

The Educators'



ADVOCATE

MAR/APR 2023

Volume 54 | Issue 4

South Dakota Education Association



REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

March 31–April 1, 2023 | Drifters Event Center
Fort Pierre, SD

6–11 SDEA Election

6 What Can I Do About the Social Studies Standards? | 14 SDEA Summer Academy



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Vision

We envision valued education professionals providing quality public education for all students.

Mission

South Dakota Education Association ensures the collective voice for South Dakota public education professionals.

MAR/APR 2023

Volume 54 | Issue 4

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President's Corner

Who Sets the Priorities of SDEA? YOU

During the legislative session, there are many bills that your SDEA Lobbying team review to determine whether SDEA will take a position to advocate for or against. How do we come to those decisions? We let the SDEA Legislative Agenda guide those decisions. How is the Legislative Agenda determined? By our members at the annual SDEA Representative Assembly.

There are some issues that are obvious. Of course, we support more funding for education to increase pay for educators and oppose issues like school vouchers and bans on collective bargaining, but there are many other issues that impact public schools and students and we look to the Legislative Agenda to see where our members stand. This is why it is so important that our members participate in the spring Representative Assembly. If you attend, you help set the legislative priorities for the next year.

If you or your fellow members are ever concerned about a position SDEA is taking or not taking on an issue, then you should consider attending the Representative Assembly as a local delegate. Delegates can propose changes to the agenda and ultimately get the final say on our position on issues. As your President, I work with the lobby team to carry out your wishes.

Delegates at the Representative Assembly also set the state stage for the coming year. They vote on Association by-law changes, pass new business items which

prioritize the work of the Association, and they kick off the election for SDEA officers, board members and NEA RA delegates. It really is doing the important work of the Association. It is important that we have as many voices in the room as possible to ensure educators feel represented.

How do you become a delegate to the SDEA RA? Every local association is allowed to send at least one delegate to Pierre. Check with your local association president to see how your local selects its delegates. Attending the SDEA RA is a great way for you to get involved at the state and local level. It's an opportunity for you to hear about the concerns of your fellow educators and how we can work together to make change. Your vote on items like the SDEA Legislative Agenda is yet another way you can use your educator voice to make things better for your fellow educators and students.

I am looking forward to leading my third SDEA RA, which will take place March 31 to April 1 in Pierre. I hope you will consider joining me as we do the important work of the Association. Your voice really does matter and I hope to see you in Pierre.

Loren Paul
SDEA President

605-224-9263
loren.paul@sdea.org



2023 SDEA Representative Assembly at Drifters Event Center

Friday, March 31

7:00 pm Registration Opens

8:45 pm 1st Business Session

- Pledge of Allegiance – Pierre Girl Scouts
- Introductions
- Adoption of Rules of Order
- Adoption of the Agenda
- Treasurer’s Report
- Preliminary Credentials Report
- State of the Association:
Loren Paul, SDEA President
- Nominations
 - SDEA President
 - SDEA Vice President
 - SDEA NEA Director
- NEA Fund for Children & Public Education
- Recognitions

10:30 pm Recess

- Reception



SDEA RA Documents

<http://www.sdea.org/sdea-ra>

Saturday, April 1

7:30 am Registration Opens

8:15 am Presentation of the SDEA

- Budget & Hearing

9:30 am 2nd Business Session

- Report of the Executive Director:
Ryan Rolfs
- Report of the NEA Director:
Dana Livermont
- Report of Committees
 - Awards and Scholarships Committee
- 2023 South Dakota Teacher of the Year/
Teacher of Excellence, Alyssa Cassels
- Keynote: Mark Jewell, NEA Executive
Committee

10:30 am Registration Closes

- Delay of Reapportionment Request
- Bylaw Amendments

11:30 am Lunch

- Acknowledgement of Honored Guests
 - Friend of Education
 - ESP of the Year Award
 - Teacher of Excellence
 - Human and Civil Rights Award

1:30 pm Final Credentials Report

- Bylaw Amendments
- New Business Items
- 2024 Legislative Agenda

Sine Die Adjournment

2023 SDEA Election

Candidate Statements

Executive Office Positions

President



Loren Paul

It has truly been my honor to serve educators as President of SDEA. In the past three years, we have built a leadership program, passed accountability legislation, increased

membership and have been a collective voice for educators across the state.

I look forward to working with our members over the next three years to amplify our voices and continue growing the association. With growth comes great opportunity and I look forward to watching our leaders learn to use their power to move the profession forward.

As an association, we must continue to organize so that we can give our students the great public schools they deserve.

Vice-President



Stephanie Hageman

Over the past three years, it has been my honor to serve and represent YOU as SDEA Vice President.

Upon taking office, one goal was to engage

members and develop leaders within our organization by providing quality professional development. I have served on the SDEA Leadership Workgroup. Through collaborative efforts of governance and staff, we have brought you the Summer Academy, Bargaining Conference, and

Leadership Conferences. These events have engaged over one hundred fifty members, this past year.

Another goal was to increase SDEA Membership. I have assisted locals across the state in brainstorming, organizing, and hosting events for members - current and potential. SDEA is currently experiencing membership growth due to our collaborative efforts.

I look forward to working with YOU in the future. TOGETHER, we will continue to move SDEA forward by ensuring a strong voice for public education is heard at local, state, and national levels.

NEA Director



Kelsey Lovseth

If elected, I bring over 16 years of classroom experience to this officer position. In my local association I have served in a variety of roles and had the honor of representing Eastern

Prairie on the board from 2020 to 2022. My experience in and out of the classroom has ignited a passion for authentic educator voice. Educators need to be heard, we need to feel safe in sharing our stories, and we need a collective voice to move forward.

I have the unique experience of having served on the SDEA Board of Directors as well as working behind the scenes as the NEA Teacher Quality, Professional Practice & Policy Fellow for our association. My fellowship has been focused on increasing our ability to advocate, train, lead, research and support educators across the state. I believe that I am the right person to be the NEA Director for our Association.

Board of Directors

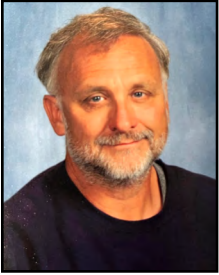
ESP At-Large (2 year term)

no candidate

COHE At-Large (1 year term)

no candidate

Minority At-Large



Curtis Anderson

no statement

Western (1 year term)



Jennifer Macziewski

My passion is working with early learners and mentoring young teachers in Rapid City. I currently serve as an appointed representative for Western on the SDEA Board of Directors. I

will continue advocating for educators and students when elected.

Western (2 year term)

no candidate

EGL (2 year term)



Paula Hanson

I would be honored to continue to represent EGL. I believe SDEA is more important than ever in South Dakota, and I am proud to be an active member!

I will continue to bring a small district

perspective to the BOD and work hard for all school staff and students.

Eastern Prairie (2 year term)



Danyelle Cleveland

Working alongside SDEA the past several years has allowed me to create vital relationships with other leaders and understand how best to approach the decisions SDEA is

responsible for making. Please allow me to continue serving as a BOD representative for the Eastern Prairie region with your vote.

SEE (2 year term)

no candidate

Plains (2 year term)



Shawn Olsen

I am Shawn Olsen and I teach 1st grade in Dupree. I would be honored to once again be your voice for the Plains UniServ as we move our association forward and strengthen our

collective voice for all things that matter in education.

NEA RA Delegate

Western

no candidates

Plains

no candidate

EGL

Olivia Forman

I would be honored to represent South Dakota educators at the NEA RA. I currently serve on the SDEA Board of Directors and attended my first state RA last year. I would love to be a part of educators coming together and advocating for public education at the national level.

Madeline Scarlett

I would be delighted to represent SDEA at the NEA RA. I have been a member of SDEA for a little over three years, and in those short three years I have learned that strong representation is vital to successful negotiation and change. I believe all educators in South Dakota deserve to be heard!

Eastern Prairie

Tim Eckart

I am the local president for SFEA. It is my hope to represent SD at the NEA RA in order to bring important information back to our state.

Kelsey Lovseth

I am Kelsey Lovseth, and I would be honored to attend the 2023 NEA RA. I served on the SDEA Board of Directors from 2020 to 2022 and have been actively involved in several sub-committees/teams. Currently, I am the NEA Teacher Quality, Professional Practice & Policy Fellow for our association.

Lisa Jennings

In my last year as NEA ESP-At-Large Director I would be honored to represent not only ESP, but all educators at the NEA RA. I will

do my best to use my experience to serve you as a delegate for the students and educators of South Dakota.

Jennifer Bergan Gabor

As the SDEA representative on the NEA Resolutions Committee, I am asking for your vote as support for my attendance at the NEA-RA.

It is my honor to work to craft language that lets others know who we are and how we and our students can best be served.

Virginia Colgan

As a delegate, I will serve my third year on the elections committee to help certify ballots and uphold voting procedures. I will follow the debates and advocate for all students and teachers. Additionally, I will engage with other state delegates to ensure all voices are heard.

SEE

no candidate

Minority At-Large

(Statements listed above)

Jennifer Bergan Gabor

At-Large

(Statements listed above)

Jennifer Bergan Gabor

Kelsey Lovseth

Virginia Colgan

Tim Eckart

Lisa Jennings

Olivia Forman

Madeline Scarlett

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.

2023 SDEA RA

Proposed 2024 Legislative Agenda

ENSURING CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

SDEA/NEA supports:

- Sufficient funding provided by the state and other sources to ensure that buildings are secure, structurally and environmentally safe and meet 21st century instructional needs.
- A drug-free, tobacco-free, and weapon-free learning environment.
- Funding based on current costs, not averages, for serving those with disabilities (ages birth-21)
- The requirement that school districts provide safe and well-regulated transportation or reimbursement to parents/guardians for transportation of students to and from public school.
- A learning environment free from intimidation, bullying, harassment, and violence.
- A learning environment with access to certified counselors, social workers, mental health professionals, and appropriate medical and nutritional personnel.
- Access to statewide resources focused on meeting the needs of the whole child, including mental, emotional and behavioral needs.
- Equipping education professionals with the skills to recognize the mental,

emotional and behavioral needs of the whole child, and the ability to connect their students with the appropriate resources to address those needs.

- A learning environment free from discrimination based on disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status.
- SDEA supports funding of programs that empower schools and communities to collaborate in providing critical social services to students and their families who are economically challenged.
- Policies that foster collaboration between communities, school boards, administration and staff in the development of a pandemic preparedness or any other crisis plan.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR JOBS OF THE FUTURE

SDEA/NEA supports:

- Broad-based curriculum and research-based standards supported by a complement of services that prepare students for life-long learning.
- The implementation of career and technical preparation programs that position students for jobs of the future.
- State funding for post-secondary scholarships across a broad spectrum of student abilities and needs.



Deadline for Submitting NBIs at SDEA RA

The deadline for submitting NBIs (new business items) for the 2023 SDEA RA is March 28 at noon CST. The form for submitting NBIs can be found here <https://www.sdea.org/sdea-representative-assembly>. NBI should be submitted to SDEA President Loren Paul at Loren.Paul@sdea.org.

2023 SDEA RA

Proposed 2024 Legislative Agenda – *continued*

- Development of a comprehensive plan to determine individual student growth.
- Legislation that provides for an environment that allows for the free exchange of ideas.
- Legislation requiring school district accountability measures for state aid funding.
- Taxpayer dollars that are directed to public schools which are held accountable, address a specific need, are transparent, and allow for innovation without jeopardizing the promise of the state funding formula, i.e., SDEA does not support charter schools or voucher programs.

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC EDUCATION

SDEA/NEA supports:

- Providing school districts, parents, educators and students with the resources and support necessary to ensure an equitable education regardless of disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation, geographic location or socioeconomic status.
- Providing adequate state funding to South Dakota preK-12 public schools so that South Dakota's school districts can offer competitive salaries and benefits for school employees and can provide students with 21st century opportunities to learn.
- Providing adequate state funding so that South Dakota's post-secondary public institutions can attract and retain high quality faculty, and that will make post-secondary education, including technical, undergraduate and graduate education, affordable for South Dakota students.
- Through existing resources, SDEA/NEA will work with state legislators to ensure that the state's funding formula for K-12 education meets the needs of all school districts in South Dakota and allows all districts to grant meaningful salary and benefit increases to teachers and education support professionals.
- The use of accreditation standards by the State Board of Education in the school accreditation process.
- Efforts to have appropriately certified and endorsed educators in all positions.
- The limitation on the amount of money school districts can maintain or carry over in their fund balances.
- A long-term solution, which includes a balanced tax structure, to fund public education in South Dakota.
- School terms that include student contact days and/or hours, professional development/curriculum days and family conferences.
- The rejection of any taxation plans that adversely affect education funding.
- A full-time all-day kindergarten program.
- Sufficient funding for the programs and resources needed to address the change in compulsory attendance.
- Legislation promoting enhanced teacher quality through instructional leadership, rigorous and responsive teacher preparation programs, quality mentoring and sound professional development programs that support South Dakota professional teacher standards.

- Sufficient time, funding, and resources to provide professional development to address changes required by the implementation of state/federally mandated initiatives.
- Efforts to expand Early Childhood Education programs.
- Efforts to ensure all Kindergarten students are at least five years old at the start of the school year.
- Student assessments that inform instruction and improve student learning. Such assessments should provide for multiple measures of learning, including measures that assess higher order thinking skills.
- SDEA supports measures to enhance English language learner programs that provide the necessary tools and resources to give all students access to an equitable education.
- SDEA supports legislation and policies that allows for true academic freedom which ensures that students and faculty are allowed the free exchange of ideas without interference from the State.
- Schools, staff and families receiving the resources to ensure all students have access to the tools, technology and internet required for learning.

RESPECTING EDUCATION EMPLOYEES

SDEA/NEA supports:

- Increasing the salaries of all education employees to the regional average or above.
- Legislation that provides necessary funding for school districts to fund health benefits for public school employees.
- Efforts to strengthen collective bargaining rights and to achieve greater equity at the bargaining table (i.e. binding arbitration.)
- Legislation that would require rationale be given on decisions by the South

Dakota Department of Labor regarding bargaining issues.

- Efforts and legislation to maintain and/or increase the South Dakota Retirement System benefit factor and/or to protect the SDRS Pension Trust Fund sustainability. These efforts shall include, but not be limited to, building a coalition including all organized employee groups covered under SDRS.
- Legislation that ensures that there are collectively bargained salaries and incentives to attract and retain quality educators.
- Legislation that supports enhanced compensation systems that are locally bargained, based on multiple measures, resulting in improved instruction and/or effectiveness and encouraging teacher collaboration, not competition or merit pay.
- Providing a negotiated per diem increase in pay for all school employees if there is an increase in the school term.
- Legislation that would increase wages and benefits for all education support professionals.
- The representation of all levels of instruction in the planning/development and implementation of educational policy.
- Maintaining continuing contract provisions in the law.
- A work environment free from intimidation, bullying, harassment and violence.
- A work environment free from discrimination based on age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status.
- Efforts that acknowledge and support the mental health needs of education professionals.
- Respecting school and educator autonomy.



Answering Questions About Your Union

What Can I Do About the Social Studies Standards?

On Feb 10th in Rapid City, educators, parents, and indigenous education advocates lined the sidewalks outside the 3rd Board of Education Standards meeting to oppose the proposed social studies standards.



“I teach students to stand up for what is right. This is my turn!” – Kelsey Lovseth



The 4th and Final Board of Education Hearing about the Proposed Social Studies Standards is **April 17th, 2023 in Pierre, SD.**

3 things you can do before April 17th:

1. Submit public comment on the Department of Education website:



<https://bit.ly/2roWNOq>

2. Encourage your school board to pass a resolution opposing the standards. Twenty-two School Boards have already done so.

3. Host a Comment Writing Party to submit public comments. Proposed Social Studies Standards Feedback Survey:



<https://bit.ly/41wXYLC>



SDEA Board of Directors meeting minutes can now be found online at NEA EdCommunities on the “SDEA Members Only” group page.

SDEA/NEA OPPORTUNITIES

GRANT, SCHOLARSHIPS, CAREER



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*



SDEA/NEA Early Career Educator Award

An individual member or a local may nominate an early career educator for this award. Each governance unit may select an Early Career Educator of the Year from nominations submitted in their unit. All the unit winners will be candidates for the statewide award, which will be announced at the 2024 Representative Assembly in Pierre.

Deadline: *December 1*

For more information on all grants and awards offered by SDEA, visit SDEA.org.

New SDEA Staff



Emily Meier

What is your role?

I am the UniServ Director for Eastern Prairie.

What did you do before SDEA?

Prior to SDEA, I worked with the South Dakota Democratic Party during the 2022 election. I graduated from Northern State University with a degree in history and political science in December 2022. I also worked at a local restaurant, volunteered for NAMI SD speaking to middle and high school students about mental health resources in their communities, and was a part of the Bush Foundation Change Network.

Something you want the members to know about you?

I'm a huge history nerd. One of my most beloved books is a copy of the diary of Henry Wallace, the 33rd vice president. I also love music and try to attend concerts as frequently as I can.

Anything you want to share about family?

I have a large family that I am very close to. I have two nieces that I love dearly, one older brother, two younger sisters, and two younger cousins that are functionally siblings as they have lived with my immediate family for over ten years. Other than my brother and his family, my other siblings and my parents live in my hometown, Aberdeen.



SUMMER ACADEMY

Pre-Conference
July 16th

July 17–18th | Augustana

AUGUSTANA
UNIVERSITY



Keynote | Kim Campbell



Kim Campbell crosses the country energizing educational professionals as a dynamic presenter and self-proclaimed “Proud Middle School Teacher.” Building on the lessons learned and

techniques developed as a middle level social studies teacher since 1991, Kim is in national demand as a keynote speaker, workshop facilitator and consultant for the Association of Middle Level Educators, Staff Development for Educators, and the Jack Berckemeyer Consulting Group.

At home in her Twin Cities, Minnesota metropolitan area school district, Kim augments her classroom role with a position as her school’s Dean of Students. She has also served in various leadership and committee positions including team leader and a member of the Equity and Literacy Teams.

Described by more than one observer as “a force of nature, “ what makes Kim run? “It’s about building strong, positive

relationships, having high expectations and creating lessons that are relevant, engaging and fun. I feel lucky every day to have chosen education as my lifelong career. There is no place I would rather be than to be working with middle school students.”

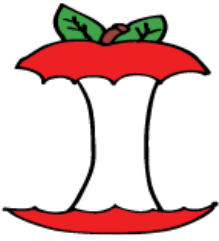
Kim’s second book, *If You Can’t Manage Them, You Can’t Teach Them*, is a stunning success with new and experienced teachers and administrators for its humor and common sense approach to the building blocks of effective teaching and relationship-building. She is in the process of completing her third book.

After twenty-nine years of teaching, Kim says that she still loves it. Learn Kim’s tips and techniques to look forward to every day as she translates theory into best practices with a trove of personal experience. Kim’s direct and engaging style flavored with heart and humor make her a favorite with teachers, administrators and students alike

JOIN US!

<https://bit.ly/3IGPk6n>





SDEA *Retired*

Thank you to all of the retired teachers, parents, and community members who turned out for the social studies standards hearing in Rapid City. (At the time I'm writing this, the Pierre hearing has not yet been held.) You were all amazing.

If we have your email address, you should have received information from Junior Achievement about volunteer opportunities. If not, or if you would like more information visit the JA website at www.jasd.org, call the JA office at 605-336-7318, or email jasd@ja.org. They use a pre-developed curriculum to teach students about work readiness, entrepreneurship, and/or financial literacy.

Don't forget to put our annual meeting on your calendar. We will meet this year at 2pm CT at the SDEA office in Pierre. We are trying a combination live/virtual meeting

for the first time. In addition to electing our vice president and treasurer, Joyce Jefferson of the SD Humanities Council will be performing. If you plan to stay and attend the SDEA-RA, a \$50 stipend has been budgeted to help cover some of your costs, but we need to turn in your name as a delegate as close to March 1 as possible. Please contact our staff liaison Phil Moore at Phil.Moore@sdea.org to submit your name as well as to get the Zoom information if you plan to attend the retired annual meeting virtually.

Mary Jane Chiles
SDEA Retired President

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

SDEA Retired Staff Liaison:
Phil Moore | 605-222-1920
Philip.Moore@sdea.org

Just A Friendly Reminder.

In order to vote, this year's dues must have been paid. If you aren't sure if you paid this year, you can also contact Phil Moore. I look forward to seeing you.

Local Treasurer's Training

- Responsibilities as an Association Officer
- Reporting Association Income and Expenses
- Important Tax Topics
- Membership Dues/Reconciliation
- ACH payment option

Contact Holly Frederick at holly.frederick@sdea.org and Lathie Under Baggage at lathie.underbaggage@sdea.org to set up your training date!

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

- 3/31-1 SDEA RA
- 7 Good Friday (SDEA offices closed)
- 10 Easter observed (SDEA offices closed)
- 13 NEA BOD meeting (tentative/virtual)
- 21 SDEA Election Committee Meeting
- 27 Eastern Prairie Unit Meeting

May

- 1 SDEA/NEA Educational Innovation Grant deadline
- 5-6 NEA BOD meeting
- 7-12 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 15 Western Unit mtg
- 29 Memorial Day (SDEA offices closed)

June

- 12-14 SDEA Board/Staff Retreat
- 19 Juneteenth (SDEA offices closed)
- 28-7/1 NEA Aspiring Ed Conference
- 30-7/1 NEA Racial/Social Justice Conference

July

- 6/28-1 NEA Aspiring Ed Conference
- 6/30-1 NEA Racial/Social Justice Conference
- 2 NEA BOD meeting
- 2-6 NEA RA - Orlando, FL

16-18 SDEA Summer Academy

411 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

605-224-9263
sdea.org



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@SDEAeducators



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