands of qualified student loan borrowers through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. It is expected 30,000 borrowers will receive loan forgiveness in the coming weeks.

[READ](#)

Upcoming Events

Thursday, December 9, 2021 - CPR Member Only Workshop from 4 pm - 7 pm; email [Cindy Carpenter](#) to register for class.

Monday, December 13, 2021 - EVSC Town Hall Meeting at 5 pm; EVSC Admin Building. You MUST be signed up in order to attend.

Monday, December 13, 2021 - EVSC School Board Meeting at 5:30 pm; EVSC Admin Building.

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 - ETA AR Meeting from 4 pm - 5 pm at ISTA Southwest Office.

Thursday, December 16, 2021 - ETA/EVSC Discussion from 4 pm - ? at ISTA Southwest Office.

Thinking About Retiring?

The one-on-one meetings with Teacher Retirement Fund & Public Employee Retirement Fund employees continue to take place via phone appointments with limited one-on-one in-person meetings taking place once or twice a week at select locations. Group meetings continue to take place via webinar.

Meanwhile, you may continue to register for future meetings including one-to-one retirement [counseling online](#).

1. Click on "Retirement Counseling Session (By Phone or In-Person)"
2. Choose "Southwest Region – Michael Rust"
3. If In-Person, choose location most convenient for you

December Schedule – Southwest Region

In-Person 1 on 1 Retirement Counseling Sessions

- Wed, Dec 15 – EVPL - Room D (upstairs) - appt times 10 am to 3 pm CDT (hourly)
- Mon, Dec 20 – EVPL - Room D (upstairs) - appt times 10 am to 3 pm CDT (hourly)
- Tue, Dec 21 – Princeton Public Library - appt times 10 am to 3 pm CDT (hourly)

Phone 1 on 1 Retirement Counseling Sessions

Available daily Monday through Friday 9 am to 2 pm CDT) except on Dec 8, 15, 20, 21, 23, 24, and 31.

