# TEA Tidbits--November 6, 2020

Dear TEA members,

## Sign The CEA Petition extending deadline

Please sign this petition asking the state Board of Education to extend the deadline for K-3 teachers to complete 45 hours of PD in reading instruction by one year. While this is excellent training, requiring districts to pay for, and educators to complete, 45 hours of training during this incredibly busy year represents an impractical ask. [Sign the petition today!](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/read-act-extension/?link_id=0&can_id=047b18ab66ee4249651eba0de142b82a&source=email-tea-tidbits-for-today-89&email_referrer=&email_subject=tea-tidbits-for-today)

## TEA meets with State Board Of Education member Schroeder

Andy and Greg met Thursday with State Board of Education chair Angelika Schroeder, along with educator leaders from all over this congressional district, ahead of their next meeting on November 12. Educators in attendance were passionate about the issues discussed, including the READ Act training requirement discussed above. You were well represented. Mrs. Schroeder expressed interest in making this a regular meeting before each state Board meeting--if any members are interested in attending one of these, please let Andy know.

## PMI forms current on the TEA website

Even if the text above them is outdated. You can access the forms in [this folder](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yHa9tAeU74XplbxtkTZkLb6YfLmSMswT?link_id=1&can_id=047b18ab66ee4249651eba0de142b82a&source=email-tea-tidbits-for-today-89&email_referrer=&email_subject=tea-tidbits-for-today) as well.

## TEA Grants 2020!

The TEA Achievement Grant Committee is proud to announce that the first round of $5,500 in funding has helped support 26 members and many students with supplemental materials to support general supplies, Social Emotional Learning, and Project-Based Learning in our TSD schools. Unfortunately, this round of funding has now been exhausted. The Committee will meet next month to begin reflecting on these 26 grants and discuss how the next round of funding will be offered. Your Association Representative will have more information in January on future TEA Grant opportunities.

Sincerely,

**TEA Achievement Grant Committee**

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

## COVID testing covered by district insurance

Did you know that you can get a COVID test from any network provider, any testing location in the county, for any reason, with or without a doctor's order, and it's 100% covered by our district insurance? If you are concerned at any time, please take advantage of this opportunity.

## Leave Etiquette

As you well know, substitutes are in short supply. While TEA is having conversations with the district regarding procedure and the current district protocols, I would ask you to please **call in your absence as soon as you are aware you will be absent.**This helps the district plan as best it can under the circumstances.

## COVID and school safety

TEA will have a survey out soon on COVID and teacher perceptions of school safety. This will be a separate, dedicated email.

## Snow day survey coming

Many strong opinions were expressed following the district's announcement that they will be exploring alternative snow day options in the future. TEA and the district have collaborated on a survey that will go out soon--look for it from Learning Services. **You will have the opportunity to express support or opposition to remote learning on snow days.**Please also understand that this is a short-term problem because we are short on minutes this year. There is no long-term plan to get rid of the classic snow day.

## Educator presence on social media

With election season approaching, and tensions building around re-opening school, please remember to mind your Ps and Qs on social media. [Here are some good guidelines for you from NEA.](https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/new-from-nea/six-ways-avoid-those-social-media-landmines?link_id=2&can_id=047b18ab66ee4249651eba0de142b82a&source=email-tea-tidbits-for-today-89&email_referrer=&email_subject=tea-tidbits-for-today)The two mistakes I see most often: 1. Teachers who either "friend" students, or post pictures of them; and 2. Teachers who disparage specific colleagues, supervisors, or students/families on social media.

## Politics In The Classroom

The classroom can be a wonderful, safe place to discuss politics, and a great place for students to learn how to research the facts on an issue, consider multiple perspectives, form opinions, and disagree respectfully. In this season, do consider how you set up your lessons, how to establish your classroom culture for discussion, and how you interact personally with the issues. [Here is a helpful article](https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-arizona-risks-failing-its-students-in-trying-to-limit-teachers-speech/?link_id=3&can_id=047b18ab66ee4249651eba0de142b82a&source=email-tea-tidbits-for-today-89&email_referrer=&email_subject=tea-tidbits-for-today) that discusses some possible ways to have these discussions--don't let the title fool you, it's a fairly balanced piece.

**Solidarity!**

Sincerely,

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

Andy Crisman

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