

In this issue >>>

Featured Message

Discipline Seminar

Retirement Seminars

New ACEA Member!

ACEA Calendar

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The



Advocate

Featured Message >>>

The Blueprint: Our Superbowl of Education

By Joia Clevinger, MSEA Organizer

Passing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future during this legislative session is priority number one for every educator, parent and Marylander – and, if it's not, it should be.



The last time a school funding formula was passed in Maryland, it was 2002. Kelly Clarkson won the first season of American Idol, the Sanyo SCP-5300 became the very first cell phone to have a built-in camera released in the US, and we were all jammin' to Nickelback's, "How You Remind Me." Other than pop culture changes, our schools and communities have radically changed in the last 20 years. It's more than obvious to all educators that new funding is necessary in our schools. Increasing early childhood education programs, ensuring students have access to career readiness programs in high school that allow them to get a good paying job – and raise a family – in Allegany County, and supporting the training and development of our educational workforce is important to everyone who has children in the school system. Frankly, it's important to every citizen of Allegany County who wants to live in an educated, successful community.

Perhaps most directly impacting ACEA members, whether you're a secretary, technician, instructional aide, teacher, counselor, bus driver, etc., are the Kirwan Commission's recommendations that specifically address pay and workload. With a revamped funding formula that better addresses the needs of the students we have in 2020, the proposal recommends an increase in state funding to Allegany County to the fully-phased-in tune of \$43.5 million in FY30 alone – *at zero increase, other than currently mandated Maintenance of Effort increases, to Allegany County's budget.*

So, what does that increase in cash mean to ACEA members? More money available at the bargaining table to increase all wages, regardless of job code. More educators hired to do the work that directly impacts our students, resulting in decreased workloads for our instructional aides, counselors, teachers, etc. More resources and programs for your own children and grandchildren who attend Allegany County Public Schools. **It means getting the respect you deserve as an educator, regardless of what role you serve in the system.**

Visit www.marylandblueprint.org to learn more, and share how important this is within your own social networks, neighborhoods and churches, and plan to attend the Ten Minute Meeting in your workplace to see what you can do to help. This is too important to watch from the sidelines!

**Roses are red,
like #RedForEd,
Violets are blue –
The Blueprint too!
#OurKidsCantWait,
too much is at stake,
So have a heart,
and do your part,
to fully fund our schools!**

ACEA to Offer Seminar on Student Discipline:

What Are Your Rights and What Does COMAR Actually Say?

Have you heard or been told that the COMAR regulations on discipline say something and not really understood how it can be possible? Have you wondered about what the different “tiers” of intervention really mean? Has your school been struggling with student discipline issues with no clear path for what do about it?

ACEA will be holding a seminar for our members on February 27th at 5:30pm that can help. In addition to providing background on what COMAR actually says about student discipline, we’ll talk about what your rights are under the law, COMAR and the Negotiated Agreement to work in a safe environment. We’ll provide finger food and soft drinks at a location to be determined - watch our Facebook page and website at www.aceamsea.org.

ESP of the Year Nominations

For the last three years, ACEA has participated in the MSEA/NEA program honoring our Education Support Professionals. In 2017, Debbie Belfoure was selected as the first recipient of the ACEA ESP of the Year. Her successor in 2018 was Mary “Syd” Sibley, now a certificated member. Last year, Christine Rephann, a 27-year experienced Instructional Assistant at the CCTE was selected. Now it is time to honor another ESP/ACEA member who has supported our students, classroom, schools and association. Our ESPs include most secretaries, instructional assistants, and technicians. To nominate one of your ESP colleagues in this manner, complete the nomination form and return it to ACEA by February 28. The nomination forms will be placed in your mailbox by your school representative over the next few days. It will also be available on our website at www.aceamsea.org. Please contact the office to verify membership.



ACEA Retirement Seminar

If you are considering retirement this year, or in the near future, please feel free to attend one of our informational sessions on Tuesday, February 11, at either 3:30 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. at the ACEA office.

COAT, HAT & GLOVE DRIVE

A drive was started in memory of John Reuschlein to collect new or gently used coats, hats and gloves for those in need. Many of these items are on clearance now. Donations will be accepted at the ACEA office until February 28. Call ACEA to schedule a pick-up if needed.

Welcome New ACEA Member!

Unit 1

Gary Long

RESTART

Don't forget to check out your February NEA Membership Benefits deals at

<https://www.neamb.com/>

ACEA Calendar >>>

January and February– Ten Minute Meetings of ACEA Members

February 4 – BOE Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

February 10 – ACEA Board of Directors and Representative Assembly- 4 p.m.

February 11 – ACEA Retirement Seminars 3:30 p.m. or 4:30 p.m.

February 24 – ACEA Lobby Day in Annapolis

February 27– Student Discipline Seminar by ACEA 5:30-7:30 p.m. – TBD

February 28 – ESP of the Year Nominations **DUE AT ACEA OFFICE!**

March 3 – BOE Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

March 7 – Read Across America 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Country Club Mall



WE DID IT!

MSEA members across the state voted in solidarity and helped fellow member and educator in Carroll County, Rachel McCusker, get elected as the first teacher member of the Maryland State Board of Education. Rachel will be a strong advocate for educators, and bring our perspective to the decision making process that affects our profession and students everyday.