

SEA* Newsletter - November 2017

Items of interest to Holland Education Association members from Lansing via the Shoreline Education Association*

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Supreme Court Set to Hear Arguments in 3% Case

Oral arguments before the state Supreme Court have been set for the afternoon of Nov. 8 in MEA's long-running 3 percent retirement case. The [calendar of arguments](#) was posted Tuesday afternoon.

MEA has waged a court battle for seven years seeking the return of money unilaterally taken by the state from school employees' paychecks. Gov. Rick Snyder has chosen to appeal previous court rulings that ordered the return of \$550 million taken from school employees from 2010-12.

Both the trial court and Court of Appeals agreed the law which unilaterally deducted money from school employees' paychecks violated state and federal constitutional protections involving the taking of private property without compensation, due process, and impairment of contracts.

Limited public seating is available for proceedings in Michigan's Supreme Court. Stay tuned for more from MEA on this important hearing.

[RELATED STORY: Frequently Asked Questions about the 3 percent court case.](#)

Emergency Legislative Update: Guns in Schools?

MEA statement on legislation allowing concealed weapons in schools

EAST LANSING – Michigan Education Association President Paula Herbart issued the following statement today on Senate consideration of SBs 584-586, allowing concealed weapons in schools:

“MEA strongly opposes this legislation for the safety of students and school employees alike.

Education and parent groups have joined us in opposing this misguided legislation because they too understand that the answer to gun violence is not more guns in schools—in fact, that's a recipe for disaster.

“The only people who should be allowed to carry firearms in public schools are police officers and school security personnel, period.

“Once again, legislators have failed to ask professional educators, who are the experts on the frontlines, if they think this is a good idea. Had they done that, this legislation would never have seen the light of day.

“Instead of these bills, the Legislature should simply close the controversial loophole allowing open-carry in schools and make gun-free zones truly gun free.”

2018 Michigan Education Association Scholarship

Annually, MEA awards scholarships to graduates of a Michigan public or private high school that has an MEA bargaining unit. Last year they awarded 41 scholarships totalling \$47,250.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Dependent of an active or retired MEA member in good standing
- Will attend or is currently attending a Michigan undergraduate institution or vocational training institution that grants degrees, licenses or certificates.

Priority will be given on the basis of:

- Academic Achievement
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- School and Community Service
- Students from Lower income Households.

Eligible applicants can access the application at: www.mea.org/mea-scholarship

Legislative Updates - Bills In Progress

HB 4181-Certification Renewal for Counselors

Legislation requiring counselors to obtain 50 specified PD hours has passed both the House and the Senate, and is now in the Senate for Substitute action. The bill requires counselors to obtain 25 hours in career counseling and 25 hours in college preparation. Districts are NOT required to provide the PD.

HB 4069-Reduce Requirement for Substitute Teaching

This bill is in the House and is a response to the substitute teacher shortage. The bill would reduce the number of required hours from 90 to 60. While this may help to alleviate the shortage, it will mean younger and less-experienced substitutes in classrooms.

HB 4337, SB 271-Eliminate Start Day After Labor Day

This bill eliminates the requirement for a start date after Labor Day. It can also prohibit school on Mondays and Fridays in August.

SB 544-549-Education Tax Credit/Voucher Program

This bill would allow parent and private funding for an educational savings account and can be used for school programs or private sector programs

House Joint Resolution-Eliminate State Board of Education

Not only would the Board be eliminated, the governor would appoint a state superintendent.

* The Shoreline Education Association is a council of representatives from Ottawa county MEA affiliates gathered for the purpose of transmitting information on MEA business and political interests. Follow more updates on the [SEA Facebook](#) page.

Remember: there are many more resources for HEA members at hollandea.org. And please keep up with the Holland Education Association by following the [HEA Facebook](#) page!