

## Union Notes – December 15, 2020

### Check Out the December [Advocate!](#)

## SDEA Member Training: Disability Accommodations in the Time of Covid-19

Some of us have medical conditions that we've been living and working with for a long time. They didn't affect how we do our jobs. But now, in the time of Covid-19, you might be thinking differently about how that medical condition affects your safety if and when school reopens.

[The CDC has identified certain medical conditions that increase the risk of severe illness from Covid-19.](#) In the time of Covid-19, these and other medical conditions may now be considered qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (at this time, age and smoking are not considered qualifying disabilities under the ADA). Those with qualifying disabilities may be entitled to [reasonable accommodations](#) to be safer at work. Examples of reasonable accommodations might be additional PPE, teleworking, or restructuring your assignment for reduced exposure.

If you think you might qualify for a disability accommodation because of Covid-19, you can learn more about qualifying disabilities and the steps to take to request a disability accommodation at one of these SDEA online trainings:

### **SDEA Member Training: Disability accommodations in the time of Covid-19**

[Wed., Dec. 16, 4:30 - 5:30PM](#)

or

[Thur., Dec. 17, 5 - 6PM](#)

*Capacity is limited, so register early. If there is enough interest, additional training sessions will be scheduled.*

## Classroom Support is Available for all Teachers During Distance Learning

The Peer Review and Enrichment (PREP) program, formerly known as PAR, is completely confidential and tailored to fit the needs of the participating teacher. The Consulting Teachers' support can include lesson planning, technology (Zoom, Jamboard, Pear Deck, Google Classroom, Bitmoji, Canvas, SeeSaw, etc.), and curriculum support (Benchmark, Envision, IM: I-III, ELA-Secondary, PE, SPED, etc.).

For more information please complete the PREP referral Google form [here](#) or contact us directly at: [lallen@sandi.net](mailto:lallen@sandi.net), [knares@sandi.net](mailto:knares@sandi.net), [mmoody@sandi.net](mailto:mmoody@sandi.net). A PREP Consulting Teacher will reach out to you promptly.

## Science Based School Reopening Forum

To learn more about the critical role that comprehensive COVID testing plays in keeping students and staff safe, you can [watch the Science-Based School Reopening Forum](#) that was moderated by SDUSD parents and featured scientists and public health experts as well as SDEA President Kisha Borden. The event included a [presentation by UCSD's Dr. Natasha Martin](#) on "Modeling the Impact of Asymptomatic Testing Strategies in Schools" that answers questions on the critical role of testing when it comes to safely continuing in-person learning during a pandemic.

## Release Time for Transition to New IEP Management System

SDEA has been engaging with the District on finalizing a side letter that will provide case managers with release time from synchronous responsibilities equivalent to the workload increase that has resulted from the transition to the new IEP management system. Until then, principals have been directed to provide release time to case managers as needed. SDUSD Special Education Executive Director Sarah Ott ([sott@sandi.net](mailto:sott@sandi.net)) has requested that SDEA members contact her directly if you have been denied release time by your site administrator.

## SDEA Scholarships

SDEA annually offers scholarships for members and members' dependents. The Dependent Application is for graduating seniors and current college-enrolled students, who are dependents of a current CTA/NEA/SDEA member. The Member Application is for current CTA/NEA/SDEA members who wish to further their education. Applications can be found [here](#) on the SDEA website.

## Employee Notification Workload Grievance

It came to SDEA's attention in late October that the number of mandatory trainings would potentially be increased by 7 hours this school year. The District adopted a new website, SafeSchools, that would house all of the video trainings and send emails to members notifying them of required trainings and due dates. Because this new increased time requirement violated our workload language, SDEA staff filed a workload grievance.

The result of the grievance is that no further video trainings will be required this year beyond the two that have already been assigned in SafeSchools. The remainder of the employee notifications will be a policy review with a sign off. An updated Administrative Circular will be sent to all administrators and updated Employee Instructions will be sent to all employees this week.

