



# Action Line

Vancouver Education Association

February 2019



## Measles...Immunity Proof?

As you know there is a state of emergency declared for Clark County due to a measles outbreak. Vancouver public schools is not immune to this disease. Members need to be proactive and have your proof of immunization ready if you were born after 1957. Some members are providing that information to their principal in advance of an outbreak just to be prepared. If you do not have proof of immunization, you can get a blood test to show immunity and confirmation that you've had measles, or you can get vaccinated. If the measles outbreak is at your school and you do not have

proof of immunity/vaccination, the local health department has been excluding children and staff until the incubation period ends or until your vaccine is fully active (two weeks after the injection). If you are asked to stay home, your sick leave will be used.

Measles is one of the most contagious of all infectious diseases where approximately 9 out of 10 susceptible persons with close contact to a measles patient will develop measles. The virus is transmitted by direct contact with infectious droplets or by airborne spread when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. Measles virus can remain infectious in the air for up to two hours after an infected person leaves an area. A person is infectious for 4 days before to 4 days after the rash appears.

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## Time to VOTE!

### Vancouver Public Schools M & O and Tech Levy

VEA has communicated in a variety of formats that the levy funds provide a variety of enhancements to the basic education funded by the state including TRI. Please note the contract language below with regards to your TRI pay. TRI would be severely impacted should the levy fail. Ballots are due February 12<sup>th</sup>.

VEA contract language regarding TRI funding. The "local sources" include the levy.



*Article 12.2 B The funding of TRI responsibilities is subject to funds available from local sources and other funds allocated outside of the Basic Education Act (BEA) program. Professional Learning (PL) TRI is subject to State funding for Professional Learning (PL) days*

**VEA Elections** Nominations close Feb 5<sup>th</sup> at Rep Council. Balloting for Executive Board and WEA/NEA Representative Assembly Delegates opens on February 14<sup>th</sup> and closes on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Results will be ratified at Rep Council on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The link to vote will be sent via email. Log in is your user name on the district email system – first name dot last name and your password is your district ID number. Please let Cindy know if you have any difficulties.

## Is your certificate expiring?



Did you know that maintaining your certification is your responsibility? That also means that you are also responsible for the renewal of your teaching certificate.

OSPI has set up an online procedure where educators can manage their certifications and endorsements. The OSPI e-Certification service enables educators to:

- Apply for credentials online
- Monitor application status
- Receive expiration and renewal reminders
- Print certificates
- Update contact information

Anyone renewing their certificates are to maintain required certification/endorsements completely online.

Certificated staff with an expiration date of June 28, 2019 on their certificate must start the renewal process ASAP to guarantee maintenance of a valid certification before the certificate expires. Do not wait until the last minute as you might not be able to complete the requirements prior to the expiration date. **YOU MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE CLASSROOM WITHOUT PAY IF YOUR CERTIFICATE EXPIRES.**

Note: National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT) are still required to renew their certificates prior to the expiration date. Being a NBCT does not change your responsibility for renewing your certification.

## Double Check the Accuracy of your Personnel File!

Is your file correctly reflecting your qualifications and certifications? In compliance with Chapter 14 (Layoff, Leave, and Recall Procedures) of the VEA contract, the district recently sent an email to all members to review your file to ensure that HR has your complete and accurate qualifications and certifications. **This is especially important for those of you with fewer than three years of experience.**

To assist with this review, they have attached three documents to the email. The first is the VEA seniority list which includes only continuing and provisional contracts. As described in Chapter 14, this list is sorted first by the total number of years of documented service within the state of Washington then sorted by the total number of credits beyond a bachelor's degree.

The second document is a listing of current certifications and endorsements HR has on record. The third document is a FAQ sheet that HR has compiled based on frequently asked questions they receive. It is our hope that these documents will assist you in your file review.

The HR team is willing to meet with you if you would like to view your complete file. They are available Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and Fridays, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The deadline for file review is Friday, February 15, 2019. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call a member of the HR team at ext. 1080.



## Read Across America

VEA is still looking for participation in the Read Across America Book Fair on February 27 and 28. The goal is to have 100 percent participation from all the schools and special programs in the Vancouver School District.

Contact Bjorn Sorensen at CRM2679@bn.com or 360-260-3854 to sign up for a performance time or to provide art work for the event.

## CONTRACTS 101

*What is the difference between one-year, provisional and continuing contracts?*



Non-continuing, one-year contracts are offered to first year teachers to balance with teachers on leave. A district-wide balance is maintained in order to guarantee positions are available for teachers when they return from leave. Mid-year, principals are required to evaluate one-year teachers and make recommendations for their conversion to provisional status. Provisional status includes three years of satisfactory performance in Washington Public Schools. One-year contracts may be converted to a provisional and fulfill the first year of provisional (if greater than 90 days) employment for new teachers. After a third successful provisional contract year, teachers receive a continuing contract. One-year contracts may be converted to second year provisional contracts if the teacher new to Vancouver has had one-year of teaching experience in another Washington Public School. One-year teachers with additional Washington Public School experience can be converted to a continuing contract. Conversions are based upon recommendations from the principal to candidate day and capacity to staff at the school.

### 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COUV CLOVER RUN/WALK

3, 7, or 10 mile routes on Sunday, March 24.  
Sign up today to benefit the Foundation for  
Vancouver Public Schools

**Register and find details at:**

[Ttp://bit.ly/Run4FVPS](http://bit.ly/Run4FVPS)

**Sign up today with Charity Code:**

FoundationVSD10

Save 10% off your registration fee and a portion  
of your proceeds will benefit VPS students.

Not a runner? Call 360-313-4730 or  
[foundationvanps@vansd.org](mailto:foundationvanps@vansd.org) to volunteer!

**MUSIC ARTS GRANT**  
from California Casualty

Enrich your students' learning with a Music & Arts Grant. Apply to receive **\$250.00** for your school's program.

The California Casualty Music & Arts Grant was established to provide support for K-12 public schools negatively impacted by reduced budgets.

California Casualty has partnered with education associations for nearly 70 years. We understand the importance of music and arts education for children. As a member of one of our partnering education associations, you can apply for a \$250 grant award for a music or art need at your school.

Keep the creativity flowing with a music or art grant from us! Apply today!

[CalCasMusicArtsGrant.com](http://CalCasMusicArtsGrant.com)

NEA® Auto and Home Insurance Program  
nea Member Benefits  
California Casualty

### Your member benefits give back!

The California Casualty Music and Arts grant program will consider grant requests for individual classrooms wishing to integrate music and/or arts projects within school curriculum. Previous recipients include a primary class where the grant paid for paper mache' products so the children could make masks. The deadline is June 30 for requests to be considered for the fall of next year. Apply at [www.calcasmusicartsgrant.com](http://www.calcasmusicartsgrant.com)

**Create Real Impact** – Do you know of a



student who is passionate about preventing reckless and distracted driving? California Casualty and NEA Member Benefits have partnered with Impact Teen Drivers to offer cash

prizes for submissions illustrating creative solutions to teen distracted driving in the following formats: music, art, writing, or film. There are prizes for the high schools with the most entries, top online votes, a Spanish category, etc. A total of \$15,000 will be awarded. Contest submissions accepted now through March 27<sup>th</sup> with online voting March 28 through April 5<sup>th</sup>. Go to <https://createrealimpact.com> for rules and application.



### State-run Health Insurance Status

As you now the legislature created a new state-run School Employee Benefit Board (SEBB) health insurance program to replace the existing district-by-district system of negotiating health care benefits. The legislature is finalizing the recommended program and funding for an anticipated start date of January 1, 2020.

Members can stay apprised of news and updates at [www.hca.wa.gov/sebb](http://www.hca.wa.gov/sebb). You can sign up to receive email updates about meeting notices that are open to the public, rulemaking notices, surcharges, etc. This website also has a FAQ section that may be helpful to you in understanding the process.

WEA will also post updates and information at <https://www.washingtonea.org/ourvoice/health-benefits/>



### Dues and Taxes 2018



According to the TurboTax website FAQs, teacher union dues are no longer deductible in tax years 2018 through 2025 due to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that Congress signed into law on December 2, 2017. Previously dues were deductible as a miscellaneous deduction under the 2% rule. Turbo Tax answers the following question: Do teacher union dues qualify for the Educator Expense deduction? No; only unreimbursed expenses for books, supplies, and equipment that you purchased for classroom use qualify for the \$250 Educator Expense deduction. VEA encourages members to ask your tax professional about the inclusion of dues on your 2018 taxes.

Members paid the following dues (NEA, WEA, VEA) in 2018:

0.76-1.0 FTE	\$983.72
0.51-0.75 FTE	\$787.36
0.26-0.50 FTE	\$507.32
0.25 or less	\$269.56

This figure is calculated using the 2017-18 rate for 8 months (Jan-Aug) and the 2018-19 rate for 4 months (Sept-Dec). If you did not work the full year, or changed FTE during 2018, you can calculate your dues using the monthly figures as follows:

	<u>2017-18</u>	<u>2018-19</u>
0.76-1.0 FTE	\$81.67	\$82.59
0.51-0.75 FTE	\$65.44	\$65.96
0.26-0.50 FTE	\$42.29	\$42.25
0.25 or less	\$22.63	\$22.13

