

The Educators'



# ADVOCATE

SEPT/OCT 2022

Volume 54 | Issue 1

# FREEDOM

## social studies plural noun

### Definition of social studies

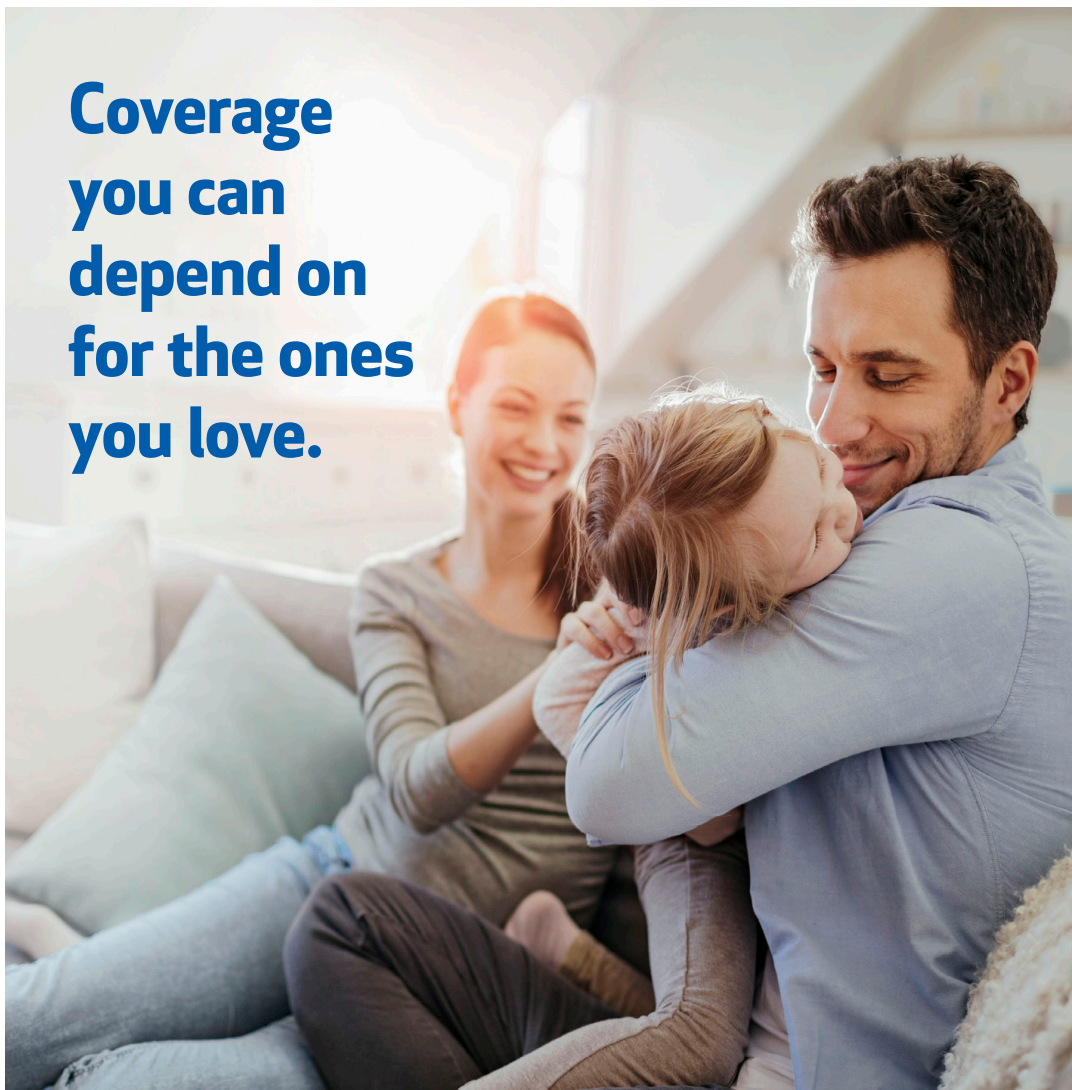
: a part of a school or college curriculum concerned with the study of social relationships and the functioning of society and usually made up of courses in history, government, economics, civics, sociology, geography, and anthropology

"Social studies." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/social%20studies>. Accessed 2 Sep. 2022.

# TO LEARN

5 Relief for Student Loan Debt | 6-7 Proposed Social Standards Deny Students the Freedom to Learn | 10 SD-EPIC Legislative Recommendations

# Coverage you can depend on for the ones you love.



As an eligible NEA member,\* you've got the protection of **NEA Complimentary Life Insurance**, issued by **The Prudential Insurance Company of America** — but you should name a beneficiary to make sure your loved ones are covered. Go to [neamb.com/free-tote](https://neamb.com/free-tote) and register your beneficiary to get this **FREE** tote. Or call **1-855-NEA-LIFE (632-5433)** and mention offer code: TOTE BAG

Visit [neamb.com/protect](https://neamb.com/protect) to learn about all the solutions available to help meet your insurance needs.

**nea** Members  
Insurance Trust



\*Visit us online or call for eligibility requirements.  
NEA Members Insurance Trust is a registered trademark of the NEA Members Insurance Trust.  
NEA Complimentary Life Insurance is issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America, Newark, NJ.  
0302614-00002-00

DT460922

# Inside this Issue

- 4 **President's Corner**
- 5 **Relief for Student Loan Debt**
- 6-7 **Proposed Social Standards Deny Students the Freedom to Learn**
- 8 **Honored Women Educators of South Dakota**
- 9 **SDEA/NEA Opportunitites**
- 10 **SD-EPIC Legislative Recommendations**
- 11 **Amendment D: Vote Yes for Healthier Families**
- 12 **Meet Teaching Fellow, Kelsey Lovseth**
- 13 **Professional Development Webinars**
- 14-15 **SDEA Fall Leadership Educator Conference**
- 16 **UNION U: Answering Questions About Your Union**
- 17 **More Than A Teacher**
- 18 **SDEA/NEA Grant Winners**
- 19 **SDEA Retired**

## 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.

## SEPT/OCT 2022

Volume 54 | Issue 1

### President

Loren Paul

### Vice President

Stephanie Hageman

### NEA Director

Dana Livermont

### Treasurer

Tess Canet

### Executive Director

Ryan Rolfs

### Communications Director

Sandra Waltman

### Communications Specialist

Rebecca Feller

### Address

South Dakota  
Education Association  
411 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

The Educators' Advocate (ISSN 0013-2047) is published five times annually by SDEA/NEA, 411 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD. Periodicals postage paid at Pierre, SD.

### Postmaster:

Send address to  
The Educators' Advocate,  
411 East Capitol Avenue,  
Pierre, SD 57501.  
Official publication of the  
South Dakota Education  
Association/NEA.



# President's Corner

## Many Challenges Bring Many Opportunities

Welcome back to another school year. I hope you had an opportunity to recharge over the summer and are ready to take on the new school year with much enthusiasm. As your SDEA President, I want to assure you that your leaders and staff are here to support and help you with any challenges that you face.

The new school year also means another SDEA membership campaign. First, let me say thank you for making the decision to join our Association. When you joined SDEA you didn't only sign up for the traditional reasons: the liability insurance, the member benefits, access to a Uniserv Director, a professional obligation, you made a commitment to join other educators in your district, state and nation to be a voice for your schools, profession and, most importantly, your students. As your SDEA President, I am grateful that you made that choice because having your voice in the room makes our organization stronger.

While recruiting new members is a focus year-round, SDEA really utilizes the back-to-school period to start the conversations we must have to recruit more members. While we do talk about the 'benefits' of being a SDEA member, the thing we really need to talk about are the opportunities you have when you join the effort to do important work. There are opportunities to grow as an educator and leader through our professional development and leadership offerings. At the local level, you have an opportunity to have a say in your working conditions and your students' learning conditions by being involved in the collective bargaining process whether that is being a part of the bargaining team or by casting your vote to ratify your local contract.

There are many decisions at the state level, that you, as a member, help shape. By joining, you are helping other educators as we voice our concerns about the lack of support and resources that have led to an unprecedented educator shortage. You can work side by side with your fellow educators as we look for solutions to solve the mental and behavioral health crisis that is impacting so many of our students and educators. Finally, you have an opportunity to join other educators and parents to demand that the South Dakota Board of Education Standards adopt social studies standards that afford students the opportunity to learn an honest and accurate history while giving them the freedom to learn by exploring the topics that pique their curiosity. By joining SDEA, you are making a difference in the lives of your fellow educators and your students.

My ask of you for the coming year is that you help us encourage those educators who have yet to make the choice to become a member of SDEA to join the effort. We are stronger together. The more voices we have working together, the louder we will be. Now is not the time to be silent. We must work together to ensure our students receive a great public education.

Thank you for everything you do for your students and lets all work together to have a great school year!

**Loren Paul**  
SDEA President

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



# Relief for Student Loan Debt



The changes to PSLF will exist only until October 31, 2022. Make sure you are

getting the student debt relief you deserve. Check out our resources below.

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness program was created in 2007 to forgive the federal student debt of public employees, including teachers, faculty, and education support professionals, who provide 10 years of service and make 120 monthly payments on their student loans.

## What public service workers need to do before October 31, 2022:

Go to [studentaid.gov/pslf](https://studentaid.gov/pslf), login with your Federal Student Aid ID (or create one if you do not have one) and make sure contact information is up to date. The U.S. Department of Education uses this as their primary method of contact to reach you about the progress of your PSLF application.

- If you have a **Direct Loan, have made 120 payments, and have applied for PSLF since October 6, 2021**, you should receive automatic forgiveness or updates about your payment count soon.
- If you have a **Direct Loan and have NOT applied for PSLF since October 6, 2021**, you need to apply for PSLF immediately, even if you haven't reached 120 payments yet.
- If you have a **FFEL or Perkins loan**, you

must first consolidate into a Direct Loan, then apply for PSLF before the waiver period ends on October 31, 2022.

Need help? NEA members can get free support through the NEA Student Debt Navigator. Experts will offer help with applying for PSLF and can answer any questions about your student debt.



**ACCESS THE NEA STUDENT DEBT NAVIGATOR**

## What Does the new White House Student- Debt Cancellation Plan Mean for Educators?

On August 24, 2022, the White House announced a new student-debt cancellation plan that could forgive up to \$20,000 in federal student debt for borrowers. This comes on top of the temporary PSLF waiver, which has delivered \$10 billion in loan forgiveness for public-service workers over the past nine months.

**ALL federal borrowers** whose personal income is less than \$125,000 and household income under \$250,000—will get \$10,000 in federal debt canceled. Those who received Pell Grants, even just once, get \$20,000 canceled. Current students, such as NEA Aspiring Educators, are also eligible for debt relief. If you are a dependent student, you will be eligible for relief based on parental income, rather than your own income.

Learn more about NEA resources, including webinars, fact sheets, and the Student Debt Navigator, at [nea.org/studentdebt](https://nea.org/studentdebt).

---

## 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.

# Proposed Social Standards Deny Students the Freedom to Learn

The South Dakota Department of Education recently released the proposed K-12 social studies standards which covers civics, government, history, geography, and economics. SDEA is extremely concerned about the age appropriateness of the standards as presented. The lower-grade standards call for a level of memorization that is not cognitively appropriate for our state's early learners, and the upper-grade standards fail to challenge students' critical thinking skills through standards that encourage analysis and evaluation of the world around them. The proposed standards will deny students the freedom to learn.

The state is required to hold four public hearings before the proposed standards can be adopted. SDEA will be submitting comments and we encourage educators and parents to review the proposed standards and let their voices be heard as well.

Educators are committed to teaching students a full history, including the good and bad, while helping them develop the critical thinking skills that enable them to be productive citizens committed to our country's great promise: that we are all created equal. State standards should help

students develop the necessary critical thinking skills to aid them in becoming productive members of our society. Students deserve standards that challenge them to meet their fullest potential while having the freedom to learn in an environment where they can pursue their passions.



**Join Our Efforts to Ensure Students Have the Freedom to Learn**

## Six Reasons Educators Reject the Proposed Standards

1. The proposed standards are solely based on students ability to memorize **select facts**, which were chosen by a small group of political appointees. The proposed standards do not challenge students' ability to analyze events and historic texts, explore their communities and cultures, or problem-solve challenges they identify. The development of these higher-level thinking skills is vital for students to be successful in their post-secondary education and or in their workplace and communities.

**Questions or Concerns** *Contact a UniServ Director today!* 605-224-9263

**Sandy Arseneault – Plains**  
Sandy.Arseneault@sdea.org

**Eric Herold – Western**  
Eric.Herold@sdea.org

**LouAnn Jensen – EGL**  
**Eastern Prairie Interim**  
LouAnn.Jensen@sdea.org

**Philip Moore – SEE**  
**Eastern Prairie Interim**  
Philip.Moore@sdea.org

2. The lower-grade standards call for a level of memorization that is not cognitively appropriate for our state's early learners, and the upper-grade standards fail to challenge students' critical thinking skills through standards that encourage analysis and evaluation of the world around them. The early grade standards also focus on many violent events in world history. Young children cannot and should not be asked to comprehend such events.
3. While some South Dakota and Native American history standards are included in the proposed standards, they are mostly afterthoughts or lumped in with other standards. There is no other opportunity for students, especially in the lower grades, to immerse themselves in the rich history and culture of our great state and the Native American tribes of South Dakota. All students should be afforded the opportunity to have at least a semester of South Dakota and Native American History, not just those who reside in a school district that can afford to offer it as an elective at the high school level.
4. The proposed standards assume one size fits all. The proposed standards read more like a checklist of tasks students are to perform regardless of their learning style. Students can either complete the task, or they can't. Instead of students receiving a letter grade, their report cards will be reduced to pass or fail. This will undermine confidence in many students' ability to be successful in school.
5. The proposed standards discourage students from seeking other perspectives or ideas. The standards rely heavily on students writing essays based only on notes from class. In other words, based solely on what teachers tell them regardless of a teacher's experience. This opens the door for indoctrination.
6. Educators who have reviewed the proposed standards warn that school districts will have to do a complete overhaul of the K-12 social studies curriculum costing them thousands of dollars for each grade level. This would come at a time when schools lack the resources to meet the challenges of an educator shortage and see increased costs due to inflation. It should also be noted that the only known developed curriculum or textbooks that would align with the proposed standard were developed and sold by Hillsdale College.

— continued to page 15

## American Education Week 2022

American Education Week presents all Americans with an opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education.

**NOVEMBER 14 – 19, 2022**

Monday: **Kickoff Day**

Tuesday: **Parents Day**

Wednesday: **Education Support Professionals Day**

Thursday: **Educator for a Day**

Friday: **Substitute Educators Day**

# Honored Women Educators of South Dakota

Honored Women Educators of South Dakota (HWE) met June 25 at the SDEA office in Pierre. Four new members were inducted into Honored Women Educators of SD, formerly known as the Annie D. Tallent Club of SD from 1954-1993. Educators are invited to join through a nomination process. New members include: Sharon Johnson, Webster; Brenda Nugent, Rapid City; Michele Petersen, Rapid City and Allison Vetch Leach, Aberdeen.

## Old and New Officers for HWE



*Left to Right: Deanell Backlund, Pres./now Historian; Ralyna Schilling, Sec/Treas./now VP; Katie Larson, now Sec/Treas; Jacqueline Sly, VP/now President; Jean Clarke, Historian/now enjoying life (thanks for years of serving HWE, Jean)*

Sharon Johnson taught art in DeSmet, Mitchell, Northern State University and Waubay. She has also taught in the gifted program. She has been a member of Mitchell Education Association, SDEA and NEA for many years.

Brenda Nugent taught 2nd grade in Texas, preschool in the Douglas district, country school (grades K-3 in Scenic), and combined grades 1 and 2 in Wall. Then she moved to Rapid City where she was a Reading Recovery Teacher, taught K, 1, & 2, and

eventually was a Literacy Teacher. She has been a member of RCEA, SDEA, and NEA. Brenda retired from teaching this year.

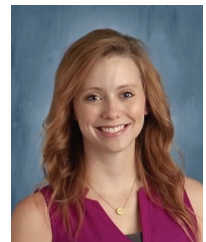
Michele Petersen has been teaching teaching 6-8 grade special education since 2014. Beginning in 2011 she taught 3-5 special education. This year she is moving to the high school level in Rapid City. She has been an active member of RCEA and SDEA/NEA, now serving as secretary of the local organization.

## New members inducted at June 25 luncheon.



*Left to right: Sharon Johnson, Webster SD; Brenda Nugent, Rapid City SD; Michele Petersen, Rapid City SD*

Allison Vetch Leach has taught 3rd grade for the past 10 years. She is currently a 3rd grade teacher at O. M. Tiffany Elementary School in Aberdeen.



*Allison (Vetch) Leach - Aberdeen SD*

She has been active in her Aberdeen Education Association working on and planning for negotiations and SDEA/NEA.

*— continued to page 12*



# SDEA/NEA OPPORTUNITIES

## GRANT, SCHOLARSHIPS, CAREER



### SDEA/NEA's ESP Award

SDEA/NEA's ESP of the Year Award recognizes the contributions of Education Support Professionals (ESPs) in their schools, communities, and their profession. The award is presented to a member of SDEA/NEA who demonstrates outstanding accomplishments and reflects the contributions of ESP to public education.

**Deadline:** *November 1*



### SDEA/NEA Friend of Education Award

The South Dakota Education Association/NEA is seeking nominations for the Friend of Education Award.

- The nominee must be a person or organization outside of SDEA/NEA.
- The nominee should have proven to be a genuine friend of education, educators, and/or students.
- The nominee should reflect the philosophy and principles of the association.
- The nominee through leadership, acts and support must have made contributions toward achieving a first-rate education for students in South Dakota.

**Deadline:** *November 1*



### SDEA/NEA Human and Civil Rights Awards

The South Dakota Education Association/NEA is seeking nominations for the Human and Civil Rights Award to honor an individual, student group, or organization for their work in promoting human and civil rights.

**Deadline:** *November 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 2023 Representative Assembly in Pierre.

**Deadline:** *December 1*

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

# SD-EPIC Legislative Recommendations



The following candidates are SD-EPIC's pro-public education recommended state legislative candidates.

Uncontested Race=\*   Friendly Legislator=+   Democrat=Blue   Republican=Red

## District 1

Senate Michael H. Rohl+

House Steven D.  
McCleerey+

House Kay Nikolas

## District 2

Senate Steve Kolbeck\*

## District 5

Senate Lee Schoenbeck\*+

House Hugh M. Bartels+

## District 7

Senate Tim Reed\*+

House Mellissa Heermann

House Roger DeGroot

## District 8

Senate Casey Crabtree\*+

## District 9

House Nick Winkler

House Kenneth Teunissen

## District 10

Senate Liz Larson

House Erin Healy+

House Kameron Nelson

## District 11

Senate Sheryl L. Johnson

House Kim Parke

House Margaret Kuipers

## District 12

Senate Jessica Meyers

House Greg Jamison+

## District 13

House Tony Venhuizen\*

## District 14

Senate Larry P. Zikmund+

House Taylor Rae

Rehfeldt+

## District 15

Senate Reynold F. Nesiba+

House Kadyn Wittman

House Linda Duba+

## District 16

Senate Jim Bolin+

## District 18

Senate Jean M. Hunhoff+

House Ryan D. Cwach+

House Mike Stevens+

## District 19

Senate Kyle Schoenfish+

House Jessica Bahmuller\*

## District 20

House Lance Koth\*+

## District 22

Senate David Wheeler\*+

House Roger Chase+

## District 23

Senate Bryan J Breitling\*+

## District 24

House Mike Weisgram\*+

House Will D.  
Mortenson\*+

## District 25

House Dan Ahlers

## District 26

Senate Shawn Bordeaux+

## District 26 B

House Eric Emery

## District 27

Senate Red Dawn Foster+

House Peri Pourier+

## District 28A

House Oren L Lesmeister+

## District 29

Senate Dean Wink\*+

House Gary L Cammack+

## District 32

Senate Helene Duhamel+

House Christine  
Stephenson

House Becky J. Drury+

## District 33

Senate David Johnson+

## District 34

House Jess Olson+

### Important Election Dates

**September 23**  
Absentee Voting Begins

**October 24**  
Voter Registration  
Deadline

**November 8**  
Election Day

### Are you Registered?

To check your voter registration status or get a sample ballot visit the voter registration portal



# Amendment D: Vote Yes for Healthier Families



The South Dakota Education Association has joined a coalition of healthcare providers, farmers, business leaders and local elected officials to ask the voters to expand Medicaid in South Dakota. Amendment D will expand Medicaid eligibility to over 40,000 hardworking South Dakota families who are slipping through the cracks in our healthcare system and rural residents who already must drive long distances for emergency care. Medicaid expansion will help keep rural hospitals open for when an emergency strikes and ensure that all South Dakota families have access to emergency care — regardless of where they live.

### Why should educators support Amendment D?

- Supporting Medicaid expansion is yet another way we, as educators can support our students and their families. As educators, we know there is a link between how well students perform in the classroom and the overall health and well-being of the family. We believe expanding healthcare options for working parents will have a positive effect on their children’s ability to thrive in school. The bottom line is giving

parents better access to healthcare means our students will have better access to healthcare. That makes a huge difference in a student’s ability to reach his or her potential.

- Expanding Medicaid will help the families of some of our fellow educators gain access to more affordable healthcare. Currently, some classified staff must return a large portion or the entirety of their wages to the school district to cover insurance costs. Expansion will give those individuals more affordable healthcare options allowing them to keep their paycheck to cover other needs.
- Medicaid expansion will prevent educators and their families in the most rural parts of the state from having to drive hundreds of miles to meet their most basic healthcare needs. Expanding Medicaid will keep small town hospitals and clinics open ensuring a healthier community for all.

Amendment D is good for our communities, economy and most importantly Amendment D is good for Students. To Learn more visit [southdakotansdecide.org](https://southdakotansdecide.org).

**VOTE YES ON D on November 8**



# Meet Teaching Fellow, Kelsey Lovseth

Hello, I am Kelsey Lovseth. I am 3rd generation South Dakota teacher. I am a classroom instructor in the Social Studies Department at Brookings, SD. This is my 16th year in education. As a result of my time in the classroom, I have strong passion for a quality and non-partisan approach to teaching civics education.

I was born in South Dakota but graduated from a small farming community in Minnesota and then attended North Dakota State University where I majored in Social Studies Education with an emphasis in Political Science and American History. In 2012, I received my Master’s Degree from SDSU in Educational Administration.

I am honored to serve as the NEA/SDEA Teacher Quality’s Professional Practice & Policy Teaching fellow for this year. The purpose of this fellowship is to provide a full-release educator to assist our association by increasing our ability to advocate, train, lead, research and support educators across South Dakota.

I am married and have 2 beautiful rambunctious children who keep us very busy. We also have 2 dogs, 1 cat, and a retired classroom rabbit!!

.....  
— continued from page 8

Each year a \$500 scholarship is awarded to a female student majoring in the field of education who is in the second semester of her junior year. The award is based on post-secondary accomplishments, involvement and financial need and is targeted toward providing resources to purchase books for the student recipient. This year Alayna Gorter, who attends SDSU majoring in Family and Consumer Science, received the scholarship.



*Alayna Gorter – Attending SDSU for Family and Consumer Science Education*

The purpose of HWE is

to recognize outstanding South Dakota women educators and to promote relationships and networking among women engaged in education careers. Members have also been in the field of education in South Dakota for a minimum of ten years, are/were active members of SDEA/NEA, and have made major contribution in the field education.

**Submitted by:**  
Jacqueline Sly  
President,  
Honored Women Educators of SD  
22560 Potter Road  
Rapid City SD 57702  
jsly@q.com  
605-343-4956

# Professional Development Webinars

**Sept. 20** | 6-7 pm CST/5-6 pm MT

## Reducing Student Debt

*Darby Boyd, NEAMB*

**Oct. 4** | 6-7 pm CST/5-6 pm MT

## Social & Racial Justice

*Kelsey Lovseth*

**Oct. 18** | 6-7 pm CST/5-6 pm MT

## Building Relationships & Meeting Social Emotional Needs

*Korey Erickson*

**Nov. 1** | 6-7 pm CST/5-6 pm MT

## Health & Safety

*Rich Mittelstedt*

**Nov. 15** | 6-7 pm CST/5-6 pm MT

## Saving \$ with NEA MB

*Darby Boyd, NEA MB*

**Jan. 10** | 6-7 pm CST/5-6 pm MT

## Instructional & Classroom Strategies

*Kelsey Lovseth (Brookings EA) and Erica Boomsma (Huron EA)*

**Jan. 24** | 6-7 pm CST/5-6 pm MT

## Family & Community Engagement

*Dana Livermont, (SD Family Engagement Center)*

**Feb. 7** | 6-7 pm CST/5-6 pm MT

## What's Hot in Ed. Tech

*Erica Boomsma (Huron EA) and Kelsey Lovseth (Brookings EA)*

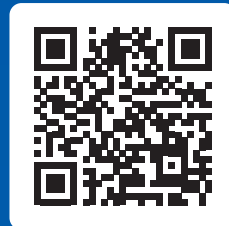


## SDEA Bridge has moved!

To improve the look and accessibility of our online training we switched learning management systems.

Professional development is now available at

<https://tinyurl.com/SDEAbridge>.



You'll find new and existing content all at the new site once you create an account.



Join us for this weekend event to learn how educators can use best practices in creating safe and just learning environments.

**JOIN US**

SDEA members are invited to make plans to attend the weekend event (Friday evening through Sunday morning) at Best Western

Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City. Facilitated by SDEA’s Leaders for Just Schools Cohort members. We are proud to feature sessions for cultivating safe and just learning environments.

This fall conference is free and open to members only. We encourage your local to bring a team to take advantage of information in all sessions. Grad credit will be available through Augustana.

**Friday, October 21st**

- 4:00pm–5:30pm Registration
- 5:30–6:00pm Dinner
- 6:00–7:00pm Introductions, Nuts and Bolts and NEA MB
- 7:00–9:00pm Session 1 | LGBTQ+ Rights in Education | *Dirk Andrews and Jeny Gardner (Wyoming Education Association)*
- 9:00pm Reception

**Saturday, October 22nd**

- 6:00–8:00am Breakfast
- 8:15–10:15am Session 2 | Exploring Self & Statements that Silence Dialogue | *Sue Zueger (Sioux Falls Education Association)*
- 10:15–10:30am Break
- 10:30–Noon Session 3 | The Powerful Impact of Everyday Language | *Lisa Weier (Brookings Education Association)*
- Noon–1:00pm Lunch
- 1:00–3:00pm Session 4 | Creating Safe Learning Environments | *Kayla Sylvester (Sioux Falls Education Association)*

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 3:00–3:15pm | Break  |
| 3:15–5:15pm | Session 5   Historical Timeline   <i>Rich Mittelstedt and Korey Erickson</i> |
| 5:30–7:00pm | Supper   Legislative Updates   |
| 7:00–9:00pm | Session 6   Viewing and Discussion of Blood Memory Documentary               |
| 9:00pm      | Reception and Mixer  |

**Sunday, October 23rd**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 6:00–8:00am   | Breakfast  |
| 8:00–10:00am  | Session 7   Title IX   <i>Rich Mittelstedt and Korey Erickson</i>  |
| 10:00–10:15am | Break  |
| 10:15–11:45am | Session 8   Advocacies and Opportunities for Empowerment   <i>Lisa Weier (Brookings Education Association)</i> |
| 11:15am       | Evaluation and hand out lunches  |

.....  
 — continued from page 7

**Questions Educators Have About the Proposed Standards**

**How are the proposed standards different from the Current Standards?**

*The standards are written by out of state interests unlike the draft standards last year that were written by South Dakota Educators. They discourage inquiry-based learning and emphasize rote memorization. The proposed standards wildly deviate from current standards and will upend the curriculum for every teacher, every classroom and every school. They lack any robust geography standards and simply ask students to identify certain locations on a map.*

**Who wrote these standards?**

*Governor Noem appointed 15 members to the so-called social studies commission. Unlike the previous standards review work group that was comprised of mostly professional educators, this commission only had three certified K-12 educators who teach in South Dakota. The South Dakota Department of Education also paid William Morrissey, a retired Hillsdale College Professor*

*of Political Science, \$200,000 to ‘develop’ the social studies standards and ‘facilitate’ the commission’s work. Hillsdale College is a private conservative Christian college in Michigan that does not have an accredited teacher preparation program.*

**Who decides if these standards will be adopted?**

*The South Dakota Board of Education Standards is responsible for setting academic standards for South Dakota’s schools. Board members are appointed by the Governor. The Board will hold four public hearings where the public can submit comments either in person or in writing. Public hearings will be held in Aberdeen, Sioux Falls, Pierre and Rapid City.*

- September 19, 2022 – 9:00 AM, Dakota Events Center, 720 Lamont St S, Aberdeen
- November 21, 2022 – 9:00 AM, Carnegie Town Hall, 235 W 10th St, Sioux Falls
- January – TBD – Pierre
- March – TBD – Rapid City



# Answering Questions About Your Union

## Why is Collective Bargaining So Important?

On average, union members earn **higher pay, have better health and pension benefits, and have improved working conditions.**

The benefits of unionization are crucial to those who choose to work in education. Through collective bargaining, SDEA members advocate for more than their own economic security. Our members tend to be more engaged in civic involvement and fight to secure vital public resources to adequately fund public schools.

In good or bad economic times, a collaborative public education employer can better serve students and the community by negotiating in good faith with its union(s). Women and people of color especially gain from collective bargaining because it reduces wage inequities.

Working with a broad group of stakeholders, including parents and other community partners during the negotiations process, SDEA affiliates **develop proposals to secure critical resources for students and ensure that all students have the support they need, no matter where they live.**

**Bargaining improves student learning and teacher working conditions.**

Educators' working conditions are students' learning conditions. By addressing school and classroom issues, everyone wins.

In negotiations, educators and their employers collaborate on student-centered issues such as setting limits on class size, identifying time for teachers and

paraeducators to share effective classroom practices, addressing school health and safety issues, and ensuring teacher input into their own professional learning—all of which help students thrive.

**Collective bargaining helps attract and retain the highest quality employees.** The educator shortage was a crisis well before the pandemic, but the pandemic has made it worse.

---

## higher pay, have better health and pension benefits, and have improved working conditions

---

Experts like the **Learning Policy Institute** and the **Economic Policy Institute** note that low pay, poor working conditions, and lack of support for new teachers all play a role in exacerbating the educator shortage.

SDEA affiliates, working with school districts and harnessing their members' input, **win for higher pay and improved and safe working conditions**, as well as strong mentoring and induction programs for their members.


**Bargaining supports the fight for social justice and racial equity.** NEA affiliates'

— continued to page 19



# MORE THAN A TEACHER

GARDENER. OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST. SOCCER COACH. MASTER ANGLER. NATURE LOVER. MOTHER. SPORTS FANATIC. YOGI. STUDENT.



SDEA - More Than A Teacher - Roxanne

Copy link

ROXANNE | NATURE LOVER MOTHER TEACHER

Watch on YouTube

Roxanne understands that animals can play an important role in teaching us important life skills, which is why she loves incorporating them in her curriculum and in her role as a mother. Learn more about Roxanne and how her love for nature inspires her as a teacher.

Last spring, SDEA received a NEA Media Assistance Grant to engage the public in recognizing how educators are an important part of our communities. The goal is to be louder than all the politicians who spew negative rhetoric about teachers.

SDEA launched the **'More than A Teacher'** Campaign to tell the story of our members who are South Dakotans who grew up near where they work and share the same values as their neighbors. The campaign was designed to uplift the educators in South Dakota as professionals who go above and beyond for their students and communities. Check out the full campaign at [sdea.org](http://sdea.org).



# SDEA/NEA Grant Winners

## SDEA RACIAL JUSTICE GRANT

### Educator Equity Training – \$500

Samantha Peil & Brooke McClellan, Spearfish

We helped Spearfish makeSPACE organize a two-day Educator Equity Training in Spearfish for Educators on July 27 and 28, 2022. The training will be focused on anti-bias and LGBTQ+ inclusive classrooms. We are committed to bringing highly skilled facilitators to conduct this professional development.

Through offering this professional development opportunity, we will be creating opportunities for educators to form innovative ways to teach, inspire, empathize and understand basic human needs. This opportunity will allow educators the ability to maintain their focus on students as individuals and diverse beings, while allowing each the safe space to be within their classroom. Specifically:

Educators will be able to conceptualize their own biases.

Educators will be able to create safe spaces for all students.

Educators will be able to grow within their field and as individuals.

Educators will be able to supplement students' basic needs with their own understanding, education and training within these topics.

Educators will form co-horts in their schools to continue learning and support.

## SDEA/NEA EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION GRANT

### ABA Discrete Trial Training Program – \$1,000

Rochelle Schmidt, DeSmet School District

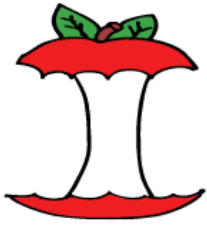
Our school district was in need of a comprehensive ABA Discrete Trial Training program, manipulatives and learning materials to teach skills to children with significant delays or disabilities. In recent years, our school district has seen an increased number of students with autism, cognitive and language disorders requiring direct instruction.

The desired outcome of the project would be to increase academic, cognitive, communication, social and behavior skills with a comprehensive ABA Discrete Trial Training program, manipulatives and learning materials specialized for children with disabilities such as autism, cognitive disability and language disorders.

Success of the program would be measured by monitoring student progress throughout the school year based on progress made toward IEP goals and objectives.



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



# SDEA Retired

## NEA RA Report

SDEA delegates elected by members across South Dakota attended the National Education Association Representative Assembly (NEA RA) in Chicago this July. THE NEA RA is the world’s largest democratic body that meets to debate issues that affect our schools, our students, and our profession.

South Dakota delegates debated a wide variety of issues, respectfully discussed their differences, and deliberated actions that could affect the future of America’s public schools.

The focus of the discussion was on inspiring students; creating nurturing, thriving learning environments; and cultivating the quality and diversity of the education profession.

After focusing on inspiring each

.....  
— continued from page 16

bargaining has evolved in recent years to have a stronger community focus. Many NEA locals and their employers have opened the negotiation process to include community partners and parents, who develop proposals together to gain critical resources for students and schools.

In many communities, educators, parents, and community allies have come together

other, delegates are returning to their communities energized to do the work of continuing to inspire both their students and their colleagues as they return for a new school year.

As Retired members you can support their efforts in a multitude of ways, including volunteering at school, subbing, getting active in a campaign, or simply voting for pro-public education candidates.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

SDEA Retired Socials are beginning with the first at the Belle Joli Winery in Sturgis on September 15th at 11:30 a.m. Bring new members! All that you do is appreciated!

Sioux Falls will hold its first event at the Sioux Falls downtown Public Library on September 13th starting at 11:30 a.m.

Mary Jane Chiles  
SDEA Retired President

## ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

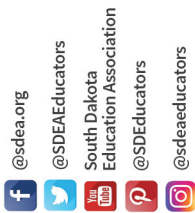
SDEA Retired Staff Liaison:  
Phil Moore 605-222-1920  
Philip.Moore@sdea.org

with the realization that unless they unite to address systemic racism head on, we can never live up to our belief that every student deserves to succeed no matter where they live or how much money their families have.

**LEARN MORE >>**



411 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501  
605-224-9263  
sdea.org



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### September

- 20 Reducing Student Debt webinar @ 6-7 pm CST
- 22 Eastern Prairie Unit meeting
- 23-24 NEA BOD meeting
- 25 SDEA BOD Zoom meeting TBD
- 30-10/1 SDEA BOD meeting

### October

- 9/30-1 SDEA BOD meeting
- 4 Social & Racial Justice webinar @ 6-7 pm CST
- 10 Native American Day (SDEA offices closed)
- 17 Western Unit meeting
- 18 Building Relationships & Meeting Social Emotional Needs webinar @ 6-7 pm CST
- 18 SEE Unit meeting
- 21-23 SDEA's Fall Leadership Conference
- 22 Plains Unit meeting
- 24 EGL Unit meeting

### November

- 1 ESP of the Year Award, Human & Civil Rights Awards and Friend of Ed Award nomination deadline
- 1 Health & Safety webinar @ 6-7 pm CST
- 3 Eastern Prairie Unit meeting
- 11 Veteran's Day (SDEA offices closed)
- 14 Western Unit mtg
- 14-18 American Education Week
- 15 Saving \$ with NEA MB webinar @ 6-7 pm CST