



15-B INSIDER



Frank Mongene
UniServ Director
fmongene@mea.org

1-800-300-1162
<http://www.mea15b.org>

Tabby Grames
UniServ Field Assistant
tgrames@mea.org



MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

2009

Special Education Caseloads

For economic purposes, some districts in Northern Michigan are starting to assign Special Education teachers to students on their caseloads who are not even in the same building, providing these teachers with minimal or no contact time to meet with either these students directly or indirectly with the teachers who actually have these students in class.



The immediate problems that arise from this ill-advised practice are enormous. The special education teacher of record is legally responsible for the implementation of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP), writing individual goals and monitoring student progress. This is difficult to do with no structure or time built into the teacher's schedule for gathering pertinent student information and records from classroom teachers and special education colleagues. Parents are expecting that teachers assigned to their special needs child are not only accessible to monitor their child's progress, but available on a regular basis to coordinate and plan for services guaranteed to the child by the IEP. These teachers of record are responsible for making recommendations as to how best accommodate the individual learning styles and special needs of these students, then follow up with systematic monitoring procedures to make sure that these recommended adaptations are provided and working successfully.

Obviously, the practice mentioned above conflicts with the true intent of the IEP, a federally binding contract between the District, the student and his/her parents. Assigning students to a teacher of record who has no possible way to meet the requirements of the IEP is a practice that could potentially become very costly to a District should the parent decide to file a complaint. After researching this issue further with the Director of Special Education at Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District, it is evident that while the practice as mentioned above, is not clearly stated as an issue of non-compliance with IDEA, it is certainly not best practice. Districts should base their decisions regarding student assignment on what is best for such individuals and subsequently, pursue other alternatives when assigning caseloads for special education students.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION TRAINING

On January 14th we will be having School Board Election Training. This will be at 5:30 p.m. at the Cadillac Sands. A dinner will be provided. **Please call 775-6553 or send us an email to reserve your spot no later than January 7th.** We have included the Sample Campaign Calendars which will be discussed in detail at the training.

SAMPLE MAY 2010

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION CAMPAIGN CALENDAR

November 1 st	School Election Committee Established and Training Completed
November	Evaluation of Current Board Members
Nov. - Dec.	Candidate Recruitment
January	Request QVF & MEA List
Jan. - Feb.	Identify Positive Voters w/addresses & phone numbers
February 9 th	Candidate Application Deadline (4:00PM)
February 1-28 th	S&R Interviews
April 5 th	Last Day to Register to Vote
April 14 th	Absentee Ballots Must be Available (contact all absentee voters)
April 23 th	Deadline for Write-in Candidates (4:00 PM)
April-May 4th	Contact Positive Voters
May 4 th	Election Day (GOTV and Poll Watchers)
Year Round	Maintain Communication with Board Members

SAMPLE NOVEMBER 2010

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION CAMPAIGN CALENDAR

May 1 st	School Election Committee Established and Training Provided
May	Evaluation of Current Board Members
May-July	Candidate Recruitment
July 15 th	Request QVF & MEA List
August	Identify Positive Voters w/addresses & phone numbers
August 10 th	Candidate Application Deadline (4:00PM)
September	S&R Interviews
Sept. 18 th	Absentee Ballots Must be Available (mail and call absentee voters)
October 4 nd	Last Day to Register to Vote
October 22 th	Deadline for Write-in Candidates (4:00 PM)
Oct. – Nov. 2 th	Contact Positive Voters
November 2 th	Election Day (GOTV and Poll Watchers)
Nov. 8 th	First Meeting with New School Board Members
Year Round	Maintain Communication with Board Member

UNSETTLED CONTRACTS 09-10

Evert ESP
 Marion EA
 Marion ESP
 Pine River EA
 Pine River ESP
 WMISD



*** MARK YOUR CALENDAR***

Dec 24-Jan 1	MEA Office Closed-Christmas Holiday	
Jan. 8	BFCL School Funding Summit	MEA HQ
Jan. 14	School Board Election Training	Cadillac Sands
Jan. 18	MEA Office Closed-Martin Luther King Jr. day	
Jan. 19	Coordinating Council Meeting-OPIE Packets to be handed out	

15-B INSIDER

