
MPS Teachers Earn National Certification

Nine district educators earned National Board Certification in 2007-08. A total of 44 MPS teachers have completed the very rigorous requirements.

We're proud of the members listed below. Their hard work and dedication brings positive recognition to our profession and to our schools/district.

Dana Acamovic
Clement

Tamera Ellis
Morse

Kathleen Franzen
Marshall Montessori IB

Pauline Graef
Zablocki

Rachel Kloss
Milwaukee Sign Language

Cynthia Rouse
Browning

Jenny Sagrillo
Riverside

Mary Silva
Garland

Emily Zawikowski
Congress

Thinking About Obtaining Certification?

If you're interested in earning National Board Certification, there are opportunities for financial and mentor support. In fact, MPS teachers are eligible for a program that helps you get started by completing one of the ten required steps. Please see the Take One!® article on the back.

Contract Negotiations Coming - Please Sign Up for Updates

Talks on a new two-year teacher contract will start soon. The current pact expires on June 30, 2009.

If you would like exclusive, online updates on bargaining, please register at mtea.org. (You do not need to sign up again if you filled out the e-mail and demographic data section of the bargaining survey our union conducted in November.)

Targeted Updates and Surveys

Our teacher team plans to provide members with updates on contract talks and targeted surveys on specific issues via e-mail.

Targeted Update Example - If you are close to age 55 (or older), you may be extremely interested in the status of bargaining on retiree benefits. If we have your e-mail address and age data, we will send you updates on retirement issues.

Targeted Survey Example - Suppose our team needs to know how many minutes per week of individual prep time elementary classroom teachers receive. Only elementary teachers who have provided their e-mail and grade level data would receive a quick online survey.

Salary Adjustments for New Teachers

Are you new to MPS and have you returned your signed contract? Are you due a retroactive pay adjustment for prior outside teaching experience or for additional college credits you earned (16 or more beyond a bachelor's degree)?

If your outside experience places you at a higher salary step or your college credits move you to a salary division beyond the BA lane, a salary adjustment retroactive to when you started in MPS should be on your November 28, December 12, or December 26 paycheck. And then your checks should reflect a higher annual rate, reflecting your higher step or division.

Check Your Paycheck Statements

Please check to make certain any adjustment due to you has been made. If not, contact Don Ernest at ernestd@mtea.weac.org or Stephanie Walters at walterss@weac.org. If you prefer, you may call either of these MTEA staff members at 259-1990.

We recommend that you investigate any salary questions as soon as you can - and well before the first semester ends on January 23.



**Take One!®
It's Free.**

Would you like to get a sense of the rewarding, professional growth opportunities available through the National Board Certification process, at no cost to you? The Take One!® program can help you complete one portion of the process, along with these benefits:

- ◆ Mentor support.
- ◆ Scores applied to the certification process.
- ◆ \$395 application fee waived.

More Information

To learn more about this program and the benefits of National Board Certification, come to the session being held from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. **Wednesday, December 17**, at the MTEA Building. Please register at mtea.org (Events) or call 259-1990.

December 31

Application Deadline

To participate in Take One!® or the full National Board Certification program, you must apply by Wednesday, December 31.

If you want the details (but can't attend the session on December 17), please call or Nicol Peters-Freeman at 438-3645 or Deborah Kuether at 475-8327.

*We wish you and
your family a joyous
holiday season and a
happy new year!*

Thirsty Third Thursday

Our union's SpeakOut! Committee invites you to a social networking opportunity at O'Brien's, 4928 West Vliet Street - a casual pub two blocks east of the MTEA Building. Come join us for Thirsty Third Thursday on **December 18**, starting at 4:30 p.m.

Wanted: A Few Curious Members

Would you like to learn more about our union? The power of collective action to improve teaching and learning? How to advocate for public schools?

Do you believe in social justice and that being an educator goes beyond the classroom?

Are you thinking about getting involved in our union at some level, but don't know where to start?

Unique Opportunity for Emerging Voices

If you responded "yes" to the questions above, our Emerging Voices program may be right for you.

We are looking for a diverse group of members to participate. Emerging Voices is not just for "new" or "young" members. You may have worked in MPS for years but have only recently started exploring what it means to be an active union member.

Apply Online

If you're interested, please fill out the application at mtea.org by **January 9, 2009**. For more information, please contact Stephanie Walters at walterss@weac.org or 259-1990.

Winter Conference - Register Now

This year's WEAC Winter Conference will be held the weekend of February 27 - March 1 at Wyndham Milwaukee Airport Hotel and Conference Center. Friday night is for dinner and socializing; sessions take place during the day on Saturday and on Sunday morning.

The wide-ranging topics include: school funding reform, professional development/licensing, preparing to retire, your credit score, classroom tools and tips, bargaining, and many more.

For individual and team registration, as well the complete program, go to weac.org. Registration fees postmarked by **December 30** get a special \$60 rate. This fee covers training and six meals - Friday dinner, three meals on Saturday, and breakfast and lunch on Sunday.

Make-It, Take-It on February 18

The MTEA Early Childhood Committee's annual make-it, take-it workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18. Mark your calendar now for this fun and informative session. Registration/details will be at mtea.org and in Sharpener next year.

Winter Break - MTEA Schedule

During the winter break, the MTEA Building will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on four days - December 22, 23, 29, and 30. The office will be closed on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday both weeks of the break.