

Teacher Contract on Our Web Site

The 2005-07 MBSD/MTEA Teacher Contract is now available in a PDF format at mtea.org and on the MPS Portal.

We are working with the MPS administration on the 2007-09 contract, which will also be available on both Web sites. In addition, it will be printed and distributed to all members.

Interview Training - Date Correction

One of the dates for the MPS training session for school interview teams was incorrectly printed in the January 14 Sharpener. The correct dates are:

February 13 (Wednesday) -
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

February 27 (Wednesday) -
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Source Acknowledged

The National Education Association (NEA) has partnered with the Credit Learning Center to provide members with information and assistance if their private information is stolen or lost. The Center was our primary source for the advice on identity theft in today's Sharpener.

Go to creditlearningcenter.com for extensive information on identify theft - including prevention.

Security Breach Alert for MTEA Group Disability Insurance Participants

If you have the MTEA's group disability insurance, please be advised that electronic records containing your name and Social Security number have been illegally accessed.

We want to stress that **NO** personal medical information was obtained.

What You Should Do Immediately

We strongly recommend that you call one of the three national credit bureaus to begin a fraud alert. Each bureau is required to notify the other two - so that all three will place an alert. The toll-free fraud report numbers are:

- ◆ Equifax - 1-800-685-1111
- ◆ Trans Union - 1-800-916-8800 or 1-800-888-4213
- ◆ Experian - 1-888-397-3742

Review Your Credit Reports Carefully

Once you've initiated a fraud alert, you have the right to request free copies of your credit reports. You should review them and look for:

- ◆ Credit inquiries from any company you don't recognize or haven't contacted
- ◆ New accounts you didn't authorize
- ◆ Debts on your account that you don't understand

You should also check the accuracy of personal information such as your Social Security number, address, name, initials, employers, etc.

If you find any fraudulent or incorrect information, contact the credit reporting agencies to have it removed.

What We've Learned Initially

A Seattle-based firm, Administrative Systems, Inc., suffered the security breach on December 31, 2007. This third party administrator (TPA) has clients across the country - including the Union Security Insurance Company, which underwrites our group disability plan.

By February 1, Administrative Services, Inc. will mail a letter to each individual affected by the breach. It will provide detailed information, including a toll-free number to call for questions and support.

Updates on Our Web Site

As soon as we learn more about this situation, we will post updates at mtea.org.



Upcoming Workshops

The two workshops described below will be held at the MTEA Building in February. Pre-register online at mtea.org (Events) or call 259-1990.

For Initial Educators

The Quality Educator Interactive (QEI) is your online Professional Development Plan resource and it is free to you as an MTEA member. The QEI helps you create your PDP, assemble your review team, and complete the approval and verification processes, all online.

A QEI workshop, especially for initial educators, will be held on Monday, February 11.

The presentation by WEAC Teaching and Learning Consultant Ron Jetty will provide an overview of the site including the PDP, a free self-reflection and journaling tool, a career portfolio, and the largest statewide database of professional development opportunities for our state's PK-12 educators.

Registration and refreshments at 4:00 p.m. The workshop starts at 4:30 and will end by 6:30 p.m.

For Early Childhood

The MTEA Early Childhood Committee will hold its annual "hands-on" workshop after school on Wednesday, **February 20** from 4:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. - Registration, with refreshments, starts at 4:00 p.m.

This interactive workshop will offer literacy and math ideas galore for the early childhood classroom (pre-school - grade 3).

Sandra Rosove will share vocabulary strategies. Pandora Bedford and Sharonda Harris will help you make games to support mathematical thinking.

Please bring your own scissors, paper, and glue.

Important: Monitor Your Credit Reports

According to the Credit Learning Center, you should regularly monitor your credit reports, especially for the first year after you discover identify theft. You need to make sure that no new evidence of fraudulent activity appears on your credit reports.

The Center recommends the following steps:

"In addition to placing a fraud alert on your credit files, it is also recommended that you close accounts that are compromised, such as credit card and bank accounts, immediately. When new accounts are opened to replace them, make sure they are protected with new passwords making sure these passwords include a combination of letters/numbers/symbols. You should avoid using your mother's maiden name, your birthday, the last digits of your social security number, your phone number, or any series of consecutive numbers.

"If your driver's license or other government-issued identification is lost or stolen, contact the DMV in your state and follow the appropriate steps to cancel the original license and have a replacement issued to you. You may request that the agency flag your file so that no other party can obtain a license or other official identification in your name."

Some savvy thieves are now waiting a long time, as long as five years, before using stolen information. We urge ongoing monitoring, every four months, alternating among the three credit bureaus.

NEA RA Delegate Voting - By February 6

Materials for the election of delegates to the 2008 and 2009 NEA Representative Assembly were delivered to the schools on January 28.

When you receive your packet, please review the special edition of Sharpener which provides statements from the 43 teacher candidates and then complete the Scantron ballot (#2 pencil). To save on postage, please place your ballot in the "Return to MTEA" box in the main office at your school. The deadline is Wednesday, **February 6**.

NAACP Hosting Education Summit

Wisconsin's NAACP local branches are inviting educators, parents, and community members to a conference on Saturday, **February 9**. The theme is "50 Years After Brown v. Board of Education: Where Are We Now."

Victor Lanier Goode, the NAACP National Assistant Legal Counsel and Interim Director of the NAACP Education Department, is the keynote speaker. Interactive workshops will be presented by the NAACP's education partners - including the MTEA.

The conference will be held at Springfield College, 744 North 4th Street, in downtown Milwaukee. The event starts with registration and continental breakfast at 8:00 a.m. A complimentary lunch will be provided at noon. The conference ends at 2:30 p.m.

To register for this free event, call 562-1000.