



ADVOCATE

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NOTES

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Our Students are Still our Special Interest

Don't Sign Governor's Petitions

This is a reminder to **not** sign the Governor's petitions. You will see **paid** signature-gatherers in your neighborhood. They are asking people to sign the petitions "to help schools". Please share the information you have received about the proposed initiatives with your family, friends, and neighbors. Tell them how the initiatives will hurt public education, not help, and remind them to not sign the petitions as well.

Thank you to Everyone who Protested in the Rain

Thank you to everyone who was able to make it down to Irvine on March 22 to protest against the Governor's proposed cuts to education. Even though it was raining and everyone was wet and cold, it was refreshing to know that we are not alone in our fight. Many police officers, firefighters, nurses, CSEA members, parents and others joined the teachers in this organized protest. We have to keep sending the strong message to the Governor that we will not just stand by and let these changes happen without a fight. **Together, we can preserve public education.**

Consult Requests

GGEA recently sent out a consult request form to all members. To date, we have received back over 80 responses. If you would like to serve on a consult, please fill out the form and send it to the GGEA Office. If you cannot locate a request form, simply call the office at #638-7480.

Legislative Action Contact

GGEA is looking for a legislative action contact at each work site to help organize and distribute information about the upcoming battle against the Governor's proposed initiatives. Your involvement is needed! This is going to be a tough fight. If you are interested, please contact the GGEA office at #638-7480.

GGEA Contract and Elementary Survey Results

Approximately eighty percent (80%) of our members reported that their workload has increased either somewhat or a great deal since last year. Minimum days are seen as the best way to schedule collaboration with approximately one half of those responding. Ninety three percent (93%) of those responding are in favor of establishing a class size maximum for Special Day Classes (SDC). Seventy six percent (76%) are in favor of compensating elementary grade level chairs.

Elementary Consults

Consults for both the report cards and math benchmark tests will be held during the month of April. GGEA requested these consults to allow elementary teachers the opportunity to discuss ideas and suggest possible changes. Groups of teachers, by grade level, will be meeting on two different days for each consult. GGEA will keep you informed of the consult results.

Secondary Benchmark Test Questions

If you have an issue(s) with a particular question on one of the benchmark tests, please forward that information to your department chairperson. Your chairperson can then give it to the TOSA at their next district department chair meeting. You can also send the information to the GGEA Office and the information will be sent to the Office of 7-12 Instruction. The Office of 7-12 wants input from the teachers so that needed changes can be made. The tests, 92 of them, will be reviewed and statistical analysis will be done on each question to establish validity and reliability for next year's tests. Be sure to include which department test, quarter, grade level, and question number with your written concern(s).

7-12 Department Chair Trainings

The district has cancelled the remaining 7-12 department chair trainings for this year. The teacher concerns GGEA shared with the district and workshop evaluation comments from the first two sessions helped to facilitate this process. The district is to be commended for reading the evaluations and understanding the frustration teachers were having with the trainings.

Passport to a Healthy 'U' Your Personal Health Awareness and Wellness Guide

Starting in September, the district will be offering a health awareness and wellness program as part of our health care benefits. GGEA proposed this idea at the bargaining table last year. This program will be offered by St. Joseph Hospital and will include issues such as Cholesterol, Glucose, Blood Pressure, Body Fat, Personal Health Reports, and the list goes on. Details are still being worked out and we will provide them to you as soon as they are available.
