

Capital Area UniServ Office  
UniServ Director Report  
September 2021



<https://lansingeducationalassistants.weebly.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/Lansing-Educational-Assistants-200191333338036/>

[https://lansingeducationalassistants.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/0/0/110094659/2021-2022\\_lea\\_work\\_calendars.pdf](https://lansingeducationalassistants.weebly.com/uploads/1/1/0/0/110094659/2021-2022_lea_work_calendars.pdf)

## Remember to check:

### **NEA COMPLIMENTARY LIFE INSURANCE**

As a member of the MEA, you receive NEA Complimentary Life Insurance. This plan includes:

- Up to \$1,000 of term life insurance
- Up to \$5,000 of accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) coverage
- Up to \$50,000 of AD&D insurance for any covered accident that occurs on the job or while serving as an Association Leader
- \$150,000 of life insurance for unlawful homicide while on the job

***You will only receive these benefits if a beneficiary is named.*** Please follow the steps below to name your beneficiary.

#### **How to Name your Beneficiary**

1. Register on [www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com)
2. Log-in to the [www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com) website
3. Click on the "Insurance" tab
4. Then scroll to "Life Insurance"
5. Click first option in the drop down box: "NEA Complimentary Life Insurance"
6. Click "Name Your Beneficiary"
7. Click "Your Beneficiaries"
8. Add the name and information of your beneficiary.  
***Please note that the payout amount must equal 100%.***
9. You will receive a confirmation e-mail. Please print this and include in your Estate Documents.

**ORS retirement account, <https://www.michigan.gov/ors>**

**Social security account for updates and assign your beneficiary.**



<https://www.michigan.gov/mde>

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIMDE/bulletins/2f29116>

September 15, 2021

## ***ICYMI: Take a stand for R-E-S-P-E-C-T for educators***

*Have you taken a moment to contact your legislators to urge their support for the Respecting Educators bills introduced by House Democrats?*

*If not, please visit [www.mea.org/respect](http://www.mea.org/respect) to take action today.*

*Your State Representatives need to hear from you about this important legislative package – urge them to take up these bills as concrete steps to improve respect for the education profession, start to turn the educator shortage around, and provide students the support they need to succeed.*

## **MEA-PAC**

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

[Contribute Today!](#)



MEA HELP CENTER

*live chat*

866-MEA-HELP



[Facebook](#)



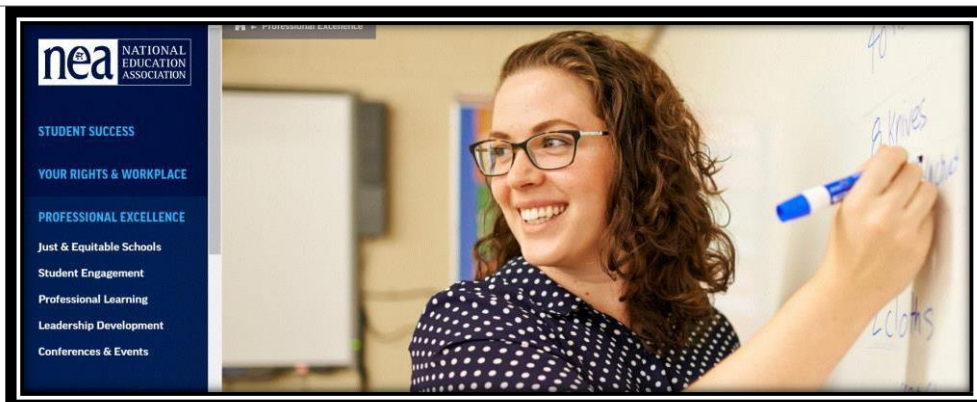
[Instagram](#)



[Twitter](#)



[YouTube](#)



<https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence>

## **MEA Week in Review: 09/15/21**

### ***Serving Our Members***

**[“COVID-19 pushes Cedar Springs teacher to realize dream of outdoor classroom”](#)** (MEA.org, Sept. 14)

Determined to overcome hurdles created by the COVID-19 pandemic, Michigan Education Association member Audrey Debri took her Young Fives classroom to the great outdoors.

...

**[“School Suspensions Do More Harm than Good”](#)** (NEA.org, Sept. 10)

Most educators believe that every student, whatever their color, background, or zip code, has the right to learn in a supportive environment — one that respects their humanity, upholds their dignity, and responds fairly to mistakes and missteps. However, zero tolerance and other exclusionary school discipline policies contradict these beliefs and instead push kids out of the classroom at record rates.

...

**[“Register Now for Free SCECH-Eligible Webinars”](#)** (MEA.org, Sept. 8)

The latest series of MEA’s SCECH-eligible webinars focuses on pedagogy and practice, featuring expert member-led sessions, along with offerings made possible by partnerships with state universities, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), and other education organizations.

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### ***MEA in the News***

**[“Free Press education newsletter Learning Curves: Edition #1”](#)** (*Detroit Free Press*, Sept. 10)

Welcome, friends, to Learning Curves! I'm Lily Altavena, I write about education — and specifically the inequities in Michigan schools — for the Detroit Free Press.

*[Includes quotes from Doug Pratt, MEA Director of Public Affairs]*

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**[“Michigan teacher shortage fueled by pandemic, lack of resources and policy input”](#)** (*NBC 25 News*, Sept. 8)

School districts in mid-Michigan and across the state have been facing a teacher shortage for about 15 years, and the pandemic has only made it worse.

*[includes quotes from MEA President Paula Herbart and David Crim, MEA communications consultant]*

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### ***Big Picture: Top Education Stories***

**[“Whitmer: Parents should lead by example when it comes to mask wearing for school students”](#)** (*Holland Sentinel*, Sept. 9)

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer maintained Thursday the state health department currently does not have plans to implement a mask mandate for students in schools. Currently, just over 60 percent of K-12 students are covered by a mandate implemented by their school district or local health department.

...

**[“Transparency on COVID school dollars can help make the case for equitable funding, report says”](#)** (*Chalkbeat Detroit*, Sept. 9)

As Michigan schools work to hire school counselors and reduce class sizes with their share of \$6 billion in federal COVID aid, a group of education advocates say the state should do more to show that education funding reaches the most vulnerable students.

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***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 \*



## INVITES YOU TO A FIVE-WEEK ENGAGEMENT BOOK STUDY



### SCECHS AVAILABLE

A total of 15 SCECHs will be provided (1.5 hours per online Zoom session and 1.5 hours for posting once weekly).

### REGISTER NOW

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

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CultivatingGenius1>

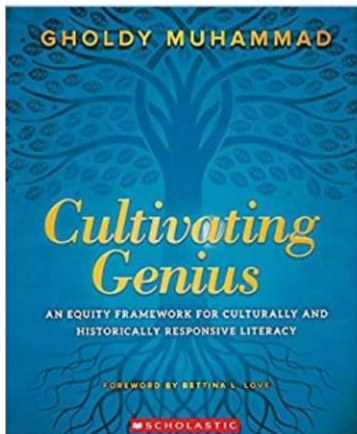
Note: You will need to purchase your own book for this book study.

### VIRTUAL STUDY

All sessions are held via Zoom every Monday from 7-8:30 p.m. October 4-November 1, 2021.

### MEMBERSHIP

Must be a member in good standing to participate.



### BOOK STUDY SCHEDULE:

Mondays 7:00-8:30 p.m.

October 4, 2021  
October 11, 2021  
October 18, 2021  
October 25, 2021  
November 1, 2021

Deadline to register is  
Wednesday, September 29, 2021

For questions, email [achristiansen@mea.org](mailto:achristiansen@mea.org)

As always, I am only a text, phone call or email away.  
Take good care.

*Ginny Bollwahn*

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*"Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world" Nelson Mandela*