

Colleagues:

The work to improve our member web experience continues. The next step is replacement of the old NetForum eweb Members Only site. You may have already noticed the new "Pay Dues" button on the MEA.org Members Only page (visible after logging in). Other features of the old NetForum eweb Members Only site were similarly replaced with the launch of the new MEA.org. The final remaining feature is events registration, which has been stripped down and repackaged with an aesthetic more in line with the new look of MEA.org. This change will go live after hours tonight.

How does this change events registration? Although the look has changed and the clutter has been removed, the process for events registration is basically the same. Log in to MEA.org (mea.org/login/) and click on the Event Registration button.

Where do members pay their dues and update contact info? These functions have been available on MEA.org (after logging in at mea.org/login/) since January, and members will only have been using the older mechanisms on the NetForum eweb Members Only page if they had them bookmarked. Additional changes are scheduled for the near future, which will move these features into the new Member Portal—more info coming soon.

What will I see when I click on Events Registration? Before and after screen prints are below. Besides cosmetic changes, old unused features were stripped off the page.



Thank you for your patience as our Public Affairs and IT staff work through these improvements!

Angela

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Pronouns: she/her/hers

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EDUCATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

Webinar: Supporting Our Own through ESP Mentoring

When ESP mentoring is done right, it can lead to improved outcomes for students, greater retention of ESPs, higher job satisfaction, greater confidence, and leadership development. Join us on April 15 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. ET for a webinar session that will help ESPs advocate for themselves and their colleagues to receive proper mentoring and support.

[Register now >](#)

MEA leaders, board members and staff,

- 1) See attached from MDHHS to schools regarding mitigation measures.
- 2) Also, here is the link to the pop-up rapid testing sites for people returning from Spring Break:
https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_104699_104714-554722--,00.html

Doug Pratt

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<https://www.creativewellness.net/>

MEAC
CENTER FOR
Leadership & Learning

Professional Development Reimagined
Informed by the Arts

Webinar Series



Date/Time	Session Title	Session Description
April 13, 2021 6-7:30 p.m.	Post-Performance Critique and Demonstrating Music Educator Effectiveness	Learn to tell the story of your teaching, student growth, as well as your discipline, and effectively communicate that to your administrative colleagues. Find out how MAEIA tools and resources support music educators in 1) planning, 2) measuring student growth with MAEIA assessments, and 3) presenting student data and portfolio materials as evidence of teacher effectiveness - Designed for Teacher Evaluation preparation. Facilitators: Cathy DePentu, Orchestra Director, Plymouth-Canton (MAEIA Leadership Fellow) Heather Vaughan-Southard, MAEIA Professional Learning Director SCECH: 1.5 hours
April 20, 2021 6-7:30 p.m.	Embodiment: A Classroom Management Technique for Modern Educators	Have you ever been told that a you or another educators have a "presence" when they enter the classroom? Those with this "presence" seem to be able to manage a class of students with mystical ease...but what if you had a better understanding of this phenomena? It's called embodiment, and this practice focuses on how we inhabit our bodies, how we use our bodies and movement to send and receive signals, as well as how we move through the world (and our classroom) and interact with those within it. This is a fascinating session that explores the non-verbal aspects of classroom management technique. Facilitator: Heather Vaughan-Southard, MAEIA Professional Learning Director SCECH: 1.5 hours
April 27, 2021 6-7:30 p.m.	What Arts Educators Need to Know about the Bargaining Process	The life of every Arts educator revolves around the passion for their discipline and the grind to obtain funding to fuel that passion. Find out how the contract bargaining process impacts your discipline or Fine Arts department. Learn how you can more effectively communicate the financial need as well as the education importance of your discipline to your administrators as well as colleagues who engage with the district during bargaining. Gain insights to help improve district funding of your discipline or Fine Arts department. Facilitator: Heather Vaughan-Southard, MAEIA Professional Learning Director SCECH: 1.5 hours

This series is brought to you through a collaboration with the Michigan Arts Education Instruction and Assessment Project. The MAEIA Project was commissioned by the Michigan Department of Education in support of local districts and school efforts to provide the highest quality arts education to Michigan students K-12.



Registration for these sessions and SCECH credit are available to MEA members in good standing only.



<http://bit.ly/Informed-by-Arts-April2021>



MEA Week in Review: 4/13/21

Serving Our Members

"First-Year Teacher Shares Story to Help Others" (MEA.org/Voice Magazine, April 7)

MEA member Jaycob Yang will forever be part of a unique group—educators who began their first year of teaching in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. By December, he was burning out in his position teaching Utica sixth graders who chose to attend virtual school.

...

[“MEA statement on need for post-Spring Break suspension of in-person learning”](#) (MEA.org, April 9)

The following statement can be attributed to MEA President Paula Herbart regarding the need for a post-Spring Break suspension of in-person learning: “When we say that the health and safety of our students must be our priority, that’s not just lip service or a catchy message. As educators, nothing is more important to us – which is why we fully support the governor’s call for in-person high school learning and youth sports to take a two-week break amidst rising COVID-19 cases.”

[“MDE Responds to Fed’s Denial of Waiver for State Assessments”](#) (MEA.org, April 7)

The Michigan Department of Education has informed school districts that during the COVID-19 pandemic, it does not support requiring otherwise remote or virtual students to be brought into school solely for the purpose of state assessment. That policy guidance was issued in light of the U.S. Department of Education’s denial of Michigan’s request to waive mandated state assessments this spring amid a global pandemic.

MEA in the News

[“Schools begin week with eye on COVID numbers after gov’s plea”](#) (Detroit News, April 11)

School districts in Michigan are going to be busier than usual this week. Antigen testing for COVID-19 kicks off Monday for teenage student athletes, and school leaders say they will consult with county health departments and school boards this week over whether data supports keeping schools open for in-person learning. This comes after Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Friday asked superintendents to voluntarily close high schools for two weeks and send teens into virtual learning at home to combat rising COVID-19 rates. Many did not.

[“Biden sending support resources but not more vaccine to Michigan”](#) (Associated Press, multiple publications nationwide, April 10)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington will rush federal resources to support vaccinations, testing and treatments, but not vaccines, to Michigan in an effort to control the state’s worst-in-the-nation COVID-19 outbreak, the White House said Friday.

[“Organizations, education groups work to disrupt school-to-prison pipeline”](#) (Capital News Service, April 9)

Statewide and national educational organizations are working with the Michigan Attorney General’s office to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline that disproportionately hurts Black students. Michigan Education Association President Paula Herbart said her union is working on the issue with Attorney General Dana Nessel’s office “to look at systemic ways — not only in the student code of conduct — but in how our disciplinary actions in public schools helps perpetuate the disproportionate number of students of color who are subject to these regulations at an unfair rate.”

Big Picture: Top Education Stories

[“Whitmer prioritizes education, infrastructure for Michigan’s \\$18B in federal COVID relief”](#) (Detroit News, April 12)

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Monday laid out her priorities for Michigan’s about \$18 billion in new federal COVID relief dollars, naming infrastructure, learning loss solutions and workforce investment as chief among the state’s needs.

[“Michigan students still have to take standardized tests this year and reactions are mixed, varied, assorted, diverse”](#) (MLive, April 12)

Michigan public school students will be required to take federally mandated standardized tests this spring, despite the argument from state leaders that the pandemic has disrupted student learning.

[“Michigan reports 51 new COVID outbreaks in schools”](#) (Detroit News, April 12)

State health officials reported 51 new COVID-19 outbreaks at Michigan preK-12 schools and colleges on Monday, with 20 new outbreaks at high schools alone across the state.

About MEA Week in Review: MEA’s Public Affairs Department compiles this weekly digest of MEA and news media items to provide a snapshot of items you may have missed, as well as a one-stop shop for finding stories MEA leaders and staff can cut-and-paste into local communications efforts.

* Sent to MEA Local Leaders, Board Members & Staff *



ME A

INVITES YOU TO A FIVE-WEEK BOOK STUDY

SCECHS AVAILABLE

A total of 15 SCECHs will be provided (1½ hours per online Zoom session and 1½ hours for posting twice weekly).

REGISTER NOW

Space is limited so reserve your spot as soon as possible. Go to:

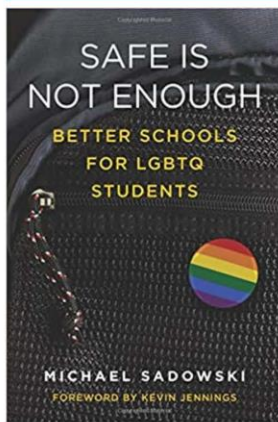
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LGBTQStudyApr2021>

VIRTUAL STUDY

All sessions are held via Zoom every Thursday from April 29 to May 27, 2021.

MEMBERSHIP

Must be a member in good standing to participate.



MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION LGBTQ BOOK STUDY SCHEDULE:

April 29, May 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2021
7:00-8:15 p.m.

Deadline to register is
Friday, April 23, 2021

*Additional book study sessions will be held
during the school year

For questions email khagens@mea.org

Can't see the images? [View as webpage](#)



April 13, 2021

Reminder – Take One Minute Educator Vaccine Survey Today

More than 19,000 MEA members have completed our ONE MINUTE survey about school employee COVID-19 vaccination – have you?

If not, [please complete the survey by Wednesday night](#) to help us gather this data for health professionals, policymakers and the media in order to guide decisions to fight this pandemic.

Legislature Returns to Long “To Do” List

The State Legislature returns to Lansing this week after Spring Break to a long “to do” list of important topics for public education.

Federal COVID Relief and 2021-22 Education Budgets

With COVID-19 cases on the rise, ensuring safety and student learning assistance are critical. The Legislature still has [\\$841 million in federal COVID relief funding from December](#) to send out to schools to help with the increased costs of safely and consistently educating Michigan students during the pandemic – and the recently-passed [American Rescue Plan contained another \\$3.7 billion for Michigan schools](#) that needs to be distributed to help with these costs over the months to come.

These funds are needed in local school districts immediately to pay for COVID mitigation measures (including high-cost fixes such as air quality systems) and to ensure students have access to learning opportunities to help them continue learning post-pandemic. Lawmakers need to end partisan gamesmanship around these critical funds and send them to school districts today.

Once that’s done, the State House and Senate also need to begin work on the 2021-22 state education budgets, which they’re scheduled to have completed by the end of June. [Gov. Whitmer’s proposal](#) from February contains much needed increases to help students move forward post-pandemic and to address decades of underfunding Michigan’s public schools by state government.

Evaluation, Third Grade Reading and Other Testing-Related Measures

With the U.S. Department of Education’s [failure to waive this spring’s standardized testing requirements](#), many students are taking the M-STEP, MME, PSAT and SAT as early this week. However, with the federal waiver on test-based accountability requirements, lawmakers need to move quickly on issues related to how test data is used under state law, such as [removing student growth data from teacher evaluations](#) and [eliminating third grade reading retention rules](#).

Some of these issues are part of a package of Senate Republican bills introduced before Spring Break, including SBs [56-57](#) and [260](#) dealing with evaluation and SB [265](#) to postpone reading retention for this school year. However, these pressing issues are “tie barred” to other legislation in the package, meaning all the bills need to pass or none do. MEA is urging Senators to break those tiebars so that these time sensitive issues can be taken up right away.

Reject More Paperwork and Bureaucracy – Respect Educators’ Professional Judgement

That Senate package also includes some negative legislation, such as SB [264](#) (which would form a committee of political appointees to replace the M-STEP) and SB [266](#) (which would require individual recovery plans for all Michigan students by Aug. 14). Instead of more bureaucracy and paperwork, lawmakers should listen to educators and respect their professional opinions. Political panels shouldn’t be making testing decisions without input from teachers and other education experts. And one-on-one

attention from educators is the solution to ensuring continued growth among students – not more state-mandated paperwork.

Solving the Educators Shortage – No Quick Fixes

With an uptick in mid-year retirements and school employees leaving the profession, the educator shortage has been a continuous topic of media coverage. Already a crisis, the pandemic exacerbated the shortage of teachers and other education employees, including substitutes. Instead of dealing with a long-term problem with long-term solutions, however, shortsighted legislation would make it so any school employee or worker for the district can be a sub – and take away your rights to bargain about it. MEA is opposed to HBs [4293-94](#), which would sunset the “anyone can sub” provision in five years but permanently ban collective bargaining over substitutes.

Bills to Ensure School Bus Safety

The House is considering a package of bills designed to improve safety on Michigan school busses. Two of the bills, HBs [4201 & 4203](#), would prohibit unauthorized individuals from entering a school bus without the driver’s permission and allow for notices on busses about the prohibition. HBs [4202 & 4204](#) aim to prevent drivers from passing stopped busses by allowing for the installation of camera systems on bus stop arms and provide for that footage to be used in traffic violation proceedings to punish violators. MEA supports these bipartisan bills.

To contact your State Senator and Representative about any of these critical topics, visit www.mea.org/mylegislators. Stay tuned for updates and calls to action from MEA!

Check out MEA’s New Legislation Tracker

MEA is pleased to announce that our new Legislation Tracker is now available at www.mea.org/legislation. These reports will be updated weekly when the Legislature is in session, capturing the latest developments on the bills we’re monitoring.

One report is only “priority” legislation that is or might be moving soon, sorted in order of the latest action on the bills; the other is a complete list of all bills we’re monitoring sorted by bill number. We hope this new resource will be helpful for MEA members interested in the legislative activity on issues important to our union.

MEA-PAC

Your voluntary contributions to MEA PAC and the NEA
Fund help elect friends of public education.



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live chat

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