

THE ADVOCATE

SDEA members join nationwide walk-in

Schools in the San Diego Unified School District were among over 800 schools in 31 different cities nationwide to participate in a national day of action to stand up for public education: The Walk In to Reclaim Our Schools. On Feb. 17 teachers, parents and students gathered at various sites, including Oak Park Elementary, Valencia Park Elementary, Euclid Elementary and Clairemont High School to demand less testing, and more time for learning. The media coverage included interviews with parents, teachers and students. It was clear that everyone—parents, teachers and students—agrees that there is too much time spent on testing, and not enough time for actual learning. In addition to the walk-ins, union members at over 50 schools across San Diego wore stickers calling for less testing.

Last year, the SDUSD School Board passed a resolution against high-stakes testing, yet we continue to spend entire weeks on testing and test prep. Union members recently presented the Board with signatures gathered from educators District-wide calling on the Board to follow through with their resolution. Educators call upon the Board to make interim testing optional and stop high-stakes test prep. We know that classroom teachers are best suited to assess our own students based on our professional assessment. This Walk In to Reclaim Our Schools action puts pressure on our School Board to follow through with less testing, but our fight is not done. Testing is not inevitable, and they are starting to listen to us, but if we do not continue to speak up, high-stakes testing will continue. More actions will be planned to let the Board and the District know that we are serious. These tests damage our students, and we need to #ReclaimOurSchools.



SDEA members, parents and students at Oak Park Elem. (top) and Clark MS (above) took a stand for public education as part of the national Walk In to Reclaim Our Schools.



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Letters in Solidarity

Lindsay Burningham
SDEA President



Michelle Sanchez
SDEA Vice President

Fight for funding continues

Can you believe that it has been almost four years since the passage of Proposition 30? During the 2012 election cycle, thousands of SDEA/CTA members and our allies hit the streets, knocked on doors, talked to voters and succeeded in passing Prop. 30.

We have seen a steady increase in funding to education since the proposition's passage, and the Governor's January Budget proposal for 2016-17 again shows an increase. This increase will make our ongoing per pupil funding \$10,591. The increase of funding from Prop. 30 has allowed our schools and District to rebuild after the years of devastating cuts that occurred during the recession. These increases have been used to protect educator jobs and fund SDEA's *Fight for 5!* bargaining priorities, resulting in the restoration of art, music and PE programs, reduced class sizes, more counselors and nurses, and additional planning and professional development time for educators, while making it easier for students to attend a California college.

But even with all of these increases, California still ranks 46th in the nation in per-pupil funding! In the most recent issue of *The California Educator*,

CTA President Eric Heins shared, "We are moving in the right direction, but with Prop. 30 set to expire at the end of 2018, it's critical that we continue our investment in all California students by temporarily extending the tax increase on the wealthiest Californians."

That is why CTA has once again partnered with our coalition partners to work on a ballot measure to extend the tax increase to the wealthiest Californians and ensure spending on education continues to increase to rebuild the schools our students deserve.

Your SDEA Association Reps will be bringing petitions back to your schools following Rep. Council. Please take sign the petition and ask your friends and family members sign so that we can make sure that the initiative ends up on the November ballot. This is the first step in guaranteeing that California students and educators have all the support and resources they need to learn, teach and succeed!

Together We ARE Stronger!

Lindsay Burningham
Lindsay Burningham
SDEA President

Michelle Sanchez
Michelle Sanchez
SDEA Vice President

Member organizers build the union



From left: Armando Catano, SDEA Organizer Abdul Sayid, Vivian Serrano, Steve Mendiola, SDEA Member Organizer Adam Goldstein, Trace Cimins, Jeff Talsky, SDEA Board member Matthew Shneck, SDEA Vice President Michelle Sanchez and SDEA Organizer Tim O'Neil participate in a training as part of the Fair Share Task Force Membership Outreach Day. See full story, page 3.

Fair Share Task Force coming to a school near you!

Members of SDEA's Fair Share Task Force, Board of Directors and Bargaining Team recently had the opportunity to spend a full day getting immersed in membership outreach. They spent the morning getting trained on how to have effective one-on-one conversations with members and non-members about our union, and how to do effective site visits. Then they headed out to school sites in order to put their training into action!

First, they went out in pairs to visit five elementary schools (Paradise Hills, Marshall, Angier, Hamilton, Cherokee Point) and two middle schools (Pershing and Innovation) during lunch to talk to members about the union difference and to answer any questions that came up. Then, the group split up into two bigger teams and visited Morse and Patrick

Henry High Schools for a targeted membership blitz.

Millennial Tech Middle School teacher Patrick Schoettler, one of the day's participants and current member of SDEA's Bargaining Team, said of the day, "It was inspiring to visit sites that I ordinarily would never visit to hear their thoughts about our union and get the chance to educate members about the union difference. Many teachers overlook the benefits and importance of standing strong as a union and it was great to be able to make that connection with them on these visits."

The Fair Share Task Force is going to continue to facilitate trainings and site visits both for the purpose of continuing the important work of member outreach, and to develop the capacity of member organizers



Bargaining Team member Patrick Schoettler talks about the union difference with new SDEA member Laurie Baylon at Millennial Tech Middle School.

like Schoettler and the other participants in our day. We are excited to build on the success of the day as we continue to visit sites and reach out to members about the union difference.

*We focus on you,
so you can focus on them.*

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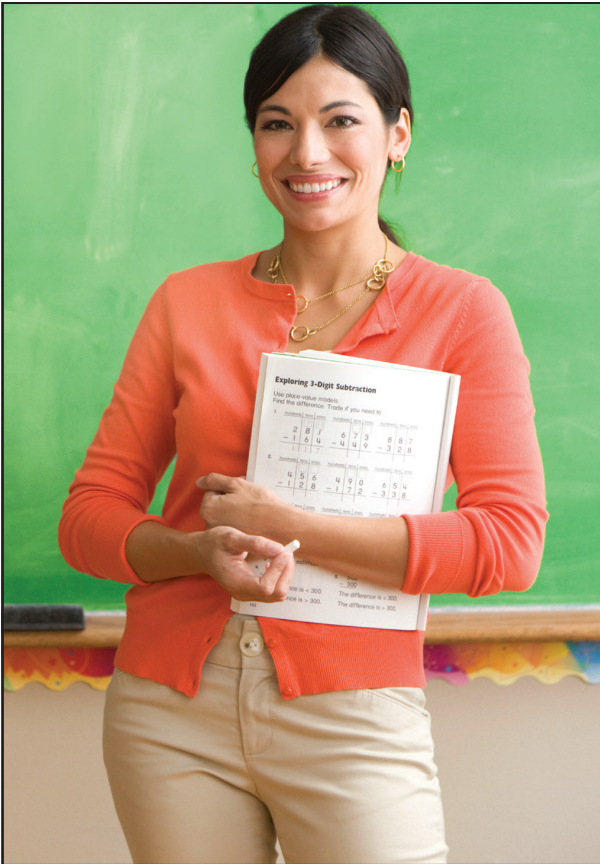
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Apply by 04/30/2016 to Get CTA-Endorsed Disability and Life Insurance

From March 1 through April 30, 2016, San Diego Education Association members have an exclusive opportunity to enroll in the CTA-endorsed Disability and Life Insurance plans provided by Standard Insurance Company (The Standard). Here's how you can learn more about the plans and apply for this important coverage:

- Attend an enrollment meeting (ask your Site Rep for details)
- Visit www.standard.com/cta/sdea

Call The Standard at 800.522.0406 (7:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday — Friday) with questions.

Don't miss this special offer for SDEA members!



For costs and further details of the coverage, including exclusions, any reductions or limitations and the terms under which the policy may be continued in force, please contact Standard Insurance Company at 800-522-0406 (TTY). Standard Insurance Company, 1100 SW Sixth Avenue, Portland, OR 97204
GP190-LTD/S399/CTA.1 GP190-LIFE/S399/CTA3 SI 16480-CTAvol



National Nutrition Month

Do these healthy recipes sound tasty to you?

- Egg Quesadilla
- Fruit and Yogurt Breakfast Parfait
- Pumpkin Spice Muffins
- Spinach and Herb Omelet
- Sweet Potato Pancakes with Toasted Pecans
- Energy Bars
- Angel Hair Pasta with Fresh Roasted Tomatoes, Garlic and Basil
- Brocamole
- Cajun Halibut
- Chicken Satay Salad Wraps
- Quinoa Fried Rice

If they do . . . visit your health plan's website today! It has a variety of recipes to get you started on the right path to healthy eating.

- **Kaiser Members** visit: foodforhealth.kaiserpermanente.org
- **UHC Members** visit: uhc.com/health-and-wellness/healthy-recipes

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