

Salary Changes for 2013-2014

Among all the other news this month, the State Board of Education (SBE) passed on first reading a new minimum salary schedule for 2013-14. REA wants to give you a "heads up" and some basic facts – you can expect more detailed information from TEA this month. Please sign up for TEA updates at www.teateachers.org or "like" REA on Facebook for all the latest information.

- The new minimums are basically in five-year increments as opposed to the current year-by-year figures.
- The new schedule applies to all licensed personnel, without separate minimums for administrators.
- Nothing prohibits local school boards from continuing to pay yearly step increases or exceeding the minimum salaries in other ways.
- The 1.5% teacher salary increase adopted in the state budget is not required to be used as an increase for every teacher. The new schedule is designed to allow flexibility for local school boards in applying the state salary funds.
- The new salary schedule cannot cause a reduction in salary for any teacher currently employed who remains employed in the same district.

See <http://state.tn.us/sbe/2013April.shtml> for other items addressed at the April SBE meeting.



Announcing REA Spring Banquet

The 38th annual REA Spring Banquet to honor retiring teachers will be held on Tuesday, April 30th at 6:00 P.M. at the Doubletree Hotel in Murfreesboro. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased from your faculty representative or at the door. The ticket price includes a delicious meal as well as a great evening of food, fun, fellowship, and camaraderie. Thirty-six REA-member retirees have been invited to attend and be honored at this annual affair. Highlights of the banquet will include the receiving of brass "school" bells by the retirees, the installation of officers for the 2013-2014 school year, and the awarding of the annual REA Scholarship to a Rutherford County high school student who will be pursuing a career as a public school educator. Please make plans now to attend this annual affair! We hope to see all of you!!

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We Want You!

The REA recently elected new officers for the 2013-14 school year. If you would like to be involved in an Association task or activity, please submit your name to President-elect Emily Mitchell (emitchell@comcast.net) or call the REA Office (893-0322) with your nominations.



Follow us on Facebook
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Sandra Muggu
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Rockvale Middle

Dates to Remember

April 23	REA Representative Assembly
April 27	ESP Conference, Nashville
April 30	REA Spring Banquet
May 7	REA Executive Board
May 10-11	TEA Representative Assembly, Nashville
May 21	REA Representative Assembly
June 12-15	TEA Summer Leadership Academy, Franklin
July 1-6	NEA Representative Assembly, Atlanta



Massive Insurance Changes Proposed...

Yes, the rumors are true. Deductibles are going up, coverage is going down, and rates are on the rise. The Insurance Committee will be voting on a new proposal on April 25 and then it will go to the commissioners. The REA is encouraging all teachers to attend the county commission meetings this month and be prepared to speak if necessary.

Here is the meeting schedule for the county commission:

- April 23 - Health & Education Committee
- April 25 - Property Management Committee
- May 4 - Budget & Finance Committee
- May 6 - Steering Committee
- May 7 - Public Works Committee
- May 16 - COMMISSION

Teachers

Things to discuss with students before a field trip... (From TEA's *Success Guide for Educators*)

- Safety rules and student conduct
- Use of cell phones and electronics
- Appropriate dress for students and lunch plans
- Itinerary/schedule
- Provisions for students with physical challenges

Be informed! Make a list of bills to follow on the TN General Assembly website. Sign up for "My Bills" and receive updates on any action taken on bills in your list. Visit <http://www.capitol.tn.gov/legislation/billtracker.html>

Failed Education Bills May Return Next Session

Two big initiatives were proposed during the 108th Tennessee General Assembly: an administrative proposal to create a school voucher program and a so-called parent trigger measure that would allow parents to decide the fate of a struggling school. Both appeared to have momentum, but failed by the end of the session. "I certainly don't think it's dead," Governor Haslam said. "We plan to come back with that same bill next year."