



## inside this issue

Thriving Learning Environments — 3 | Honored Women Educators — 4

Read Across America — 5 | Coffee Talk — 6

## Noem Opens 2020 Legislature with More Optimism About the State's Budget Still No Commitment to Give Schools a Two-Percent Increase

The 2020 Legislative Session kicked off with Governor Noem's State of the State Address. The main takeaway from her hour-long speech: sales collections are up and that may mean more money for education. This was a more optimistic forecast than from her December budget address in which she proposed a zero percent increase for state aid to education. The question still remains; will the state keep its promise to the students of South Dakota and keep its education investment at pace with inflation?

To honor its commitment, the legislature must increase state aid by at least two-percent; anything less would mean that for the second time in four years, state-aid would fall short of keeping pace with growing expenses. Without that increase, students will have less access to school counselors, fewer career and technical education and fine arts programs, less one-on-one time with teachers, and fewer supports for students in need.

How can you get involved? First, make



sure you sign up for Lobby Line to get the latest developments from the state capitol. Watch for Action Alerts to raise your voice for students and public education. Attend a local legislative coffee or cracker barrel. Finally, support our students by signing up for Lobby Day scheduled for February 17 and 18. With one collective voice, South Dakota educators can make sure students receive the education they deserve. Visit [sdea.org](http://sdea.org) and click on the Lobby Line Banner to get action alerts, and other announcements from the State Capitol.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### FEBRUARY 15

Gordon Horgen Scholarship  
Ramia Boersma Scholarship  
deadline

#### FEBRUARY 17

Presidents Day  
(offices closed)

#### FEBRUARY 17-18

Lobby Day

#### MARCH 12

Last Day Legislative  
Session

#### MARCH 28

Dr. Donna Beegle:  
Breaking the Iron Cage of  
Poverty

Find Us On



### Want to lend your voice to the debate?

Lobby Line provides you with tools to contact your legislators while they are in Pierre and back home in their districts.

Sign up today <https://bit.ly/2oQFk30>



# President's Corner

Find SDEA's President on Twitter

@Mary\_McCorkle

## A New Year's Resolution for Your Students

A new year is a time for new resolutions. The usual ones include resolving to eat less, workout more, get more sleep, be more organized, be less stressed, and so on and so forth. Then the holiday break ends, and we head back to school where our students take most, if not all, of our attention. Our resolutions often fade, and we vow to be better with a resolution next year. What if we did something different and made this year's resolution about our students? What if we all resolved to stand up and fight for our students and their education?

In December, Governor Kristi Noem outlined her vision for the FY2021 budget. Unfortunately, her proposal freezes education funding for both K-12 and higher ed. When legislators increased the state sales tax by a half a penny and created the new funding formula, they also promised to continue to increase state funding by three percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, on a yearly basis. They said without yearly increases, even modest ones, the increase given that year would slowly be eroded over time. If legislators adopt Governor Noem's proposal, it would be the second time in less than four years that state leaders failed to keep their promise to the students of South Dakota. The erosion has already begun.

What can we do about it? The Governor's budget proposal is just the starting point. For the next two months, educators can stand up for students by engaging in a dialogue with their legislators who will have the final say on the state funding (increase or lack of) our schools receive. By talking to legislators about our students' needs, we paint a very important picture of what our students stand to lose without funding. Does it mean less access to a school counselor? Does it mean fewer career and technical education opportunities? Does it mean students will have less one-on-one time with

their teachers? Look at your classrooms and schools. What tools and resources does your school need to give your students the best education possible? What will your students lose?

How do you keep this resolution? Pay attention. What are you hearing in the news? Have you signed up for Lobby Line? Are you following SDEA on Twitter and Facebook? Write a letter to your legislators. Tell them about your school and what a two-percent increase will mean for your students. Attend your local coffees and cracker barrels. These are the best opportunities for back-home one-on-one conversations. Finally, come to Pierre for SDEA's Lobby Day on February 17-18. Show that you are united with your fellow educators in this fight for our students.

Let's keep the resolution for the rest of the year. Let's keep the dialogue going. Invite legislators into your schools and classrooms to show first hand where the state's investment is going. Don't stop at the legislature. Be involved at the local level. Attend school board meetings. Get involved with local school board elections. Encourage supportive community members to run for office. Talk to your community leaders. Let them know about the needs of your school and students. Build relationships that endure.

If we all resolve to stand together for our students, we can offer them the world. This is my resolution...who's with me?

Thank you for everything you do for your students. They need you to be their advocate both in and outside the classroom. They need your voice. Thank you for using it on their behalf during this legislative session.

*Mary J. McCorkle*

### Questions or Concerns

Contact a UniServ Director today!

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# 2020 Tri-State Summit: Creating Thriving Learning Environments for ALL Students

For those of you struggling unsuccessfully to resolve student behavior issues, mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 7**. SDEA is partnering with Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) and Iowa State Education Association (ISEA) to host a joint summit on redefining the thriving classroom and addressing disruptive student behaviors with a change of approaches. The six-hour event will be held from **9am–3pm** at Northwest Area Education Agency, 1520 Morningside Avenue, Sioux City, Iowa 51106.

Register at: <http://www.cvent.com/d/xhqhhr> or visit [SDEA.org](http://SDEA.org).

SDEA member voices have uniformly relayed consternation about changes which have occurred in student behaviors in recent years, along with reports that current classroom management strategies no longer work. Educators are seeing aggressive and defiant behaviors manifesting at a much earlier age. A growing number of students are displaying signs of dysregulation, or the inability to manage the intensity and duration of negative emotions such as fear, sadness, or anger. Recently, association staff from all three states discovered the problem is shared and has even resulted in assaults against educators. The conversation prompted SDEA, NSEA, and ISEA to pool resources and provide what we hope will be a rich conversation with teachers across the upper Great Plains featuring key note addresses from experts in child psychology and K12 education.

The summit will cost \$25 for members and \$50 for non-members and will include a luncheon and a 6-hour CEU certificate. Graduate credit options are pending through the University of Sioux Falls and Drake University but will require additional meeting time and work to comprise the 15 hours required for a graduate credit. For more information, contact [Rich.Mittelstedt@sdea.org](mailto:Rich.Mittelstedt@sdea.org) or visit <http://www.cvent.com/d/xhqhhr>.



SDEA presents Dr. Donna Beegle:

## Breaking the Iron Cage of Poverty

**9 am – 4 pm | March 28**

Arrowwood Resort at Cedar Shore, Oacoma, SD

In this highly-interactive session, participants will be given a foundational understanding of poverty, a common definition of poverty and its many lived experiences, and explore simple and actionable items they can do right away to make a difference for students and families living in poverty.

**Conference is FREE for SDEA members.**  
**Cost is \$25 for non-members.**

Conference fee covers cost of participant's lunch.  
**RSVP NOW: <https://www.sdea.org/blog/3304/poverty>**

If you need to make lodging arrangements, please contact Karla Brozik with Arrowwood Resort at Cedar Shore for reservations at 734-6376 or [kbrozik@arrowwoodcedarshore.com](mailto:kbrozik@arrowwoodcedarshore.com)



## SDEA Members Only

Log into MyNEA360 to join the “SDEA Members Only” group to access SDEA/NEA member only documents and information.

New users will need to create a MyNEA360 profile in order to be verified as an SDEA member.

**SDEA Board of Directors meeting minutes can now be found online at NEA EdCommunities on SDEA’s Members Only group page.**

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President: Mary J. McCorkle  
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Communications Specialist: Rebecca Feller

# Scholarship, Grant and Award Deadlines

## Gordon Horgen Memorial Scholarship

The South Dakota Education Association/NEA is calling for applications for the Gordon Horgen Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to Native American students who are planning to enter the teaching profession. This scholarship was created by the 2014 Representative Assembly to honor the late Gordon Horgen from Winner.

**For eligibility requirements, visit [SDEA.org](http://SDEA.org).**

**Deadline:** February 15

## Ramia Boersma Scholarship

The South Dakota Education Association/NEA awards scholarships to outstanding students who are planning to enter the teaching profession. The Association may annually award up to three \$750 scholarships for each academic year.

**For eligibility requirements, visit [SDEA.org](http://SDEA.org).**

**Deadline:** February 15

## SDEA/NEA Educational Innovation Grant

The SDEA/NEA Educational Innovation Grant Program provides grants to members in support of innovative educational and student-oriented projects. The grant program funds new member-led projects. It does not fund projects on an on-going basis. The SDEA/NEA Educational Innovation Grants give preference to proposals that address student achievement, cultural diversity issues, include community partnerships, and can be duplicated by others.

**Deadline:** May 1

## State and National Grant Opportunities for Local Affiliates

There are several opportunities for local affiliates to partner with SDEA and the NEA to build a stronger association at the local level. Through SDEA/NEA partnership grants, local affiliates can develop projects that will build organizing capacity for years to come. Here is your one-stop shop for the current grant opportunities for local leaders to explore.

**For more information on all scholarships and grants offered by SDEA, visit [SDEA.org](http://SDEA.org).**

## Announcement from the HONORED WOMEN EDUCATORS of SOUTH DAKOTA

Because it can be difficult to get all necessary information on the nominee, while not divulging the fact that the person is being nominated, a new format was voted on in August 2017. The new format is to submit the information that can be obtained, with items listed below required. Nominations can be submitted by May 1, 2020 to: Ralyna Schilling, 1209 Ridge Road, Mitchell SD 57301 or electronically to: [ralyna@hotmail.com](mailto:ralyna@hotmail.com)

Then the nominee will be notified and will be asked to complete the form by June 1, 2020. Those selected for membership in Honored Women Educators of South Dakota will be notified and will be invited to the July luncheon.

**Each SDEA Member may submit one nominee per year.**

### Requirements of nominees:

1. Be active in education at present and be a present SDEA member. Or, if retired, the nominee must have been an SDEA member during her active career
2. Have a minimum of four years of college
3. Should have spent at least ten years in the field of education
4. Be fully qualified educationally for their field of work
5. Have made major contributions in the area of education
6. Should be active in the community and exhibit character traits worthy of the honor of membership
7. Eligible for membership are classroom teachers, administrators, librarians, supervisors, and former educators

**All necessary forms and additional info can be found online at [www.sdea.org](http://www.sdea.org).**



# Read Across America Goes Year-Round

The National Education Association and the South Dakota Education Association are excited to bring you Read Across America year-round to help you motivate students to read, bring the joys of reading to all ages, and to make all children feel valued and welcome.

The titles and resources featured by Read Across America include books that students can see themselves reflected in, as well as books that allow readers to see a world or a character that might be different than them.

Readers who feel included, recognized, and a part of the world are engaged readers. We hope that you'll be able to share the recommended titles—and many others—to celebrate Read Across America in March and throughout the year. We invite you to:

1. Read books with kids and use Read Across America's resources to **daily** promote the message there is room in our community for **all** readers. The world—and books—are filled with many kinds of people. Getting to know them is interesting, exciting, and fun!
2. Use Read Across America to help kids enjoy and relate to what they read by linking books and reading to other experiences in their lives and on the school year calendar. When everything from your Hispanic Heritage Month celebration to the 100th day of school to the science fair to Memorial Day includes books, guest readers, activities, and conversation about reading, you raise awareness about the importance, value, and fun of reading **throughout the year**.
3. Make your community the place where Read Across America is on everyone's calendar. When people make the time to read with children, children get the message that reading is important. Parents, members of your community, and local celebrities who make time to read at **monthly or annual** Read Across America celebrations help motivate kids to read and celebrate the diversity in their community and our country.

## When is Read Across America?

Read Across America offers limitless opportunities for involvement in children's reading throughout the year. The year-round program can fit reading fun into your calendar daily, weekly, or monthly and includes big celebrations of reading on March 2 and throughout National Reading Month in March.

Use the book and activity suggestions at [readacrossamerica.org](http://readacrossamerica.org) and in the **2019-20 print calendar** and **poster** to bring Read Across America to your community. Contact your local school, education association, library, or bookstore about planning or participating in an event.

## Where Do I Get Books?

Visit the **NEA page on the First Book Marketplace** to find featured picture book, middle grade, and young adult titles for

2019-20, as well as other high-quality titles. First Book makes these titles available at affordable prices to educators serving children in need. Sign up at [firstbook.org/NEA](http://firstbook.org/NEA).

Featured titles not available from First Book, are available from **Scholastic**.

## Where Do I Get Read Across America Gear?

In the **Read Across America Online Store**, you'll find new logo items and additional low-cost items to use in your classroom, library, or wherever you are celebrating reading!

The 2019-20 Read Across America Resource Calendar is a benefit of NEA membership. Each NEA member may order up to five print calendars by visiting the Read Across America Online Store. Postage and shipping not included; available while supplies last.

## Does Read Across Still Partner with Dr. Seuss?

There's a growing need for schools and libraries to include and promote diverse books. Students need books that provide both windows and mirrors if we are going to create more readers, writers, and people who feel included and recognized, and who understand that the world is far richer than just their experiences alone. NEA recognizes the need to work with a more diverse array of reading organizations and publishers to fulfill this need. As we continue to grow, we will work with many partners, but will no longer have a main partner for the program.



*Read Across America* is a great way to encourage students to love reading books from cover-to-cover with passion. Reading this issue of the *Educators' Advocate* from cover-to-cover is a way for you to get your hands on some of the great books that have been featured in the NEA's Year-Round Calendar. The first 25 readers to find the new Read Across America logo will win three books for their classroom. Find one of the icons, snap a photo, and send it to us at [sdea.org](http://sdea.org) or via the SDEA app and you will get to choose three books from our First Books Read Across America Collection. A full list of the available books can be found at [sdea.org/blog/19/readacross](http://sdea.org/blog/19/readacross). Good Luck!

# Coffee Talk:

## Meeting with your legislators at local coffees and cracker barrels



Legislative coffees or cracker barrels are a time-honored tradition that allow citizens to question local legislators on the issues of the day. Generally, local community service groups host these one to two-hour townhall meetings on Saturdays during the legislative session. This is prime back home access to your local legislators during the session. So, how should you get involved?

- **Don't go it alone:** Organize your colleagues and friends to attend with you. There is strength in numbers.
- **Do your homework:** Who is hosting the local coffee/cracker barrel? Local Chamber? Kiwanis? What are the format and rules?
- **Be Prepared:** Have questions prepared ahead of time. Know what you are going to ask.
- **Prioritize:** Time is limited. What is the most important question that you want to ask your legislators? Have more than one person prepared to ask or submit the same question to the moderator. This improves the odds that your questions will get answers
- **Be Respectful:** Respect the moderator and the time limits. Ask your question and allow the legislators to respond. Do not interrupt; even if you don't agree.
- **Look Unified:** This is a great opportunity for you to join the #RedforEd movement. Have everyone wear the same color. Buttons or stickers are also a great way to look unified.
- **Be Social:** Live tweet any responses to education questions. Share photos of your group on Facebook and Instagram. Let others see you in action to inspire others to get active. Use #SDLeg or #SDLegCoffee so others can follow along.
- **Follow Up:** After the forum concludes take a moment to introduce yourself to the legislators or send an email. Ask them to clarify any answers you didn't understand.
- **Host a Coffee:** No legislative coffees in your community? Consider having your local host a coffee during the legislative session. Work with legislators to coordinate a weekend date.
- **Give Feedback:** You can help the SDEA Lobbyists by sharing what you are hearing from your local legislators. You can find the feedback form at [sdea.org](http://sdea.org)

## ESP: Tips for a Successful Supervisor Meeting

**Don't wait too long to schedule a meeting with your supervisor.** Let him or her know that you know your job. If needed, ask clarifying questions. Periodically communicate with your supervisor throughout the school year.

**Schedule adequate time.** Allow yourself enough time to write notes and to discuss mutual concerns.

**Meet at a convenient time and place for your supervisor.**

**If a job description has not been provided for your position, consider making up a fact sheet about your job description.** This will clarify expectations.

**Relax, smile, speak slowly, and don't be afraid to ask questions of your supervisor.** If your supervisor is not able to answer a question, ask for help in getting an answer.

**Set a positive tone. Open with a positive statement about your work and abilities.** Wherever possible during the conference, include good news about your job experiences. Focus on your strengths and frame any difficulties as "areas of need."

**Be specific.** When commenting on positive or negative aspects of your position, use specific examples of what you know or have experienced. Don't refer to any rumors.

**Ask for your supervisor's opinions.** He or she may have ideas about your job or may have worked in your position at one time.

**Stress cooperation. Let your supervisor know that you want to work together to help the district.** Listen to concerns and design approaches that meet your supervisor's needs, your needs and, most importantly, the district's needs.

**End on a positive note.** End the conference on a positive note, summarizing the actions that you will take. Offer to meet again. Be sure to thank your supervisor for his/her time.

**Keep a record of the meeting. Keep notes that summarize your conversations.** Include specific suggestions for improvement that were discussed during the conference. Consider making copies of notes made and actions agreed upon during the conference so that your supervisor also has a clear record of your activity.





**Questions?** Contact:  
**Philip Moore**, Retired Program Coordinator  
411 E. Capitol | Pierre, SD 57501  
800-529-0090 | 605-224-9263  
philip.moore@sdea.org.

## SDEA-Retired Helps Protect Retirement Security with NEA-Retired

For more than five years, SDEA-Retired has had direct representation to NEA, NEA-Retired, and to our South Dakota Congressional delegation through NEA Director for NEA-Retired, Bob Hoffmann, of Sioux Falls.

Bob is completing his final year as an NEA Director, which meet three times a year with national leaders in Congress to advocate for public education issues. Bob's focus has been on retirement security, including protecting Social Security and Medicare, as well as veteran's benefits and state pension funding

legislation. Bob is a US Army veteran of the Vietnam War, and taught at Lincoln High School and Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls.

Bob continues advocacy for public education in South Dakota as the current president of SDEA-Retired Educators, and with the SDEA Board of Directors, representing SDEA-Retired.

Bob Hoffmann,  
SDEA-Retired President

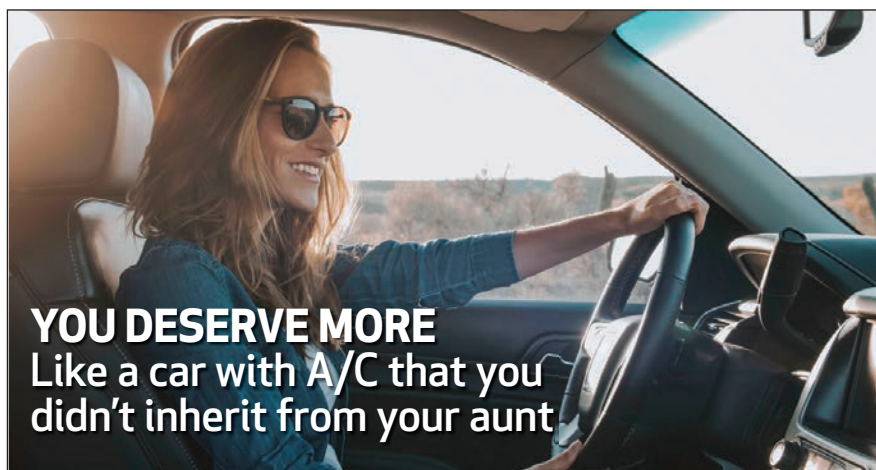


2017 – SDEA Leaders with the South Dakota Congressional delegation

 Please follow us on Facebook at:  
**SDEA-Retired Educators**

**Watch for upcoming newsletters!**

Be sure your postal and email addresses are current. Send updates to:  
PO Box 62, Pierre, SD 57501,  
or email to:  
[sdearetirededucators@outlook.com](mailto:sdearetirededucators@outlook.com)



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**You deserve** savings on coverage for a new ride. Before you head out to a dealership, reroute to savings at NEA Member Benefits. It's the first stop for educators to get insurance discounts, tips to buy and sell a car, and more. In other words, members can find auto-related savings at every turn.

Find the resources you deserve at [neamb.com/your-car](http://neamb.com/your-car)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### February

- 3 EGL Unit Meeting
- 7-8 NEA Board of Directors
- 15 Gordon Horgen Scholarship deadline
- 15 Ramia Boersma Scholarship deadline
- 17 Presidents Day (offices closed)
- 17-18 Lobby Day @ Pierre
- 21-22 Budget Committee
- 24 Western Unit Meeting

### March

- 6-7 Budget Committee
- 12 Last Day Legislative Session
- 15 SDEA Board of Directors Budget Call
- 16 Western Unit Mini RA
- 21 Plains Unit Mini RA
- 23 EGL Unit Mini RA
- 24 SEE Unit Mini RA
- 26 Eastern Prairie Unit Mini RA @ Sioux Falls - 5:30pm
- 28 Dr. Donna Beegle: Breaking the Iron Cage of Poverty
- 28 ESP Advisory Council Meeting @ Pierre - 10:30 - 11:30am
- 29 SDEA Board of Directors Conference Call