

Winter Update

**Minor Updates re:
Onsite Services Expansion**

You will recall after the Governor and DOH provided [updated guidance for schools](#) in mid-December, VEA met with VPS Admin before break to discuss our respective interpretations. Afterward, **VEA issued a demand to bargain the respective impacts of this update, and to solidify language related to our current experience with learning pods. Our first negotiation session is on schedule for tomorrow afternoon, 1/6.** VEA hopes to learn more specific details of VPS' plan to expand onsite learning and will report back to members as soon as we are able!

**Save the Date:
VPS School Board Meeting, 1/12 @ 5 PM**

Please join us via Zoom for the **next VPS School Board meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, 1/12 at 5 PM when we anticipate the Superintendent's report will include details of VPS' onsite learning expansion plan.** VEA encourages members to share public comment regarding your current or anticipated experience with remote and/or onsite instruction. You can communicate directly with VPS Admin and/or School Board directors via their VPS email addresses to share your perspective as well.

Implicit Bias PD: Register Now!

VPS **Course #7601**, titled "Implicit Bias: Introduction to Race and Ethnicity," was approved and is now open on the VPS PD Site for registration! WEA member-facilitators will help VEA host this course via Zoom this coming **Monday, 1/11, 2021 from 4:30-7:30 PM.** VEA will also provide a voucher to offset the cost of a meal. Register now to join us and don't forget to apply for hourly reimbursement using any remaining individual PD funds you may have! **A Zoom registration link can be found within the course details once you register through the VPS PD Site.**

In this course, participants are introduced to implicit bias research, resources, and concepts, including microaggressions and micro-insults. During the other portion of this course, participants develop an understanding of [1] how our beliefs, values, and experiences inform implicit biases related to race and ethnicity and [2] how our implicit biases and behaviors impact others (students, colleagues, families, etc.). Participants examine how implicit bias and microaggressions can impact the success of students regardless of the positive intent of adults or other students for the purpose of closing the opportunity gap and improving student achievement.

SPED Updates

Listening Sessions: VPS SpEd Admin have invited all School Psychologists and Nurses today:

Topic: Listening Session - 3 - School Psychs and Nurses
Time: Jan 5, 2021 04:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
<https://vansd.zoom.us/j/86307512658?pwd=TUd6ZFZtNHNOaTFUcmNRZWWhBZjU1dz09>

Meeting ID: 863 0751 2658
Passcode: 329933

They have also invited **SLPs, Motor Team and TODs on Thursday, January 7th**

Topic: Listening Session - 4 - SLPs, Motor and TODs
Time: Jan 7, 2021 04:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
<https://vansd.zoom.us/j/83414290626?pwd=a0tNRTJhL3BIRlRoNEZRMVpvbnFQZz09>

Meeting ID: 834 1429 0626
Passcode: 726070

SpEd Paraeducator Vacancies and Para Sub Rate Payment:
Before leaving for winter break, VEA collaborated with Special Education VEA leaders to draft a VEA Counterproposal #2 for VPS' SpEd Admin's consideration and will report back to membership when we receive their response. Again, we still suggest Special Education teachers continue tracking para vacancies, as we will continue to advocate around retro-pay. Thank you for your patience – we will continue to provide updates as this work proceeds forward.

Remote STEM PD through WEA

Effective September 1, 2019, any certificate renewal application for Initial, Residency, Professional, and Continuing teacher and Initial/Continuing CTE certificates require the completion of at least 15 clock hours, or at least one goal from an annual professional growth plan (PGP), with an emphasis on STEM integration.

Whether your certificate (depending upon the endorsement areas attached to your certificate, [see here for clarification](#)) is up for renewal in June of 2021 or beyond, WEA is offering the following STEM-related courses through March 2021 to help you fulfill this requirement:

STEMizing Your Instruction (15 hours): Participants will gain a deeper understanding of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Standards as they learn how to STEMize a classroom. Participants will create a personal resource bank of ideas, activities and materials and learn how to take an existing unit of instruction in any content area and STEMize the unit to include STEM models and computational thinking. [Register here.](#)

STEM Integration and Inclusionary Practices (15 hours): The application of STEM in the classroom can transcend beyond learning science and math facts. STEM integration provides students the opportunities to learn 21st century skills such as questioning the world around them, processing what they learned, collaborating well with others, and communicating with peers and adults alike. Additionally, a focus on Inclusionary Practices, where all students are afforded the chance of a dynamic, important education, are intrinsically linked with STEM in the classroom. [Register here.](#)

If you'd prefer to pursue a STEM-integration Professional Growth Plan instead, further details surrounding that process can be [found here.](#)