

THE SCHOOL BELL

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It is that time of year again.
It is time for the MEA-PAC drive to begin.

Who is your local PAC?

We are your coordinating council, a group of teachers and support personnel who volunteer to make decisions about supporting candidates and issues that impact our lives as public education employees.

How are we funded?

You, the members who give financial support to the MEA-PAC every year, fund us.

We need you.

It is critical that every teacher, secretary, paraprofessional, score tech, support person and maintenance worker donate to PAC. We cannot use dues dollars for political activities. The only way we have to raise funds is through donations from you. MEA PAC and your local PAC look out for your interests in the political arena; however we cannot be effective without financial support from you.

When do you give?

The PAC enrollment forms are available at each work site.

We look forward to your support.

Political action pays!

If you haven't filled out your PAC, do it now. Political contributions are the life-blood of lobbying. MEA's lobby efforts mean more money for school. An MEA

PAC contribution is a vote for better schools, locally, state-wide and nationally.

Give whatever you can, \$2 per pay period goes a long way in Lansing AND locally!

STATE SCHOOL AID UPDATE November 2001

Michigan Department of Education Vol. 10 No. 2

COUNTING TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AS PUPIL INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

Continuing a provision that was new in 2000-2001, under State School Aid Act Section 101(11), school districts have the option of counting up to 51 hours of teacher professional development (PD) time as if it was pupil instructional time in order to meet the 1,098 instructional hour requirement. Following is some basic information about this provision:

Although each district is required to inform the Department of its decision to count teacher PD time as pupil instructional time, the Department will request this information on the form DS-4168B, Planned Days and Clock Hours of Instruction, which is usually made available to districts in February and is due in April. Therefore, the district does not need to initiate the reporting process. Further, because calendars are still subject to change following the submission of that report (e.g., rescheduling of instruction due to inclement weather), it is understandable that the decision whether to count teacher PD time as instructional time may change as well. Each district's final count of teacher PD time versus actual pupil instructional time will be collected on the form DS-4168, Days and Clock Hours of Instruction, which is due on August 1 following the end of the school year.

Although the hours of teacher PD may be counted as hours of instruction and may be counted toward the 1,098 hours, a day of teacher PD does not count toward the required 180 days of instruction.

Because the teacher PD time is being counted toward the instructional time requirement of 1,098 hours, that time must be accounted for in the same way as pupil instruction time. That is, actual start and end time must be recorded, and lunch time cannot be included.

To count toward the 1,098 hours for 2001-2002, the PD time must take place within the school fiscal year, between July 1, 2001 and June 30, 2002. It is not necessary that it be contiguous to the academic year. (This is an expansion of policy since 2000-2001.) It

may take place on days when pupils are not in attendance, on afternoons of half-days, during evenings or on weekends. Conversely, teacher PD that takes place concurrent with instructional time does not count in addition to the instructional time already being provided. For example, if pupils are in attendance with a substitute teacher on a six-hour day at the same time that the classroom teachers are attending PD for a six-hour day, only six hours counts toward the 1,098 hour requirement, NOT 12 hours.

The number of actual pupil instructional hours versus teacher PD hours may differ by building and/or grade level. However, teacher PD time counted as instructional time may not exceed 51 hours for any building or grade level. Further, if the teachers in a specific group (building or grade level) attend a different number of hours of PD, the minimum number is counted for that group. For example, if the teachers in an elementary building attend anywhere from 24 to 36 hours of PD, 24 hours may be counted for that building.

In calculating the FTE for a part-time pupil in a district or building in which the teacher PD time is being counted as instructional hours, the calculation should use a denominator of 1,098 and the numerator should reflect the number of hours of instruction scheduled for that pupil (e.g., minutes per week multiplied by weeks per year), regardless of whether during some of that scheduled time, teacher PD is occurring rather than actual pupil instruction. Please note that the above information relates specifically to teacher PD being counted as pupil instructional time and will not necessarily address issues concerning the teacher PD requirements in Revised School Code Section 1527.

Questions concerning PD requirements and program content can be directed to Cheryl Poole, School Excellence, (517) 241-4546, or PooleCL@Michigan.gov. Questions concerning Section 101(11) and counting PD hours towards instructional time can be directed to Joellen Wonsey, State Aid & School Finance, (517) 373-3352, WonseyJ@Michigan.gov.

Local Units on Critical List

EAST LANSING, Mich., December 10, 2001- The Saginaw Valley State University Support Staff ratified a two-year contract and has been removed from the critical list. The agreement is retroactive to 2000.

The **Centreville paraprofessionals** have been added to the critical list. The contract for the 12 members expired in August 2001. There are 937 students in the district.

The faculty of Glen Oaks Community College is also being placed on the critical list. The 28-member unit has been bargaining since June. The contract expired in August 2001.

Still critical:

- * Bedford transportation; 57 members; contract expired June 30.
- * Bedford secretaries; 40 members; contract expired June 30.
- * Bedford teachers; 302 members; contract expired June 30.
- * Jackson district librarians; 17 members; first contract.
- * Mt. Pleasant EA; 252 members; contract expired June 30.
- * Clio Area School District; 183 teachers; contract expired August 2001.

Units are put on MEA's critical list when efforts to reach a contract stall or when bargaining has been protracted and unproductive. Members in critical units often step up efforts to inform the community about negotiations with activities such as informational picketing and leafleting.

"The mission of the MEA is to ensure that the education of our students and the working environments of our members are of the highest quality.

Training Schedule 2001-2002

January 12, 2002	"Your Legal Rights (ESP)"
January 17, 2002	"Retirement Planning"
February 19, 2002	"Grievance Processing for Presidents and Building Reps"
February 26, 2002	"Understanding your District's Finances"
March 19, 2002	"Team Building for Local Leaders"
April 23, 2002	"MEA Financial Services"
May 16, 2002	"Your Legal Rights (teachers)."

All trainings, except Saturday, Jan. 12, will be 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the MEA office in Three Rivers. The Saturday training will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. Of the five units bargaining in the spring, I hope they are going to want some team training or bargaining training. I encourage them to attend the Bargaining and Public Relations Conference in Dearborne at the end of January.

The MEA in Three Rivers is committed to your professional growth and success. Don't hesitate to call with questions or for more information: 616 279 5285. See you at the office!