

VEA Update 8/30/2024

New Business

Balancing Classes Article 10

Friday, August 30 is our 10th day of school. Tuesday, September 3rd is day 11. If you are over your class size on day 11 you need to send an email to your admin notifying them that you are over your contractual limits. Your overage payments start on day 11.

Annual Pension Review

If you have received an email inviting you to an annual pension review. Please be very careful. They are not CalPERS or CalSTRS. This is optional.

VEA Secondary Directors

VEA has 2, Secondary Director seats open. Directors are part of our Executive Board and Rep Council. Directors help members when they need representation, help guide administrators when they are misinterpreting the contract, and bring member concerns to our Representative Council. The Statement of Candidacy is attached to this email.

Old Business

Target Solutions Assignments

Regarding the beginning of the year, online assignments for mandated reporting, etc. Since the district mandates this, your principal must give you time during your duty day to complete it.

Materials Stipend

The materials stipend is now \$250. You can use this to purchase supplies for your classroom at your discretion. If you purchase furniture or hardware, it belongs to the district.

VEA Thursdays

Per Article 1 of our contract, every Thursday is a VEA day. After the duty day, there should be no scheduled administrative or school meetings.

Please wear your VEA shirt every Thursday in solidarity. This simple act of wearing your VEA shirt one day a week, on Thursdays, sends a big message to the Admin that we stand together.

Member involvement

We are the Vallejo Education Association. We are the Vallejo teachers, librarians, councilors, nurses, psychologists, and childcare workers who band together to improve our students' learning environments by improving our collective working environments. We are only as strong as the number of teachers willing to get involved. Please go to this link and indicate where you would like to help.
<https://forms.gle/ARPk42s4ajNgei9A7>

VEA's Google Calendar

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=cjZ0azB1ODc5bG0wazVkJmVw2cTlpcGE4dDBAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXluZ29vZ2xlLmNvbQ>

CTA Conference schedule

2024

- Leadership = Sept. 13-15
- Spec. Ed = Sept 27-29
- LGBTQ = Nov. 15-17
- New Educator = Dec 6-8

2025

- Issues in Edu = Jan 17 – 19
- Good Teacher North = Jan 31-2
- CTA/NEA Retired = Feb 27-28
- Equity & Human Rights = Feb 28-2
- Summer Institute = July 16-20

<https://forms.gle/X66HHPBky5DZ7KdWA>

For more information, please visit the CTA Website.

<https://www.cta.org/conferences>.

CTA Member Benefits

CTA offers many different benefits to your membership. Insurance, legal services, scholarships and awards, financial planning, travel discounts, disaster relief, and more. Please visit the link below to explore what is available. If you have signed up for AF (American Fidelity) disability which is offered through the district during open enrollment, it will be worth your time to compare AF with The Standard.

<https://www.cta.org/for-educators/member-benefits>

Brand New 1st year teachers:

CTA is offering a \$300 classroom setup grant. The teacher must be within their first year of teaching, and they must be a CTA/VEA member. If you have brand new teachers at your site, please pass this along to them.

<https://www.ctamemberbenefits.org/en/Life-Events/Classroom-Setup-Grant>

CTA Scholarship and Grants

CTA offers several scholarships and grants. Click on the following link to learn more about them and how to apply.

<https://www.cta.org/for-educators/scholarships-awards>

Professional Growth

Email Cassie Reed if you have completed courses or attended CTA conferences or other professional development and would like your training reflected in your pay. You can get credit for participating in several CTA Webinars that will help you move on the salary schedule.
<https://www.cta.org/events-and-training>

Retirement Advice

If you want retirement advice, I recommend going directly to CalSTRS. Please make an appointment and talk to one of their councilors. Be cautious of outside vendors who visit our school sites and do not have your best interest in mind.

Need help from VEA Leadership?

If you are called into a meeting with your admin, you have the right to ask what the purpose of the meeting is. If you feel that you might be disciplined, you have the right to invoke your **Weingarten Rights**. By state law, your admin must allow you to have union representation at that meeting. **It is your responsibility to ask.**

Bonus: Your September payroll will reflect the \$5,000 bonus check.