

LVEA TODAY



STAR Assessments Suspended for Current School Year!

On October 2, Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill 484 into law. AB 484 was based on Tom Torlakson's recommendation to suspend most STAR assessments for the current school year in order to allow school districts to prepare for and transition to the new California Measurement of Academic Performance and Progress (CMAPP) assessments which are being developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium for administration in the 2014-15 school year.

For the current school year, AB 484 requires districts to administer Science STAR assessments in grades 5, 8, and 10 as well as "field tests" of the Smarter Balanced assessments with half of the students taking

Math and the other half taking English-Language Arts. The field tests allow for the assessment of the accuracy and reliability of test questions before they are administered in 2014-15. No field test scores will be produced or reported for the current year.

AB 484 was written, passed by both houses of the California legislature, and signed into law by Governor Brown despite threats from Arne Duncan to withhold federal funds from the state if it passed. As it stands, Duncan has backed off the threat to a degree and has offered to work with the state on this transition.

We will continue to keep you updated as new information becomes available.

Staff Development

We have been receiving a lot of questions/concerns regarding when staff development is occurring at various sites throughout the district. There seems to be an inordinate amount of staff development occurring during faculty meetings, department meetings, etc. We will be collecting information at our upcoming Exec Board and Rep Council meetings to see how pervasive this issue is across the district. If you have concerns, please talk to your site rep so they can be discussed at the next Rep Council meeting.

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LVEA October Site Visit Schedule (lunch provided!)

- Wed, 10/2 – Sumac ES
- Tues, 10/8 – Mariposa
- Thurs, 10/10 – Chaparral ES
- Mon, 10/14 – AC Stelle MS

The LVEA Office has moved...

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Your Weingarten Rights

You have a right to union representation during an investigatory interview. An investigatory interview occurs if: 1) management questions you to obtain information; and 2) you have a reasonable belief that your answers could be used as a basis for discipline or other adverse action.

You must ask for union representation either at the beginning of, or during, the interview. Management does not have to remind you of this right. If your request is refused and management continues asking questions, you may refuse to answer, but you must remain until management terminates the interview. Your employer may be guilty of an unfair labor practice and charges may be filed.

Health Benefits Open Enrollment

This is a reminder that your health benefits enrollment paperwork is due October 11. If you want a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) for medical benefits, you can choose between PERS Care, PERS Choice, and PERS Select. Both PERS Care and PERS Choice provide a large network of doctors you can access without a referral. PERS Care charges higher monthly premiums than PERS Choice; however, it pays a higher percentage of your medical bills. PERS Select has the lowest monthly PPO premiums; however, its network has approximately half the number of providers available under PERS Choice.

Go to <http://www.anthem.com/ca/calpers> for some great comparison information for the PERS PPO plans. Select “Learn all about the PERS Select, PERS Choice, and PERSCare Plans” to get more specific information about each option. You can also choose between several HMOs for medical benefits. As mentioned in our previous newsletter, dental and vision premiums remain unchanged from 2013.

Important Info re: Workers’ Comp

Over the last few years, LVEA leaders have had to represent several teachers with workers’ comp (WC) issues. Most of the time we are getting called in after the situation has gotten so bad the LVEA member can’t stand it anymore. Please use the following tips to ensure your rights are being protected:

1. You can get YOUR doctor to be your WC doctor. There is a form he/she needs to fill out (available from the district office) that allows him/her to be your primary care giver through the WC process. If you do not have this form filled out PRIOR to your injury, you will be assigned a doctor.
2. Fill out an incident report when you are injured at work. If you don’t do this, you will not be covered by the WC system. Be sure to fill out a report even if you believe the injury is relatively minor. Even seemingly minor injuries can result in major issues down the road.
3. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE overly communicate about what is going on with your treatment, concerns, or questions. Make sure you contact Lori Fitzpatrick in the district office. She is LVUSD’s point person for WC issues. Also, contact LVEA so we know what is going on.
4. When you get a doctor’s note, give it to your principal, give it to the DO, and CHECK to see that they got it. Let LVEA know what is happening as well.
5. When you are taken out of work by a doctor (for an injury, illness, pregnancy, ANYTHING), you must have an “accommodations meeting” upon your return. This meeting MUST occur before you step foot back into work. It is a meeting to discuss the recommendations your doctor has made for you to come back to work. PLEASE contact LVEA when you are about to have one of these meetings.

New laws have been passed for the WC system to benefit the WC insurers- NOT YOU. If you aren’t vocal and aren’t reaching out to LVEA, you will likely fall through the cracks. If you have any WC questions please contact Lori Fitzpatrick in the DO or LVEA.



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