

The Educators'



ADVOCATE

JAN/FEB 2024

Volume 55 | Issue 3



ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

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PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

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SDEA is a state affiliate of the National Education Association



We're here to **MAKE SURE EVERY STUDENT AND EDUCATOR SUCCEEDS**

At the South Dakota Education Association (SDEA), we believe in opportunity for all students and in the power of public education to transform lives and create a more just and equitable society.

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A trusted and valuable benefit

As an NEA member, did you know you receive \$1,000 of term life insurance at **no cost** to you? You're already enrolled in the NEA® Complimentary Life Insurance Plan, but it's a good time to make sure you've selected a beneficiary.

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**Scan the code or go to
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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.



President's Corner

Advocacy for Education: A Holiday Call to Action for Educators

In this holiday season, I want to thank you for your unwavering dedication to the students of South Dakota. Your commitment to providing them with a great education is truly admirable, and I hope you find joy and rest during this well-deserved holiday break.

Please spend your time recharging over the break because we will need your collective focus during the upcoming legislative session. Our schools are the heart of our communities, and it is going to take all of us to ensure they have the funding necessary to give students the opportunities they deserve. Advocating for our students and profession is a shared responsibility that demands our active engagement.

This legislative session is a critical time for educators to get involved and make a lasting impact on the future of education and their profession. By reaching out to legislators, can shape policies that will influence the learning environments of countless students.

Funding education directly impacts the quality of instruction, the availability of support services, and the overall well-being of both educators and students. It's not just about creating an environment where learning can thrive; it's about ensuring that every student has equal access to a high-quality education, regardless of their background or ZIP code.

One issue we must be united on is vouchers. As educators, you know firsthand the challenges that public schools face, and diverting funds away from them can make

those issues worse. Over 90 percent of South Dakota's students attend public schools, making these institutions the bedrock of our education system. School vouchers, which channel public funds to unaccountable private schools, weaken the very foundation that supports the vast majority of our students.

The strength of our advocacy lies in our collective action, with each educator contributing to the chorus of voices advocating for the betterment of our schools. United, we can stand against the empty promises of school vouchers and send a powerful message to lawmakers: prioritize and invest in public education.

Let's commit to taking one action that improves our schools for our students. Reach out to your legislators, share your stories, and remind them of the crucial role education plays in shaping the future. Together, let's ensure that our schools receive the funding they deserve, providing a solid foundation for the growth and success of every student.

Wishing you a restful holiday season filled with joy and the knowledge that your dedication to education is making a difference.

Loren Paul

SDEA President

605-224-9263

loren.paul@sdea.org





A Word from Our NEA Director

Kelsey Lovseth

NEA Director

kelsey.loveseth@gmail.com

The Top 10 Reasons why you should serve as a delegate to the 2024 NEA Representative Assembly.

10 - Celebrate Independence Day in Philadelphia, PA.

The NEA annual meeting will be held July 3–July 7, 2024 in Philadelphia, PA.

9 - There are 13 seats open for the South Dakota Delegation.



NPS photo

8 - All positions are fully funded by SDEA.

7 - It's the world's largest democratic deliberative assembly.

6 - The Representative Assembly adopts the strategic plan and budget, resolutions, the Legislative Program, and other policies of the Association.

5 - Submit New Business Items for the the entire assembly to consider.

4 - The opportunity to visit Independence Hall on America's 248th Birthday.

3 - Build lasting friendships with other South Dakota delegates.

2 - Experience a true sense of belonging. The RA consists of approximately 6,000 educator delegates representing state and local affiliates, student members, retired members, and other segments of the united education profession.

1 - BE the VOICE that will set policy for the National Education Association and advance the interests of public education.

Candidate declarations are due **January 15, 2024**.

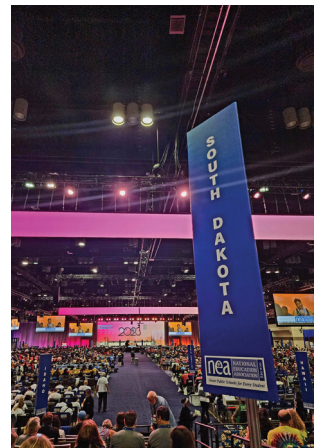
There are 13 seats open for the 2024 NEA RA Delegate election:

All positions are fully funded by SDEA.

Western - Two delegates; Plains - One delegate; EGL - One delegate; Eastern Prairie - Two delegates; SEE - One delegate; One Minority At-Large** delegate; Five At-Large delegates

*** this position represents SDEA's ethnic minority members but is open to any active or active-ESP member*

Note: Please include a 50-word statement of why you are running for delegate to the NEA RA. You may contact SDEA President, Loren Paul at Loren.Paul@sdea.org, or the SDEA Board of Directors' Election Staff Liaison, Anne Plooster at Anne.Plooster@sdea.org.



SDEA/NEA OPPORTUNITIES

GRANT, SCHOLARSHIPS, CAREER

SDEA/NEA
GORDON
HORGEN
SCHOLARSHIP

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 on entering the teaching profession. This scholarship was created by the 2014 Representative Assembly to honor the late Gordon Horgen from Winner.

The Association may annually award up to four \$750 scholarships for each academic year. The scholarships are open to Native American high school seniors or college sophomores who are planning to enter the teaching profession.

Deadline: *February 15*

SDEA/NEA
RAMIA
BOERSMA
SCHOLARSHIP

Ramia Boersma Scholarship

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

Deadline: *February 15*

SDEA/NEA
EDUCATIONAL
INNOVATION
GRANT

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*

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

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!



2024

Bargaining Trainings

Saturday, January 13 | 10 AM–Noon
CT/9–11AM MT

Bargaining 101

(for anyone new to the bargaining process or anyone who just wants a basics refresher)

Virtual (Zoom link will be emailed upon registration.)

Saturday, January 20 | 9:30 AM–2:00
PM MT

Experienced Bargaining

(for those who have bargained before or those who have completed Bargaining 101)

Douglas High School near Rapid City
Lunch will be provided

Saturday January 27 | 9:30 AM–2:00
PM CT

Experienced Bargaining

(for those who have bargained before or those who have completed Bargaining 101)

Choice of Sites:

1. Beresford Public Library
2. Pierre SDEA Headquarters
3. Watertown Country Inn & Suites

Lunch will be provided

Monday, January 29 | 6–8 PM CT

Experienced Bargaining LITE

(just a 2-hour event to hit the highlights)

Brookings Dakota Prairie
Elementary School

Dinner will be provided

Saturday, February 10 | 9:30 AM–2:00
PM CT

Experienced Bargaining

(for those who have bargained before or those who have completed Bargaining 101)

Mitchell Bank West Conference
Room

Lunch will be provided

Saturday, February 17 | 9:30 AM–2:00
PM CT

Experienced Bargaining

(for those who have bargained before or those who have completed Bargaining 101)

Mobridge site TBD

Lunch will be provided



Register here

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

2024 Legislative Preview: Funding, Vouchers and Improving the Board of Education Standards

The 2024 Legislative Session kicks off on Tuesday, January 9. It is an election year so there is no doubt that education will be a hot topic of conversation. Here is a preview of the hot issues educators will want to pay attention to during the next couple of months.



SDEA's Legislative Proposal: Strengthening Education Governance for Educators

The long and contentious debate over social studies standards made it clear that education professionals must take the lead when making the important decisions that impact the day-to-day operation of schools especially the standards that we expect students to meet.

SDEA is working with lawmakers to draft legislation to change the makeup of the Board of Education Standards that would require four out of the seven members of the Board of Education Standards hold or have held a South Dakota certificate for teaching, administration, school counseling, or related fields. This ensures that the majority of the board members possess

the professional expertise necessary to make informed decisions about education standards and accreditation.

The four certificated members should also have recent and relevant experience of working in an accredited school within the past five years. This requirement ensures that board members are well-acquainted with the current realities and challenges faced by educators, students, and administrators in the modern educational landscape.

The remaining three members of the board will be lay individuals, appointed at the discretion of the governor. This recognizes the value of diverse perspectives and allows for input from individuals outside the field of education, but maintains a balance by ensuring that the majority of the board consists of individuals with direct educational experience.

SDEA suggests that the transition to this new composition be realized through attrition. As current board members complete their terms, new members will be appointed following the proposed criteria. This gradual transition allows for a seamless evolution of the board's composition without disruption.

In championing these changes, SDEA envisions a Board of Education Standards that genuinely reflects the insights, challenges, and aspirations of South Dakota's educational professionals. By embedding the board with individuals who have a deep understanding of the complexities of education, we strive to

enhance the decision-making process and, ultimately, contribute to the improvement of education standards and outcomes in the state.

Education Funding and Accountability for Teacher Compensation

During the December Budget Address, Governor Kristi Noem proposed a four percent increase in state aid for public education. This is good news for South Dakota's public schools. SDEA's top priority continues to be making sure that schools have the necessary resources to provide students with the great education they deserve. Starting the upcoming legislative session with a four-percent increase already on the table is a great place to start.

We also look forward to seeing the details of a plan to continue accountability measures aimed at ensuring school boards are maximizing their investments in teachers. SDEA is aware that Secretary Graves is working on legislation to do just that. SDEA shares this goal, however, we do caution that any proposal must avoid forcing schools to choose between cutting vital support for students, such as transportation services, and paying teachers. Give schools the level of funding they need, and they will be able to do both. That's what students deserve.

School Vouchers

Public education advocates expect to once again see legislation to expand school vouchers in South Dakota. Like HB 1234 in 2023 it is anticipated that lawmakers will attempt to divert public dollars to private schools.

Why does SDEA oppose vouchers?

Allowing public dollars to be used for private schools shrinks the funding available for public schools, which serves 90 percent of South Dakota's students. This will lead to increased class sizes, diminished support resources, and an overall decline in the quality of education.

School vouchers will exacerbate educational inequities. Private schools, often recipients of voucher funds, may not be subject to the same standards, regulations, and inclusivity requirements as public schools. This could result in a system where only a select few students have access to high-quality, accountable education, leaving behind those who depend on public schools for their primary source of learning.

SDEA is concerned that school vouchers may disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including students with disabilities and those from rural communities and lower-income families. Public schools, as inclusive institutions, are often better equipped to provide necessary support services and accommodate diverse learning needs.

Governor's Reading Initiative

In her Budget Address, Governor Noem proposed \$6 million for an early learning initiative. Reading is fundamental to a student's success in the classroom and SDEA welcomes any investments in programs that have proven to be successful. SDEA is willing to work with Governor Noem and the South Dakota Department of Education to support schools and educators who choose to embrace this important work.

Follow the news and events from the upcoming session by signing up for Lobby Line. Sign Up link:



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

We Want to Hear from You: Please Complete the SDEA Health and Safety Survey

In almost every school across South Dakota, there seems to be a conversation that is happening again, and again, and again. How safe is the environment that our educators are teaching in every day?

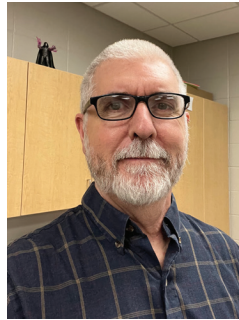


These conversations sometimes cover items like aging infrastructure that still contain asbestos, has grown mold, or cannot properly regulate temperature. At other times, the conversations cover topics like the escalating violent behaviors that are occurring at every grade level of our state. SDEA President Tim Eckart and Watertown Education Association member Steve O'Brien worked together to bring forth a New Business Item to SDEA's 2023 Representative Assembly that directs the next steps for SDEA in understanding the scope of these issues and ultimately implementing legislative, contractual, and professional development supports for our educators around these issues.

Before a problem can be addressed through a solution, it is vital to understand the scope of the problem. SDEA's newly formed Health and Safety Committee has created a five-minute survey to gather initial data around these issues.

"This survey will provide direction to SDEA for the development of a tool kit for our members and locals to use in advocating for better conditions. This is the largest factor in our districts' ability to retain not only new educators, but veterans as well." SDEA Health and Safety Co-Chair, Tim Eckart (Sioux Falls)

Please take our survey, and share it widely among all educators, whether they're a member of SDEA or not. The committee will review the initial data at the end of January.



SDEA Health
and Safety
Co-Chair,
Steve O'Brien
(Watertown)



SDEA Health
and Safety
Co-Chair,
Tim Eckart
(Sioux Falls)

**SDEA
Health and
Safety
Survey**



<https://bit.ly/480iAPp>

SDEA Launches New and Improved Website!

Exciting news! SDEA unveiled its new website in December, offering enhanced resources and information. Members now have access to an exclusive section, accessible with their member ID. Locate your member ID on your membership card or the back of the *Educators' Advocate*. If you need assistance, feel free to contact the SDEA office. Explore the new features and exclusive content tailored for our members! Check us out at [SDEA.org](https://sdea.org)



Three ways to find your member ID to log into [SDEA.org](https://sdea.org)

1. Locate it on your membership card
2. Locate it on your *Educators' Advocate* or *NEA Today Magazine*
3. Contact the SDEA Office: 605-224-9263



SDEA Members Only:

SDEA members can set up an account on [SDEA.org](https://sdea.org)'s new "For Members" page to gain access to information such as the SDEA Board of Director minutes, and Educators Employment Liability (EEL) Program documents. Creating an account also gives you exclusive access to other tools and resources that are created for SDEA members only!



2024 Lobby Day Sign Up

The annual SDEA Lobby Day is back! Join us on Monday, **February 26, 2024**, in Pierre to network with your state lawmakers and fellow Association members in South Dakota's State Capitol. This is a great opportunity to use your educator voice to create positive change for public education in our state.

You will meet with our SDEA Lobby Team on Sunday evening, and then hit the Capitol early on Monday morning! SDEA will cover the cost of your hotel. You will receive a detailed agenda about 7 days before the event along with your hotel information.



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

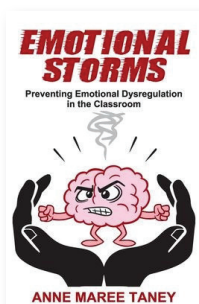


Lisa Weier

Teaching and Learning Coordinator

Lisa.Weier@sdea.org

Book Studies



Jan. 8 – Feb. 16

“Emotional Storms: Preventing Emotional Dysregulation in the Classroom”

by Anne Maree Taney

Are you a teacher who struggles with emotional storms in your classroom?

Do you wonder how this impacts your students’ learning and wellbeing? And what about the impact these storms have on you?

In today’s world, many children struggle to manage their emotions at school, which can negatively affect the learning of others.

But what if you could reduce stress and disruption in the classroom and instead support a calm and connected learning environment?

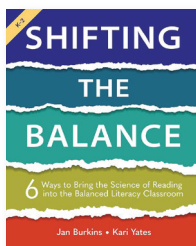
Emotional Storms will increase your knowledge of the various causes of dysregulation. In this easy-to-follow guide, you’ll learn simple, time-efficient prevention strategies you can use in your classroom every day. You will also gain ideas on how to turn the tide if a storm is

imminent and minimize the impact of those that do occur.

Your role in supporting and educating children is vital and inherently stressful, so this must-read book also provides crucial information on self-care and wellbeing.

Teachers aim to change the world by educating young minds, and children learn best when they are ‘safe and social’. Armed with the powerful information in this text, you can connect the two and benefit students today as well as the generations who follow.

This book study can be used for 15 CEUs or 1 graduate credit.



Feb. 20 – Apr. 6

“Shifting the Balance 6 Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the Balanced Literacy Classroom” (K-2)

by Jan Burkins and Kari Yates

This concise and practical guide integrates effective reading strategies from each perspective. Every chapter of Shifting the Balance focuses on one of the six simple

and scientifically sound shifts reading teachers can make to strengthen their approach to early reading instruction in these areas:

- Reading Comprehension
- Phonemic Awareness
- Phonics
- High-Frequency Words
- Cueing Systems
- Text Selection

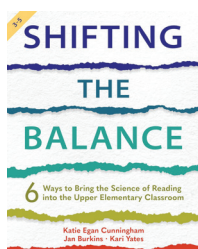
Practical Instruction for Primary Grades:

Whether your students are just learning to read or building more advanced reading comprehension skills, *Shifting the Balance* is designed to help teachers meet the instructional needs of K-2 students.

Six Manageable Shifts: Each chapter focuses on a key shift that helps educators understand common misconceptions and adjust their thinking around some common instructional practices that teachers have been using for decades.

Evidence-Based Instruction: Burkins and Yates offer busy educators a blueprint for integrating findings from brain research, cognitive science, and child development into their daily instruction, while keeping meaningful experiences with books a priority.

This book study can be used for 15 CEUs or 1 graduate credit.



Feb. 20 – Apr. 6

“Shifting the Balance, Grades 3-5: 6 Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the Upper Elementary Classroom”

*by Katie, Cunningham,
Jan Burkins and Kari
Yates*

In this much anticipated follow-up to their groundbreaking book, *Shifting the Balance*:

6 Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the Balanced Literacy Classroom, authors Jan Burkins and Kari Yates, together with co-author Katie Cunningham, extend the conversation in *Shifting the Balance, Grades 3-5: 6 Ways to Bring the Science of Reading into the Upper Elementary Classroom*. This new text is built in mind specifically for grades 3-5 teachers around best practices for the intermediate classroom.

Shifting the Balance, Grades 3-5 introduces six more shifts across individual chapters that:

- Zoom in on a common (but not-as-helpful-as-we-had-hoped) practice to reconsider
- Untangle a number of “misunderstandings” that have likely contributed to the use of the common practice
- Propose a more science-aligned shift to the current practice
- Provide solid scientific research to support the revised practice
- Offer a collection of high-leverage, easy-to-implement instructional routines to support the shift to more brain-friendly instruction

The authors offer a refreshing approach that is respectful, accessible, and practical – grounded in an earnest commitment to building a bridge between research and classroom practice. As with the first *Shifting the Balance*, they aim to keep students at the forefront of reading instruction.

- This book study can be used for 15 CEUs or 1 graduate credit.



To register, please visit the SDEA Bridge website.

Warm regards,

Lisa Weier | Teaching and Learning
Coordinator | Lisa.Weier@sdea.org



Answering Questions About Your Union

Ethics: What Teachers Need to Know

The Basics of the Professional Code of Ethics for Teachers

All teachers in South Dakota are bound by a professional code of ethics set forth through administrative rule 24:08:03. The administrative rule covers **three sections of ethical tenants on the topics of obligations to students, obligations to the public, and obligations to the profession.** These thirty-two ethical obligations range from very specific items, such as covering the use of restraints in the classroom, to items that are broader such as the use of professional judgment when delegating duties. These ethical obligations apply to educators both during their school and personal time.

The section of rule that covers the teacher code of ethics also lays forth a process for individuals to make complaints to the **South Dakota Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission**

and a process for the Commission to review and investigate the complaints that it receives that address a concern in the last three years. The Commission is currently composed of six representatives who are full-time educators and one representative who is a parent of a pupil in an approved twelve-year program of education.

SDEA opposes SD Department of Education Changes

In 2023, the Department of Education proposed changes to administrative rule that would have heavily impacted the Commission and educators:

In fulfilling their obligations to the profession, educators shall report to the Department of Education if they have knowledge, which is not privileged, that another educator has violated the code of ethics.

SDEA opposed the rule change, emphasizing its primary concern—the practical impact on educators. As written, SDEA asserted the rule would require educators to report any supposition or rumor of an educator possibly violating their ethics. The report need not be based on fact but only on suspicion. If an educator failed to do so, they would likely have violated this proposed tenant. SDEA believes that such reports would open numerous



educators to erroneous claims, that even as a claim, could vastly alter and impact their careers.

The Association argued that the current chain of command, where local parties investigate claims brought to local administrators, allows for a thorough investigation and determination on whether a complaint should be brought to the Commission rather than the Commission receiving claims that it does not have the deployed resources to investigate thoroughly. It is important to note that all educators are mandatory reporters on issues that cover abuse and sexual contact between a student and an educator. The proposed rule would not change that, however, it would require educators to report on items such as the way teaching is carried out in their neighboring classrooms, thus pitting educators against educators.

Ultimately, such a setup would disincentivize collaboration and co-teaching practices. Additionally, the proposal, in practice, would have allowed for the anonymous reporting of ethical violations, which would heavily impact the due process rights of our members.

What Happened to the Proposed Rule?

SDEA's opposition to this rule change was steadfast. Despite SDEA's opposition the Professional Practices Commission voted to approve the rule change. However, that was not the final step in the process. The Legislative Rules Committee must review and accept all changes to administrative rules. SDEA once again outlined our opposition to the panel of six legislators and after much debate, the committee vote was tied. However, subsequent opposition testimony broke the tie, and the rules were reverted to the previous step in the process, or back to the SD Dept. of Ed. for more work. This time the vote was four to two. This outcome resulted in the rules undergoing further review and potential modifications

at the administrative department level.

SDEA Commitment to Collaboration

SDEA is committed to working with the SD Dept. of Ed. to find a solution that works for the Department and the educators of South Dakota. Although this proposed change is the most sweeping, the Department has attempted to make changes to the composition of the Commission as recently as last year that would result in fewer teachers on the Commission. SDEA needs all members to stand strong in resisting changes to this process that will hurt our schools and advocate for smart and efficient processes that protect our students and our educators.

Ethics Training Opportunities

Do you want to be better prepared when faced with ethical dilemmas? SDEA offers training opportunities for those who want to take a closer look at the Teacher Code of Ethics. During this session, we will examine 10 scenarios encompassing ethical dilemmas commonly faced in the teaching profession. Our objective is to foster group discussion and explore optimal solutions for each situation. The primary focus will be on enhancing your understanding of ethical problem-solving within the realm of professional responsibilities.

If you or members of your local association are interested this training, visit the QR code to request more information.



<https://bit.ly/484e6Hm>



FEBRUARY 23-25

SPRING

Leadership Educator Conference

Creating Safe and Supportive Schools

WATERTOWN COUNTRY INN AND SUITES



Join us!

SDEA members are invited to make plans to attend a weekend event (Friday evening through Sunday morning) at the Country Inn and Suites in Watertown. Facilitated by SDEA's Leaders for Just Schools Cohort members, we are proud to feature sessions

for cultivating safe and supportive learning environments.

This spring conference is free and open to members only. We encourage your local to bring a team to take advantage of information in all sessions.

Korey Erickson

Leadership Development Coordinator
korey.erickson@sdea.org



Conference Registration

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

Contact a UniServ Director today! 605-224-9263

Shannon Maxon

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SAVE THE DATE

IT'S ABOUT OUR KIDS.
SDEA
South Dakota Education Association

nea NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
Direct Public Schools for Every Student

SUMMER ACADEMY

pre-conference July 14th
July 15-16th

AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY



2024 SUMMER ACADEMY KEYNOTE

Mark Schumacher

With over 15 years of performance experience, Mark is more than just a keynote speaker. His unique background in stand up comedy, combined with his credibility as a teacher, provides a refreshing break from traditional speakers. In 2015, Mark was selected as one of the top 100 comedians in the country and appeared on NBC's Last Comic Standing. A teacher at heart, Mark spent 10 years in the classroom - in three different countries. He understands both the joys and challenges educators face every day. Today, he is invited to speak to teachers and administrators about the importance of relationships in our schools and communities. Since leaving the classroom full-time Mark has delivered his keynote message to tens of thousands of educators across the country.

CALLING ALL
Educators

IT'S ABOUT OUR KIDS.
SDEA
South Dakota Education Association

SDEA members can take online graduate credits courses
(up to nine credits)
for only \$225.

SDEA BRIDGE
Empowering Educators, Innovating, Development & Guidance to Educators
bit.ly/3Pnntdh

South Dakota Education Association (SDEA) has partnered with Augustana University and VESi to offer members a yearly subscription to online graduate courses for \$225 per year. You can enroll in one course per term or two courses during the summer (if you skip fall or spring), for a total of 3 courses per year.



It's hard to believe that it's already 2024! I just got used to writing 2023 on my checks. I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and are ready to get busy again.

SDEA's Lobby Day is Monday, February 26. There will be a brief training at the SDEA office on Sunday, February 25 at 5 pm CST for those who want to drive in early. SDEA will cover the cost of your hotel room based on double occupancy.

As more and more states pass school voucher programs, we can expect that South Dakota legislators will be considering this as well. Vouchers give money to private schools that have no accountability and take it from underfunded public schools. Private schools also have no obligation to meet the needs of students with disabilities. Since active teachers are busy in the classroom this time of year, they rely on us to relay messages about the importance of keeping funds for public schools for them. Please try to join us in Pierre and continue to advocate for South Dakota students and your former colleagues.

If you would like an opportunity to mentor high school students who are planning to become teachers join us in Aberdeen on January 28.

Educator Rising, the future teachers group for high school students, will be hosting their state conference and are looking for judges to critique their lesson plan competitions. SDEA is committed to ensuring that the next generation of educators is ready to fill the shoes of the great teachers who have done so much. It will also be a chance for you to meet up with your former colleagues. The event is being held on the Northern State University Campus. Lunch will be provided. Please contact SDEA-Retired Liaison LouAnn Jensen to sign up or for more information.

Other dates to put on your calendar include the Rapid City/West River Retirement/Pre-Retirement seminar on March 9. Additional locations for Retirement/Pre-Retirement seminars will be announced after the holidays.

The SDEA-Retired annual meeting is scheduled for April 5, followed by the SDEA Representative Assembly on April 5 and 6 in Pierre.

I want to thank you for keeping us informed of any phone number, address, and non-school email address updates. Keeping you informed is important to us.

I look forward to seeing you at as many of these events as you can fit into your schedule.

Mary Jane Chiles
SDEA Retired President

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS


SDEA Retired Staff Liaison:

LouAnn Jensen | 605-220-1688

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Some Signs Aren't This Clear.

Which is why it's important to learn the warning signs of suicide. Educators play an essential role in a student's life and are often the first to notice when mental health problems arise. Encourage your students to express their feelings and teach them that it's okay to ask for help. When you shape healthy minds, you shape a better world.



I MAY NOT
BE HERE
TOMORROW



Note to Self: Prevention is Possible. Find resources at
<https://sdsuicideprevention.org/professionals/school-staff>

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

- 9 1st day of SD Legislature - State of the State
- 11 Eastern Prairie Unit meeting
- 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (SDEA offices closed)
- 15 SDEA Bylaws/ Candidacy declarations due
- 16 Western Unit meeting Zoom @ 5:30pm
- 20-21 Budget Committee meeting
- 22 EGL Unit meeting @ 6pm
- 27 Plains Unit meeting
- 27 Beresford Bargaining Conference
- 27 SDEA Bargaining Conference

February

- 2-3 SDEA BOD meeting
- 15 Gordon Horgen Scholarship deadline
- 15 Ramia Boersma Scholarship deadline
- 17 Budget Committee meeting
- 19 President's Day (SDEA offices closed)
- 23-25 Spring Leadership Conference
- 26 Lobby Day

March

- 1 Read Across America
- 15 Eastern Prairie Unit meeting
- 16 Plains Mini RA
- 19 Western Mini RA
- 25 Veto Day
- 25 EGL Mini RA
- 26 SEE Unit meeting

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