

News Messenger

Staff Development and Common Planning Time

The Staff Development Program will be coordinated with the new Common Planning Time program for all our K-12 sites. The staff development expectations for the 18/24 hours will remain the same, but the emphasis will be placed on achieving the hours at each site. The changes will allow for fund shifts that are helping to save funds and jobs.

SCTA negotiated the original PD in 1998 based on the premises for the rules at that time. The modified program will emphasize local staff development, less travel and more attention to local student needs. Additionally, there will be no banking of minutes to have the PD/CPT. There will be the ability to use time that has been spent on grade level articulation and on third Thursdays. More information will be sent out. Also SCTA will be sending out a memo to members that was distributed to site Principals this summer; the memo was developed with SCTA.

As a reminder, the expectations to complete the staff development hours is still the same and the general program is still the same. Hours and activities that take place in the summer have to be approved by the District. That rule has always been in place. The pay for the PD/CPT will be at the teacher's hourly rate which is higher than the per session rate; that means that missing and not making up the time will result in a docking of hourly pay and not per session pay which is lower.

Also SCTA will be reducing its staff development offerings next year and the District will be reducing its offerings.

Benefits Fair on Friday, Sept 24

The annual benefits fair will be held at the SCTA office starting at about 3:30 pm. As always there will be food, prizes, and fun. This is your chance to talk to the agents who represent the SCTA approved insurance programs.

Benefit Co Pay Changes

The Health Net drug program will change on September 1. The program will continue to have a \$5 Dr co pay, the same required \$5 generic drug charge and a new \$15 brand program. A new enhanced benefit will be added to offer a \$35 co pay for specialty drugs that formerly cost members anywhere from \$100 to \$1000 per month.

The SCTA Kaiser program will now offer a chiropractic plan that is the same as the Health net program. Our teacher Kaiser program offers chiropractics while the Cal Pers plan does not. The same co pays for doctor visits and drugs will continue and the rebate for prescriptions ended July 1.

Changes for the retiree programs will be reported in follow up News Messengers

Elementary Schools to Staff K3 at 25 to 1 and Most Counselors Returning

SCTA has been in the process of working with the District to place about 27 elementary teacher who had their lay offs rescinded. On Friday, July 30, 2010, your reps helped place the teachers. More placements are expected over the next few weeks.

Additionally, SCTA and the District will be placing most of the counselors who were laid off last year during the second week of August. For the most part, counselors will return to their prior school.

Special Ed Mainstreaming Reminders

Special ed students count as part of your register or class sizes even if for part of a day or for a period. That means a special ed student counts as one of your students when you are responsible to teach the student. The Contract provides for payment, special prep time, materials, and sometimes a lower class size at the elementary level for fully included special ed students. Special Ed legal rights groups will be monitoring the District to make sure student rights are supported.

Priority Schools Extended Day for Extra Pay Under Review

SCTA is in the process of discussing the use of our extended day salary schedules to deal with certain interventions at six priority schools. More information will follow.

Extended Day Programs at Schools Require Extra Pay

As a reminder, teachers in classes that are extended by mutual agreement with SCTA or implemented by the site administrator must be paid for additional instructional time as stipulated by the contract. Teachers do not have the right to shorten or lengthen their teaching day. Only, SCTA and the District can. SCTA does not have all the information about every school but will be working with the District to make sure the rules are followed.