

In the Loop

Missouri NEA's electronic newsletter



News Training Benefits Take Action

BIG NEWS

WE DID IT

PUBLIC STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS
IS GETTING OVERHAULED

#NEAVOICE
#MNEAUNITED



Learn how the new PSLF reforms may help you
#CancelStudentDebt

BIG NEWS:
Public Student Loan Forgiveness is being overhauled
New reforms as of Oct. 6,
may cancel some or all of your student loan debt.

Belonging to the united voice of a national union like NEA shows with wins like these. The 32,000-member Missouri NEA and 3 million-member NEA, including thousands of educators from across the country, took action to demand that the U.S. Department of Education fix the broken Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. Your voice has been heard.

WE DID IT. Your stories of how student debt has plagued you MATTER.
New changes as of Oct. 6 may affect your student loan debt.

Even if you have applied in the past, re-apply again using the [NEA Student Debt Navigator, powered by SAVI](#). It helps correct common mistakes made on the application that may instantly reject applicants. NEA members receive an exclusive one-year, no-cost access to the Student Debt Navigator. The new reforms will help thousands of educators find savings.

Please contact [Pam Koetting](#) at (573) 644-9601 for more information about the NEW changes to the Public Student Loan Forgiveness for educators.

Check It Out



"I Can Do It" Beginning Teacher Assistance Virtual or In-person

The MNEA Beginning Teacher Assistance Program "I Can Do It" is designed for teachers in their first two years and any teacher who wants to improve their classroom management skills. NEA Award for Teaching Excellence (2011) winner Kathy Steinhoff and/or MNEA Teaching & Learning Director Ann Jarrett will present the interactive sessions during the 2021-2022 school year.

Cost: \$50 for MNEA members, \$75 for non-members

Virtual: Mondays in



Four MNEA members receive 2021 California Casualty Music and Arts Grant

After careful consideration of nearly 500 applications, California Casualty has designated 142 schools throughout the country as 2021 Music and Arts Grant awardees.

Congratulations to the following four MNEA members who are receiving a \$250 grant to help their school music, arts, and theater programs.



Paraprofessional Conversations 7 PM | Oct. 21

Join other paraprofessionals to discuss topics from the September and October issues of The Paraprofessional Connection newsletter.

The Paraprofessional Connection monthly newsletter has more than 25 years of experience helping paraprofessionals be their best for students. The four-page newsletter offers ideas and strategies for effective paraprofessional

November

In-Person: St. Charles (Feb. 28) or Lake Ozark (April 23)
Register by Nov. 2 for the first virtual session.

[Register Now >](#)

- Claire Majerus, Locust Street Expressive Arts Elementary School, Columbia MNEA
- Erin Rockford, Belvidere Elementary School, Grandview NEA
- Katie Biere, Liberty High School, Wentzville NEA
- Kathy Hann, Meramec Heights Elementary School, Fox NEA

[Read More >](#)

performance. Major themes focus on creating and maintaining successful educational relationships with staff and students, targeting the ultimate goal of Success for All Students.

Missouri NEA members who sign up for the MNEA ESP email list receive this newsletter by email monthly. Sign up now at www.mnea.org or log in to view archived issues at www.mnea.org/ParaprofessionalConnection.

[Read More >](#)



October is National Bullying Prevention Month

Teachers and education support professionals want students to feel safe from physical threats, emotional harm, harassment, alienation from their peers, or worst of all suicide. Nowadays, with so much communication taking place in the virtual space, it can be harder for school staff to identify when students have become a target of bullying, and who is doing the bullying.

With cell phones in hand, students roam the halls and so often do not know how or who to call on for help, or even if they should ask for assistance. The sad fact is **bullying occurs once every seven minutes** in schools across America, and **one-third of students report being bullied weekly**.

During this month of awareness,

1. Survey your students to see if there is an issue at your school.
2. State it clearly—**bullying will not be tolerated**. Discuss what kind of behaviors can be viewed as bullying.
3. Talk to them about treating everyone with respect, kindness, acceptance, and celebrating our differences.
4. Let students know that you are a caring adult that can be trusted to get help and recognize when it is time to seek outside intervention for more serious situations.
5. **Wear ORANGE for Unity Day Wed., Oct. 20**, to show you are part of the united front to prevent bullying and promote kindness, acceptance, and inclusion.

Addressing bullying in schools is certainly NOT a one-size-fits-all approach, but here are some resources and tools that can help your school with situations that may arise.

Resources for school staff, parents, and teens

- [Recognizing the First Signs of Bullying](#)
- [How to Intervene in a Bullying Incident](#)
- [How to approach bullying](#)
- [Free, downloadable student activity kit from Pacer's National Bullying Prevention Center](#)
- [StopBullying.gov](#)
- Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-8255



NEA's 3 million members are education experts – and we have a seat at the table when education policies are made.



We are stronger together: Connect with educators at your school, in your state, and across the nation to protect and improve public education.



Benefit from NEA's advocacy and advice on the range of issues you face: salary, working conditions, school safety, evaluation support, collective bargaining, and retirement.

Rights of Education Support Professionals

7PM | OCT 26, 2021

Presenter: Vincenzo Iuppa, MNEA associate general counsel

Participants share their knowledge of legal rights and expand that knowledge with the assistance of the Missouri NEA Associate General Counsel. Topics covered will include employment protections, mandatory reporting duties, and organizing rights. If you are an experienced education employee, come share your knowledge and experiences with the group, and if you are new to education, learn the legal landscape. Participation and questions are more than welcome!

Sign up today at <https://bit.ly/3zAHtz2>.

Read More

National Board Candidate Boost Days

Candidates who are submitting entries in 2021-2022 may attend these no-cost candidate-support events. Share your component work and questions during this work day. NBCTs and facilitators will be available to evaluate and provide feedback on your portfolios and videos before submission.

Mark your calendars
Sat., Nov. 13, 2021
Sat., Feb. 26, 2022
Sat., April 9, 2022

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NATIONAL BOARD

for Professional Teaching Standards®



Give your athletes a sporting chance with a Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant from California Casualty, provider of the Missouri NEA Auto & Home Insurance Program.

MNEA members can apply for a **\$1,000 grant** to support their middle/high schools sports program(s) impacted by reduced budgets.

Apply Now

PSRS/PEERS Board of Trustees Report

Congratulations

Ritenour NEA member ASCA 2022 Counselor of the Year finalist

Matthew Berry, Ritenour NEA is one of the five finalist for the American School Counselors Association 2022 Counselor of the Year. What an accomplishment to be in the top five nationally. The ASCA will announce the 2022 awardee in late fall.



Earn up to nine graduate credits for \$225!

For one low annual fee of \$225 (valued at \$2,900), MNEA members can choose from 35+ self-paced, online courses for professional growth or salary

MNEA Legislative Director Otto Fajen (otto.fajen@mnea.org) attends the PSRS/PEERS Board meetings. After each meeting, Otto writes a report and may issue alerts to staff and members about upcoming policy changes that may negatively impact educators. He also keeps members apprised of the financial health of the pension system, investment performance, and COLA increases.

[Read More >](#)

2022 Teacher of the Year James Young interviews with St. Louis Public Radio

ICYMI: St. Louis Public Radio's Marissanne Lewis-Thompson speaks with 2022 Missouri Teacher of the Year and Ferguson-Florissant School District Ferguson-Florissant NEA member James Young about his role as an educator, teaching music during the pandemic, and what the recognition means to him after 14 years of teaching.

The recognition is a full-circle moment for Young, who was a student in the district and now teaches at the Johnson-Wabash 6th Grade Center.

Young is also the second African American to receive the honor since its inception in 1957. He is set to be honored at this year's Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education recognition ceremony on Oct. 19.

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advancement. MNEA partners with Central Methodist University and Virtual Education Software to offer these courses.

[Enroll Now](#)

CELEBRATE
National
Higher
Education
Month!

 HigherEd

Higher Education Month Events

Oct. 13 @ 1PM

Conversation of issues impacting you and your campus

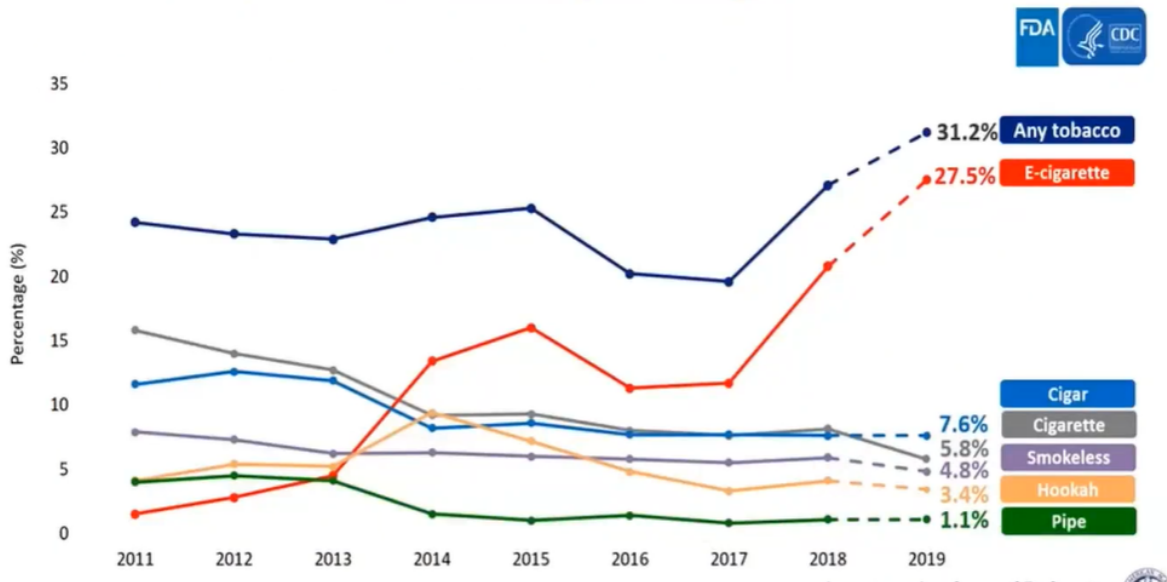
Oct. 14 @ 2 PM

#TeachTruth national day of action

Oct. 20 @ 4:30 PM

Best practices for self-care

Current Tobacco Use Among US High School Students^{4,5}




Vaping: What to look for and how to deter teen tobacco use

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has released two helpful resources for educators to use to help prevent student tobacco use.

1. **What's new in teen tobacco and e-cigarette use** - This 16-minute presentation provides an overview of e-cigarettes, what to look for, resources for helping students, current industry trends, and much more.
2. **Missouri's Guide to Creating a Comprehensive Tobacco & Vape-Free School District** - This handbook will act as a guide to help your school district deal with student tobacco use. It offers tools for collecting data, enlisting support, educating staff, students and parents, adopting and enforcing an anti-vape policy, and even model policy language.

View the presentation and download resources at <https://www.mnea.org/news/vaping-what-look-and-how-deter-teen-tobacco-use>.



Sign In to Register 

Representative Assembly

Deadlines: Hotel Reservations due Oct. 28, Fall RA and Luncheon Registration due Nov. 10.

REPORT YOUR LOCAL DELEGATES BY **OCT. 15**



PRE-RA DISCUSSION: **OCT. 28**



GUEST SPEAKER: **GERRY BROOKS**



The Fall Missouri NEA Representative Assembly will be held in mid-November. Local association delegates, MNEA Board of Directors, leaders, and staff attend the Fall RA to focus on the MNEA business. Missouri NEA leaders are monitoring the COVID-19 virus closely, and the event may be held virtually if it is unsafe to meet in person. Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, only registered delegates will be admitted. Sorry, no guests are allowed.

Local associations must submit delegates and alternates by **Oct. 15**. The form to report delegates can be found in the *Timeline for Action*, or delegates can be submitted online by [clicking here](#). The delegate packet containing information about the Fall R.A. will be available online by Oct. 20. For more information, contact Roxane Bly at roxane.bly@mnea.org or (573) 644-9606.

Watch the website for more details at www.mnea.org/fallra.

[Register Now >](#)



GapAssist and Cancer Insurance coverage from Reliant Financial

Available on the  App Store  Google play



MNEA mobile app

Have you downloaded the Missouri NEA mobile app yet? The mobile app comes in handy when you need to:

Available on the  App Store  Google play



My Deals

The My Deals mobile app allows you to access discounts easily on your smartphone. All you need to do is download, register

[Download a flyer for more information.](#)

GapAssist is a package of three supplemental insurance benefits through Symetra Life Insurance Company that can help with out-of-pocket costs if you have an accident, critical illness diagnosis, or hospital stay.

Cancer Insurance from Prosperity Life GroupSM pays cash benefits when you may need it most. With this cancer plan, you'll receive benefits that follow a positive diagnosis of internal cancer during the term of your coverage. Cancer plans can assist you with a variety of expenses so you can focus on getting better.

To learn more about these two programs contact Reliant Financial Services at (800) 920-7422.

[Read More](#)

- Set an appointment with your UniServ director.
- Contact MNEA staff directly.
- Contact legislators and other elected officials, including city council, mayor, representatives, senators, and congress.
- Read the *Something Better* e-zine.
- Add calendar dates to your personal calendar.
- Sign up for training.
- Access the latest MNEA or NEA news.

[Apple App Store](#)

[Android Google Play](#)

and save. Search for "My Deals" in either the Android Google Play store or Apple iTunes store. To register, enter your contact information and your affiliate (MNEA-Missouri NEA). You may need to enter your NEA ID if it asks you.

Your NEA ID:
0000000000

Need help with My Deals?
Call (877) 428-4697

[Apple App Store](#)

[Android Google Play](#)

Log into MNEA.org

NEA 10-Digit Member ID (with the leading zeros)
Your NEA ID is 0000000000

Having trouble?
Call (573) 634-3202.



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