
Sooner Is Better!

The vast majority, 86%, of our EA members completed the PHA for 2007 by the December 15, 2007 deadline. It's easy to take the PHA and avoid the \$200 penalty - but too many EAs missed the deadline last year. We want 100% of our members to complete the annual PHA this year before December 15, 2008.

Today's Team-Mate

There are two articles on the PHA - below and on the back. Please review both articles and complete the PHA for 2008 this summer.

Proof of PHA Completion

Our union has filed grievances for 16 members who completed the PHA by the December 15, 2007 deadline but were still deducted a \$200 premium contribution. In most cases, MPS says they did not send the PHA, and the member has no proof.

As a result of these disputes, we strongly recommend that you retain proof of PHA completion for yourself and your spouse.

◆If you do the PHA online, be certain to print out and retain the confirmation number you receive at the time you take it.

◆If you mail in the paper version, be certain to retain the results, which will be mailed to your home. (If you do not receive your PHA results in the mail within three weeks, call GoodHealth at **1-866-904-2615**.)

Standing Up for EAs and Students

At the June 3 School Board hearing on the proposed 2008-09 MPS budget, MTEA President Dennis Oulahan spoke up for our 8,000 union members and the students of MPS. Dennis urged the Board to do the right thing – to work together and achieve more in our schools.

The first specific point Dennis made is quoted below:

“Let’s not cut the positions of general assistants and say we are valuing the rights of children over the interests of adults. Every adult we remove from our schools, whatever their specific job responsibilities, is one less source of learning, discipline, comfort or wisdom for the children we serve, many of whom need those connections desperately because of the chaos in their lives caused by our city’s current economic state. Let’s keep those caring adults in our schools. Let’s work together to achieve more.”

Teachers and Paras Voicing Support for EAs

Dennis was not alone in his passionate remarks on retaining the district’s highly qualified general educational assistants. For example, **Judy Gundry**, a teacher at Westside Academy II, pointed out that EAs have completed the PDA classes – in addition to their many years of dedicated work with children.

And two paraprofessionals, **Phyllis Deal** (Riley) and **Romelia Santiago** (Fernwood), explained how important general EAs are to the children and the entire staff at their schools.

Final Public Hearing - June 12

The School Board will hold one more public hearing on the MPS budget. The meeting is at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, **June 12**, at the MPS central office, 5225 West Vliet Street.

We urge you to attend and ask the Board to pass a budget that puts children, not politics, first.

Can’t get to the meeting? Call or e-mail Board members to let them know how more budget cuts will impact your school. (See the all-member May 30 [Sharpener](#) or go to [mtea.org](#) for details.)

Thanks to EA Chairpersons

MEAA Chairpersons deserve a note of appreciation for the support and service they have provided to EAs throughout the school year.

Chairpersons are the cornerstone of our union. Their communication and representation efforts benefit the entire membership. They serve voluntarily, without pay, and their leadership is essential to our union's success in meeting your needs.



Friend of Public Education Nominations

The MTEA has an annual awards program to recognize individuals or organizations who have made significant contributions to the cause of public education in Milwaukee.

The nomination period is now open for the Thirteenth Annual Don Feilbach Friend of Public Education in Milwaukee award. Nominations must be received at the MTEA Building by **June 30, 2008**.

The nomination form includes guidelines for the categories and the judging criteria. The nomination form is at mtea.org (Members).

Update Your Mailing Address

With summer approaching, it is important to make certain your current mailing address is on file with MPS and with MTEA.

Notify the MPS Payroll Department

To notify the school district, you need to send to the MPS payroll department the standard "Address and Telephone Record" card (3.25" by 7.25"). Cards are available in each school office. Payroll is the **only department** that can change an employee's address and other data.

We recommend you complete the card in person at the payroll department in Room 120 at the MPS central office, 5225 West Vliet Street.

If not, you should complete a form at school, fax it to payroll at 475-8389, **and** send in the original using U.S. Mail (**not** the district's internal system).

Notice to MTEA

If you have not notified us of a change in your home address or phone number during the past school year, please mail the form (see right) to the MTEA Building at this time. If you prefer, call us at 259-1990, send us a fax at 259-7801, or e-mail us at mittenl@mtea.weac.org.

For Your Good Health, This Summer

We recommend that you take time this summer to do yourself, and your pocketbook, some good. **Please...**

Complete the PHA, Again

By December 15, 2008, you and your spouse **must complete the PHA again** or pay a \$200 penalty. (\$100 will be deducted from your paycheck once in February and again in March of 2009.)

You should not wait until the deadline to take the PHA. The sooner the better. The results will help you select a voluntary program that fits your health status.

Start Now to Complete a Voluntary Program(s)

If you want to **earn a \$200 tax-free incentive**, you must complete a voluntary GoodHealth program(s) before December 15, 2008 - to receive the incentive by February 28, 2009.

Some voluntary programs take six months. Many involve three six-week programs - requiring 18 weeks to complete. *You cannot earn the \$200 incentive unless you start months prior to the deadline.*

A Healthy and Hefty (\$400) Difference

Your good health is the most important reason for participating, and there's **\$400** at stake. That's the difference if you and your spouse complete the PHA to avoid the **\$200** premium deduction **and** if you complete a voluntary program(s) to earn a **\$200** tax-free incentive.

Details in April 21 Sharpener

An eight-page, all-member Sharpener on the joint wellness and health education program was sent to MTEA all members. If you didn't keep your copy, go to mtea.org (GoodHealth link).

Insurance Coverage If You Resign

If you work until the end of this school year, your coverage under the negotiated, Board-paid insurances (health, dental, and life) continues through August 31, 2008. Your resignation should be effective at the close of business on **June 16**.

The federal COBRA law provides for continuing insurance coverage on a self-paid basis for at least 18 months after Board-paid coverage ends. Please call an MTEA staff member at 259-1990 if you have questions about maintaining insurance coverage.

Change of Address, Phone, E-Mail...

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

School _____ SS# _____
(optional)

MPS Employee ID# _____

Home E-Mail Address _____

School E-Mail Address _____