

15-B INSIDER

<http://www.me15b.org>

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September



MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



2006

Vote YES on Prop 5 this November!

The K-16 Education Funding Initiative has been designated as Proposal 5 on the November ballot. Proposal 5 is an investment in public education and Michigan's economic future. Voters need to show their support for Michigan's students by voting "yes" on Prop 5.

This initiative provides a steady annual increase in school funding, equal to the rate of inflation, for K-16 public schools, community colleges and universities.

Share this important information with others:

- Michigan families count on public schools to prepare their children for a successful future. Eighty percent of Michigan voters agree that we must shift our economic focus from auto plants to high tech jobs. Schools can't provide that focus without adequate resources and funding.
- If Michigan schools are going to prepare students for tomorrow's jobs and economy,

they must receive adequate funding from the State. Failure to do so dooms our children's future and Michigan's economic future.

- To be eligible for the jobs of the future, students will need education and training beyond grade 12. But high tuition costs have kept college out of reach of Michigan's working families. Prop 5 will make college tuition affordable.
- Michigan's economy depends on quality schools, colleges and universities. Public education in Michigan won't survive if it must continue to deal with shrinking budgets and increasing costs.

The strength of the Michigan public school system is a key factor in attracting new jobs to the State. By investing in public education now, we can create jobs, grow our economy, and secure our children's future. (courtesy of www.me15b.org)

BARGAINING UPDATE



Bargaining 06/07:

Evert EA & ESP, Cadillac EA, Pine River ESP, Marion EA & ESP

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sept. 21	President's Workshop - 6:00 p.m.
Sept. 27 & 28	Northern Zone Staff Meeting - Cyndi out of office
Oct. 3	New Member Social (tentative)
Oct. 4 & 5	Staff Training - Cyndi out of office
Oct. 5	Grievance Training (tentative)
Oct. 10	Crisis Committee Training with Dave Bowman
Oct. 13	Staff meeting - Cyndi out of office



CASH FOR KIDS Drive is in Full Swing

It's that time of the year again! As we have done in the past, we want to begin our Cash for Kids Campaign from the first day of school and finish on October 31st. What is Cash for Kids? It is a political organization funded by our contributions to support issues and candidates who are Friends of Education.

These Political Action Contributions (PAC) are called Cash for Kids in the Northern Zone. Of our total contributions, more than 35% comes back to our local coordinating council to be used for association needs like electing school board candidates. Every decision from funding, days and hours, and pension and technology is a political decision at either the local, state or national level.

This year, as we have done in the past, we are offering lots of incentives to encourage excitement and participation in the campaign. The Grand prize will be a Gift Basket from New Day Spa in Cadillac (includes a \$250 gift certificate toward any laser service) so see your local Cash for Kids Captain for more information!

Many MEA locals are collecting funds for our state and federal political action committees (PACs). This is how you, as members, can help recommended candidates get their message out to citizens about public education. For more information on the governors race, the political front, and Prop 5 visit www.meavotes.org.

Certification Alert !!!

The following is provided to alert you to a new law (see below) passed in April, 2006, and essential information regarding the impact for MEA members.

Essential Information:

*A new law, Public Act 118 of 2006, which was passed in April 2006, requires that teachers applying for the **renewal of a provisional certificate or initial issuance of a professional education certificate after July 1, 2007**, must have completed a 3 credit course with appropriate field experiences in the diagnosis, remediation, and differentiation of reading instruction.

*These 3 credits must be taken during the first 6 years of employment as a classroom teacher and may be part of the teacher's 18 semester hour planned program.

***These 3 credits are in addition to the 3 semester hours of reading for secondary teachers and 6 semester hours of reading for elementary teachers which are required for the issuance of a provisional certificate.**

***If a teacher is eligible to renew a provisional certificate or advance to a professional education certificate prior to July 1, 2007, and does so, he/she will not have to meet this new mandate.**

What does MEA-Retired do for ME?

- MEA-Retired retirees vigorously lobby to maintain and improve retirement and health benefits for all public school employees.
- MEA-Retired retirees work for and support public schools through programs for students and legislative lobbying and contacts.
 - Presenting the Karmanos Cancer Institute program, Hazards of Tobacco (H.O.T.) program to upper elementary students
 - Mentoring students and school personnel
 - Telephoning, writing letters and personally contacting legislators.
- MEA-Retired retirees facilitate pre-retirement seminars for currently working MEA and ESP members.
- MEA-Retired "board watches" the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System (MPERS) meetings and speaks up against the diminishing of retiree health benefits.
- MEA-Retired retirees serve on screening and recommending committees to make sure that recommended candidates are aware of retirement issues.
- MEA-Retired members serve as a resource at region councils to keep preretired MEA EA and ESP members aware of retirement issues and retiree chapters aware of issues in public education.
- MEA-Retired chapters provide a good place for retirees to see old friends and make new friends while keeping abreast of what's happening in public education.

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"You see clutter. I see an environment that encourages the random juxtaposition of disparate elements for the potential generation of creativity born of chaos!"