

# TEA Tidbits--March 12, 2021

Dear TEA members,

Do take some time this break to rest and recharge! You have been doing incredible things for students--now take some time to do incredible things for yourself and your families.

# Student and staff safety tools--reporting forms and other updates

TEA has been working with TSD to improve collaboration and two-way communication regarding improving classroom safety and maximizing physical distancing. We have agreed, for example, that merely having three feet of distancing "nose to nose" is not enough--there needs to be room for students to wiggle and stretch and well, be human. So, they understand the need to have more than 3 feet of actual distancing between noses.

TEA has developed, in collaboration with the district, this form to alert district facilities and operations if you have concerns regarding physical distancing in ANY EC-12 classroom:

[https://forms.gle/mhrfBvFHjXaCMo7A7](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/A7GQnnr_XzUYyessq5BiRDS_Pi_ofrzW5eDTNBzepXAOfjK7ZQnEtqDI89DOw6VroSW-XTlVYzT7ce_3AkqY5aNGRXhN-6g7037xcQ6hB1HPF-Dh2oh19zTMXblv0rQCqahl74FOe9FsEea9SnrwWHqxE_D134x-_55xvr_40OtLIRODAMB771fmyUt2VM41wJe2UZnfdzEyN0su70hl3-c66GDzobiU4pipT-82rRUBjF_ly3e8-W_O07Y3VboEpKTb-_kiy1q20fkCBhjNvQ/3a5/uFJ9xIQERPmDIyicdyxw2A/h0/1DamRkEa51kXqd_DB1IC4N8sdLHJM9Qsxd6bvSXjfWA)

You will need to use your TSD email account to access the form. Filling out this form will alert facilities of the issue, and someone will come to your classroom to inspect and work with you to identify solutions.

**Secondary educators:** Over spring break, operations will be walking door to door, auditing every classroom in the district for adequate physical distancing. Any rooms needing attention will be marked somehow (we're still discussing the details). If you want your room paid special attention, make sure you fill out the form above!

Finally, TEA was able to negotiate some flexibility in work time for teachers preparing their rooms for full return. By now, secondary educators should know that if you work an additional day outside of contract between the time full in-person return was announced and March 22 (the first day of full return), you will have the option of not working on May 14. While not ideal, this does represent an acknowledgement on the part of the district that their decision caused additional workload for teachers.

## Introducing: Protecting Our Schools Together (POST) Tool!

We’re facing challenges we never expected and you're rising to the occasion.

Remember you’re not alone. TEA and NEA have recently launched a Protect Our Schools Together (POST) tool that aims to identify health and safety concerns in your workplace.   
  
Here’s a link to the tool you can use or share with your colleagues:

[http://www.thompsoneducationassociation.org/post.html](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/mRshnjzLbfRUAJcmEcvG03xPgN-IGkuQShJp1-DHp7IO-ZdzwMMEryXQf3Jh3Ar1EVLJWHQcCPWEeg8Y6eKqq9yvXTBiUVThmWKFMM1tW9Rs-9qfVbS6HQWagJoUE4wz3wipIB8kIL_Zein7yOB-JpKYByncXEem9ES6nQ09NQGz197_2MtE_6wbDKsTIxCCdi-E_I62PSoTaBiDZN8Y7NRTreqd-L5hkWbwaG1zRj1RokGEGJ1VjB0O93nOVnQKF9LaL4jWZkehaKfXEQOQOYOy_NzO2djLJhjkWUvHmDI/3a5/uFJ9xIQERPmDIyicdyxw2A/h1/xp3m4pmwWfiVA1aJcEq5EOddAuqAaRzqfJD_YxW1LP8)

When you complete the form, you’ll receive a variety of resources that you can use immediately to address your concerns. We’ll also connect with you and other educators to figure out how to best advocate for our schools, our students, and our community.   
  
Together we can ensure the funding, resources, and support we need, and our students deserve.

[http://www.thompsoneducationassociation.org/post.html](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/mRshnjzLbfRUAJcmEcvG03xPgN-IGkuQShJp1-DHp7IO-ZdzwMMEryXQf3Jh3Ar1EVLJWHQcCPWEeg8Y6eKqq7CCUs2qwOm6JBeTpZ18ZaamcRExfFItjoidLfXaU3co6V4ToJwweQJyUDjSXU-tKMq3hc5EpBKExKnWhswbyUuZ8dE8UCCpLxWq77FUsvK9psD6eS-v8t5GFD--wjqjuqQCwqUfYYPJ3pPNuvATvGYwqEC3ple1KDALfT0xZl5dHhXQgNlN7ZXeT5VkVeC82VqvwSEtFdk2yud2WESbt-E/3a5/uFJ9xIQERPmDIyicdyxw2A/h2/kI7rypvbpw6adpS4KYWI6Emk_NA_diSp_a6Hf6HGXeE)

## ESS/SSP Workload Calculator--please fill out!

CEA has put together a task force to develop a workload calculator for Special Educators & Specialized Service Providers (SSPs), including Itinerant Teachers, across the state of Colorado. We are currently gathering data across the state of Colorado to inform planning around the Federal Requirements portion of our workloads. Please provide your district and role; then estimate the average time required to complete the following federally-mandated tasks. Your input will help us to determine the weight of different tasks across the workload of different types of providers and different regions. Thank you for participating!

Click here to access the survey: [Workload Considerations for Educators](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/A7GQnnr_XzUYyessq5BiRO3aJQsFQyl6QV873rzn78Qsqan2VpAUGBFSUqnTaacanaX-Zj3SWiwamRY9WIVXFdE4JpGL0ObhwSh46UKknV28BxUtXzuXQ8u0-OAYOmI87Ei_4-NtHtmtqcTWDd5Pjq_S9_uNFbdm5JUIm95h_7PaBYkLb2RtTYxvfy0TJkTgqJ3CZEoe0gqinsSHWEjqOuF36dCZ7cD1nJ_sUABypPQ_vsj19E3ijR2Q-3DAiqCG2XOL25rW1lx6VbqNI98Wrw/3a5/uFJ9xIQERPmDIyicdyxw2A/h4/VaqVck31aMr4ihuVfI25yLTNuBuoiRQxTpPUxS4cBsA)

# TEA Grant Opportunity!

Dear TEA members,

The TEA Achievement Grant Committee is excited to announce they have received $4,000 for the 3rd and 4th quarters of the 2020-2021 school year, to fund small grants for teachers to ensure their students the best experience possible in these extraordinary times. Funds are to support NON-Tech based activities (see examples below), and you must be a member of TEA to apply. Applications will be reviewed quickly and recipients must commit to executing their project whether students are learning in-person or virtually.  Successful applicants will also be given $28 (the equivalent of one hour of the district extra-hours rate) to honor the time it will take to order materials, plan, and write the required reflection.

These grants will be a one time and mostly first come, first served opportunity so don’t put off getting yours turned in! ***Although you*** **are welcome to *rea*pply if you received a grant last semester, priority will be given to first time applicants**.

There are three categories available:

* General supplies [up to $100] – For example, money can be used to purchase colored pencils, glue sticks, construction paper, etc.
* Social emotional Learning outreach [up to $200] – For example, money can be used for happy snail mail supplies, SEL Read Alouds or little student of the week gifts [NO GIFT CARDS]. Get creative here on how you could help and encourage your students.
* Project based learning [up to $300] – For example, money can be used for supplies for a project kit with a specified outcome or product [e.g. building a cardboard trebuchet; a cooking kit; a PlayDoh modeling kit].

**Steps to apply**:

1. [Read through the online presentation](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDPv3clx2dGXe5ZNSelIENwGFWc6m_1GT31IHObUutgjcHyXBpfoWcgel4Wqia-i8mBnT2k45oLLkLhaAk11i7qaNOLOzmonShItNJhae-zjwMNSj0CHeOoc6KkqxGJCm_Vh2GmgtiNMuC47OZ0C03tH0TLgqKjkxkX5uFkEosFZS5UABOTcFuYlUax_JVOWVH534i6uIw2nW87jt70O7my1ga_KRAZcdgNRELIwqbmJq7yNTXIldGqNxvBa9UpCCRQ3NdGVrii3ADKWuQmiDS5kbelaViaOcG97zFsYW_8ohp_V9ri9Z_TZcyvtIxyAKyu6sRYP_JmB0m7XjUFmAUgPHza7nwE5EkUBMMSmiP3xdC8lSTZAnN0SLuvpvi0UWwNXf7MSMNmSNdyFQHyDgDrnSJE9mHp3-WRQfyFRVewM6IXm92ajcaTtx7hQcQ-MqHv_Cv0nONjYp78mGNv4RYZwsXjLDw8A4SotaZJqyYfHh1-fdqa7eqZilgKPbVH9hQz-o2yV_uogPb_SLp4ZhmcwkKT6xAyflD4wwb_0-K_su/3a5/uFJ9xIQERPmDIyicdyxw2A/h5/F3KY6eZuKSki7w_7WaYg-L9FmIcIaks0JbRKZycVoHs) to understand the parameters of the grant
2. [Complete the budget for your proposal](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDPv3clx2dGXe5ZNSelIENwGFWc6m_1GT31IHObUutgjcI8OkTbVaW_YV-hm1pDKdoYYSaYAej-9dV6kTFGOurRk2xoATz7Jf4OXq-cUVteG8mSKP_17xpd_0xcYgZDKpSS4hFnTKE6GNUHOszi5krLcDHvVXHJU7S8LaLhhAiTo4VAaZUy3sV6L69r78gBNIzgVIAG5vQrSPi5Wcj5OEyB7szgdZozpRy0-CJKjT54WmrsXzaGpEGO5Yvf3sB9rBlnMqcgbUkn1z9RjPd32fWwDgUyg3uNMQg3DnjF2OdpQ06LrL6s2TMBkB3q9m4VOcClPWWyBHzRvWq5OvPbYX8eJUscaj_pxj5yzQ8hXMscSuDzC5_2g8Xep607eqcWXMsBXT5PuZ_YDDE4JEfUtLjg4jO8PFgoGJK9sznBjWV7U1oDdmdES9N3V75gXJC0h9nGwXi7JdIv72CoRtjGHhyoxsBn_raLz7LAYgb8WaBZwxHYByphnVfMPiLbODWY7n77BFufpCTKaWfzR_jB696iY/3a5/uFJ9xIQERPmDIyicdyxw2A/h6/f58bDTUcEAtQmg6w0t_BhUMAqRTRXyaGBpau7cYGBp4) (clicking the link will force you to make a copy; please rename the document with: last name\_budget)
3. [C](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDPv3clx2dGXe5ZNSelIENwGFWc6m_1GT31IHObUutgjcUNtKVHuslGbXBkcaWRfDa3QrrDOnM6RTmtR2wkZf0ngKQFEPIqPPs_Mrj_1k29MGR_qkgA7wKhfiFUo7dfyggJG70eYvB8t12p6o1aOjmOJHqlr9D2PnT7KvdihivZGvbTOzzHrPfEWWeNoroERrUgErf5jI-6mTzwEz1XLQRU5sbNKe8eWaTEo7oIJPbjH_yoLwVNDcy_sH_DDUBFXtcBdLqAmgAPcyWqb_I0kPYul2th7tVHhz10g-LPOTVq6q3NZrzsGyuRRP0XuqtRmS2oCIJer5PRIBih2LxbSbGScrVmVHsvGemLoTE_eoHyZ-4IeHMz9nyYVPoKZQwUQjotiY6ytdV9Y_6oVqp72yTnmsDV-fTKhe-mViGr1JFJRGdUjORTIf-gwSHpsfwHYAf5osBmV2Qc7nmMsTbXmG9TLsBignpFsyWzEfYiYkovwKRJj3q1ptvIEGClYEoxb9MJLe95UGPugE15cTqnxjPqyHhtdztjZfkjWIdB-3p8Y0RuAkYDR1mIywYxDIqsoLoQ/3a5/uFJ9xIQERPmDIyicdyxw2A/h7/szIL7iaMUexOMwB9pWuPfKh-eFE8MqaCs7Y1QJ9afhw)[omplete the online application](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDPv3clx2dGXe5ZNSelIENwGFWc6m_1GT31IHObUutgjcUNtKVHuslGbXBkcaWRfDa3QrrDOnM6RTmtR2wkZf0ngKQFEPIqPPs_Mrj_1k29MGR_qkgA7wKhfiFUo7dfyggJG70eYvB8t12p6o1aOjmOJHqlr9D2PnT7KvdihivZGvbTOzzHrPfEWWeNoroERrUgErf5jI-6mTzwEz1XLQRU5sbNKe8eWaTEo7oIJPbjH_yoLwVNDcy_sH_DDUBFXtcBdLqAmgAPcyWqb_I0kPYumWWTTcqj6S23NR7xhhYQF2o1mCirAozBSn5xAh-AqdUfkXe0rE38e_soXPV14XG8LyQUohQAmHFQiR1aUfhenFheSzbcuHm1Hb2CwN19RP_p6yxS9j-XYolvwlcn_-FJBnfIO2Y9GPg3RE2C9g1zDUlUPLxcFcbhQ2gsONAD6pEX9KxDBahNAGhigsscjkQWQDtK8LqX3Mf7cJAeRfsmanewO-P26O9u8rtK10ceR5jnl2t_1uWceowdROO9gE0rMUYE1ia2xxU40jDIM0qbk2OqdlXbmBQf3tFYOEGSdNqA/3a5/uFJ9xIQERPmDIyicdyxw2A/h8/Dbqrra8zFQy8PugE2w12eBuga-6HXFATcvICyX9POjY) (the application must be completed in one sitting; feel free to preview it to prepare your responses if needed. To add your budget file, choose “My Drive” after clicking “Add File,” then locate your budget document, click on it, and choose “Select”).

General questions should be directed to the TEA Achievement Grant committee chair, Jill Date, at [jill.date@thompsonschools.org](mailto:jill.date@thompsonschools.org).

Questions about the Grant Application itself (technologically speaking) can be directed to Carin Barrett at [carin.barrett@thompsonschools.org](mailto:carin.barrett@thompsonschools.org).

We hope you are as excited as we are about the possibilities this additional funding could bring for Thompson students.

**TEA Achievement Grant Committee**

Carin Barrett, Jill Date, Janelle Joers, Michelle Keenan-Harte, Donna Pabst

**Tuition Reimbursement**

Did you know that, through a program negotiated by TEA, you can be reimbursed for up to $1,000 of your graduate level tuition each year? [Visit here](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/mRshnjzLbfRUAJcmEcvG03xPgN-IGkuQShJp1-DHp7IO-ZdzwMMEryXQf3Jh3Ar1ZGa4jFo1irD73aBqBbNbsjGlt8IySVjk4SHZ2cTuyEVCFxI8HnIoSSUDby0yvxtbCeptP2LzdCJqJbHiqBmrEiyCsazSlvveV9gMcNIv8V-8nSZyq85_Te27z1FF7ozNqY2I-tu2wC7mfR65CA-D-81UBkP0Ie_Em8cfCDziWj6JEd4cQ2GrUwojeLT82G-tGIBygKCdYS_DeWed1PB6NvmaHW9ZyF1TpLPasSfIbQyBldGrvly0iD1fpIz-yXK8YjeQaAsPt3eCU5bVFD4F-dIxV9besMM5J3EIfkQr3nr4I6CXjs624QQncF9OnlWo/3a5/uFJ9xIQERPmDIyicdyxw2A/h9/lL3MIm01IPRQxtn3-BgSgOFf4gcHgBgNdPe9ZGlqH8Y) to learn more details and to see the form. It is due by June 1 of each year.

## Retirement Planning? Read this

Karl Fisch is a retired Colorado math and computer teacher, and he has written [this book](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDPfqdXXuKe9ncCkE8ROuMoGy2mqNweBEU6IRQ3VEsufy4qmpRuM8IBFYfqFotOuJbmopZfDnFOd1-6WiOcNhB1JXr4F7OV3S01QBNfVK54Xn2AHIybsNLFqKVG-gpv_q94FcFZPJg6wg3Q2CCXeTso0fjG6s49SSB4YkP2BDlHe2-FEymRvPb6hJGukJ-orzV1weR9QveeR5HiOtPSjuDvJknr5dmheJew5mq1YFBEKyl7AcskPDrou_apkTK2gz1A/3a5/uFJ9xIQERPmDIyicdyxw2A/h10/QTvXTLgrAzVG_XeW_KNih9XZw6aVjyUYcrNbqK1gj6k) especially about retirement planning for PERA employees. It's free on Kindle if you have a prime membership, and $5 if you don't. I hope it is helpful.

## CEA legislative text updates

With the legislative session starting this week, make sure to sign up for **CEA text alerts**! [https://www.coloradoea.org/sign-up-for-text-alerts-from-cea/](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDJ43VtTsBt821n1lBQUHnZKb0Ml52ife3I0wpsHaGap0M-C3cPekPwJzKF5jp4MIStB8jRdMXc6EQ0wckyts6RT030Msuvks84umUPSj6I5tRfOOnZXNMy2lihF0gWfUGLAysOz-2tGLXKFvCArl1DXqd5FxQWZKBlBZMWdu0B2EgeNxkvPlRP1c2lccKDn1H1Y1gHroXNid_tQm6UQJd7YJCPH6-IHUlzKa09cV1JdzqpWW-Kh5titd31O2L5NJ-mS67JzsOyAQGLZioZJcgU4/3a5/uFJ9xIQERPmDIyicdyxw2A/h11/cIXSJnN5zPMU2xeMhJeCL4WWcEnWFIYl1KDI3qyvork)

One of CEA's biggest immediate priorities is to push for a pause on CMAS testing for this year. There are practical as well as social justice reasons for this.[Here's an article on the racist beginnings of the SAT](nea.org/advocating-for-change/new-from-nea/racist-beginnings-standardized-testing?link_id=14&can_id=047b18ab66ee4249651eba0de142b82a&source=email-tea-tidbits-for-today-102&email_referrer=email_1107281&email_subject=tea-tidbits-for-today) and other standardized testing.

**Solidarity!**

Sincerely,

## https://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/51019/c/147/images/Andy%20professional%20pic.jpg

Andy Crisman

[tea@coloradoea.org](mailto:tea@coloradoea.org)

[h](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/zMhPeRdLSH9QavqI0KIPYbYYEpXzaTr0nk3JMyQs3ilVrsrBEQqvBO3l0oEHcMOHk-k-GpODGKphubHwlaG55IaE1mWCuEVCG8PgK0As4NeQnpuCnY5Ov2B1xVWyjOJ5MpmRrFEYakc3S5izd7Gz1nHx9ZG-QAcK8OYv6P4Omqf7_w8B4pVUrJPgJIF0Yjo-Dfx0Kb4jHFAfZVx48JS41zAiEQo0oWY1iWwbqhXrvIPyQxyTVIelkhvUCM2z3OV0EYJlMaRzKfgKkqkJIWVOYA/3a5/uFJ9xIQERPmDIyicdyxw2A/h12/Esp5kn-121r58Vi9mcsSp830Uyzu2_Y9hl_0qfm--Ak)ttp://thompsoneducationassociation.org