



AD NOTES



President: Chris Francis Volume XXIX, Issue 4 January 14, 2010

Garden Grove Education Association, 12966 Euclid Street #220, Garden Grove, CA, 92840 (714) 638-7480 www.ggea.org

GGUSD Will NOT Participate in First Phase of the Race to the Top Grant

In a show of unity and trust in our local efforts, the GGUSD School Board Trustees recently voted unanimously to NOT participate in the state application process for the Race to the Top (RTTT) competitive grant. The GGEA Board of Directors supports this decision and I communicated this to the School Board through a letter and by speaking during the public hearing section of the January 5th School Board Meeting. Many things included in the grant are already being implemented in Garden Grove, like a data system that measures student growth over time and the use of this data to drive instruction. School Board President Bob Harden even remarked in a public session that the grant seems more like the "Race to Garden Grove".

Despite the need for extra funding needed during this current financial crisis, there were some very serious concerns that outweighed the fiscal benefits. In its current form, the state plan is not well developed. By agreeing to participate, the District would have been agreeing to very vague terms that could ultimately undermine our local control and our local efforts that are paying huge dividends. Student achievement in GGUSD is growing and we will continue to explore ways to improve, but we will do it in a collaborative, conscientious, and deliberate manner.

Unfortunately, this does not completely shield GGUSD from possible RTTT ramifications. Future changes to the state law to make California's federal application look more competitive will affect us. These changes may supersede our locally negotiated contract. GGEA will keep you abreast of these changes as they come. Many of the RTTT components will probably be a part of the federal reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (now known as No Child Left Behind) which will have a similar impact on us. Furthermore, our School Board will also be given an additional opportunity to participate later in the year. The recent decision by the School Board ultimately may have just bought us some time before we are dealing with issues like compensation (merit) pay here in Garden Grove.

For further information on RTTT, access the link at <http://ggea.org> or refer to the Sept/Oct Advocate under the Advocate tab.

Helpful Tax Information

Remember, your professional association dues are tax deductible. The *monthly* amount paid for GGEA/CTA/NEA dues for the 2009 tax year is as follows:

Category 1 GGEA Members

(Full-time Employment)

January thru June at \$91.70

September thru December at \$94.30

Year Total = \$927.40

Leave of Absence Members

January thru June at \$25.70

September thru December at \$26.35

Category 2 GGEA Members

(Preschool, Job Share, or Part Time)

January thru June at \$47.85

September thru December at \$49.15

Year Total = \$483.70

Please refer to your pay stubs for the actual amounts you paid during the 2009 tax year as these are general estimates. Contact your tax advisor with any questions regarding these tax deductions.

OC Department of Education Information System

As of October 1st, the District stopped giving hard copies of paycheck stubs to employees as a cost saving and time saving measure. Employees may print this information on their own through the OCDE Information System website. This website also provides access to W2 tax forms and the balance of remaining sick days. To access the website, there is a link posted on <http://ggea.org>.

For first time users:

Log-in: ten digit District Employee Identification Number

Password: Last four digits of District Employee ID Number immediately followed by the last four digits of your social security number

Attorney available at the GGEA Office

GGEA provides its members with the opportunity to meet with an attorney for 30 minutes about non-job related issues free of charge. This is on a first come, first served basis. There are 4 spaces per day, starting at 3:00 pm, available on the following Wednesday dates: 1/27, 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/28, 5/12, 5/26, and 6/9. Call the GGEA Office if you wish to schedule an appointment.

T.E.A.M. GGEA: "Together Everyone Achieves More"