

LVEA TODAY



Joanne Kress 2015-16 LVEA WHO Award Recipient

Joanne Kress from White Oak Elementary is this year's LVEA WHO award recipient and was honored at the Bay Valley ceremony in Universal City on Monday, April 25. WHO stands for "We Honor Ours" and Joanne really exemplifies this distinction. She has been a long-term teacher advocate for her site and LVEA for many years. She is a fierce supporter of teachers' rights and served as the sole rep for her site for many years. She joined our Bargaining Team ten years ago and quickly ascended as one of our top negotiators and most recently as our Bargaining Chair. She also serves on our Executive Board as the Bargaining and Grievance Chairs and has broad influence on many issues. She is very organized and has become a contract expert. She consistently argues on behalf of our members to ensure that their rights are upheld. As a kindergarten teacher, she models exceptional pedagogy that enhances her students' learning environment and serves as an example for new teachers. Joanne combines excellent teaching skills and fiery support for her colleagues. Her contributions have made a substantial impact on our association and district.

High School Members Ask For Climate Survey

LVEA has received many complaints regarding low morale issues at each high school. Our initial discussions suggest some concern with site administration but even more frustration with over recent decisions and top-down directives from the district office. LVEA has decided to conduct a climate survey at Agoura and Calabasas High Schools to get more data – stay tuned for updates!

Aeries.net Discipline Issue

We have received many reports from frustrated secondary teachers that cannot access necessary discipline records for their students on Aeries.net. The District maintains that teachers should now have access to everything they used to see with the exception of sensitive communication streams that are now considered confidential. If you are having any problems with accessing discipline data on your students, please submit a work order through the District's web help desk. Please provide details of the specific data that is needed in your work order.

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Willie Brown Reduced Workload Program

Towards the end of your career, how would you like to work fewer hours and still get full credit towards your STRS retirement pension? Our LVEA contract and Ed Code provide this opportunity and it's called the Willie Brown Reduced Workload program (Ed Code 22713). You must agree to work at least a 50% contract and you'll receive your full benefits contribution!

What's the catch? You only get paid for the contract you work and you (along with the district) still contribute to STRS as if you were a full-time employee.

What's in it for the district since they have to pay your full STRS contribution? The district replaces your reduced workload with a new and less expensive employee, so the district should at least break even.

This is a great opportunity for certificated employees that wish to cut back on their workload, can afford to live on a lower salary, want their full benefits package and want full credit towards their STRS Defined Benefit retirement program.

Here's the LVEA contract excerpt:

11.4 Willie Brown (Ed Code 22713)

Based on the provisions of Education Code 44922, the District may provide a "reduced workload" to certificated unit members who meet the criteria. In order to qualify, the bargaining unit member must:

- be at least 55 years old
- have been employed in a position requiring certification for at least ten (10) years in LVUSD of which the immediately preceding five (5) years were full-time employment

If the bargaining unit member does enter into this program, he/she:

- will work a minimum of a 50% contract;
- will receive health benefits as a full-time employee;
- will have a prorated salary to the portion of the contract worked;
- will pay their own STRS as if they worked a 100% contract;
- will receive STRS payment from the district as if the employee worked 100%

Frequently asked question: If you reduce your workload under this provision, can you return to a 100% contract at a later date? The answer is yes; however, you will not be allowed to enter to this Willie Brown workload reduction program a second time. BTW, the rules are not negotiable since they are part of Ed Code.

For more information, please contact the LVUSD Personnel office (818-878-5214) or LVEA at lasvirgenesea@gmail.com.