

LVEA TODAY



Financial Crisis - We Need Your Help!

The Coronavirus has pushed our state and federal economies off a financial cliff which means less tax revenue coming into the state and less consequent funding to school districts for 2020-21. We went through this in 2008-2012 and worked collaboratively to achieve no layoffs of permanent staff and no permanent salary decreases. We don't know how long this crisis will last but we do know that the federal government is pumping lots of money into the economy to keep it afloat while they search for a cure to the Coronavirus; however, the federal government has not provided much help to the states. In fact, the majority leader in the U.S. Senate recently commented that some states should consider going bankrupt! Really? This option is incredibly insensitive to the workers of our country and will lead to widespread hardship. We need to convince our federal leaders to provide emergency funding to the states so that essential services, like education, can survive. We need your help!

Call Congress to Encourage the Funding of Public Education

As we all shelter in place and support children remotely, the news about cuts to public education are beginning to grow. CTA and NEA have put a plan together for us to reach out to Congress to increase federal dollars to public education.

The number below connects you to a service that will put you in touch with your member of Congress based on your zip code. The message is simple-Support the Education Stabilization Fund and the increase to the E-Rate program. When you call, you don't have to get into the details of the policy. The staffers simply will note that you are a constituent and that you want your Congress Member to support the bill.

These calls matter! Even though it may feel like it was a very simple and quick call, the members track how many calls they get on an issue and it does impact their thinking on a bill! Please call to help us get some relief!

Phone Number- 1-855-977-1770

A few minutes of your time can make a huge impact on our funding for next year. Thank you for all of your support!

Ask #1- Ask them to support providing at least \$175 billion for the Education Stabilization Fund to distribute to states.

Ask #2- Ask them to support \$2 billion for the E-Rate program to close the homework gap.

LVEA Executive Board

Craig Hochhaus, President
LasVirgenesEA@gmail.com
(805) 402-7347

Brittany Stone, Willow, Vice-President

Ryan Bergstrom, CHS, Treasurer

Catherine Foley, CHS, Corresponding Secretary

Linda Kaplan, Round Meadow, Rec. Secretary

Kristen Marsilio, AHS, SpEd Liaison

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Darci Miller, AEW, Middle School Liaison

Sue Levy, Chaparral, Elementary Liaison

Joanne Kress, White Oak, Bargaining Chair

Jake Anderson, CTA Staff
janderson@cta.org
(818) 309-7206

Las Virgenes Educators Association

100 E Thousand Oaks Blvd, #145
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
(P) (805) 497-8220
(W) www.lveateachers.com

Elections for LVEA Executive Board members

This spring, LVEA will hold an election for Vice-President and Treasurer. The nomination period is now open and shall remain open for no less than 14 days. Please let LVEA know if you are interested in running for one of these two offices by sending an email to lasvirgenesea@gmail.com.

Grading: Credit/No Credit

At Tuesday's Board meeting, our Board approved a Credit/No Credit component to this spring's report cards for all students. It was the culmination of a month-long collaborative discussion that included District Cabinet and certificated employees, including your LVEA site reps and Executive Board. LVUSD has a unique learning community that needs a comprehensive solution of how to calculate and report grades since instruction was abruptly shifted from classroom to distance learning. With all of the challenges of extending instruction via distance learning, our employees have all done an amazing job of staying focused on what's important - providing the best possible education for your students! Here are the highlights from the Board Resolution:

Elementary: At the conclusion of this trimester, teachers for grades TK-5 will provide feedback on distance learning in the comment section of the report card, as well as goals that will help support students in their academic progress. The "1", "2", or "3" academic indicators will not be used on the spring 2020 standards-based report card.

Secondary: Teachers will continue grading assuming an A-F system for all students. Students and their parents/guardians will be given the opportunity to convert a spring 2020 semester course grade of "A" through "D" to a final mark of "Credit." And a semester course grade of "F" to a final mark of "No Credit." This option will be available for any or all courses for the spring 2020 semester, and the window for students opting for these changes will be June 10-30, 2020. Teachers will not have to make any grade changes to "Credit" or "No Credit" because of this policy.

Concurrent Enrollment: Is LVUSD Getting Out of the World Languages business?

Agoura and Calabasas High Schools are losing 17 World Languages sections next school year and the total number of sections will be about half what it was just five years ago. LVEA has been concerned for years about the opportunity our Board Policy provides for students to take World Languages and other courses at any one of the pay-for-an-"A" institutions that are available, mostly on-line. While there are some no-charge charter options, most of these organizations are more readily available to our families with more financial means, and this has created a real equity issue. Yes, our World Languages courses are rigorous; however, our families (especially those with more financial resources) are skirting the traditional path by taking a much easier, guaranteed "A" path. What's worse is these courses are embedded in our transcripts and inflating students' LVUSD GPAs. LVEA strongly urges our district to stop allowing these outside, easy courses that diminish the integrity of our transcripts. They are the antithesis of persistence and grit!

Increasing Your Salary Column

Along with years of service, you can increase your yearly salary by completing graduate level courses and/or obtaining an advanced degree; however, shifting to a new salary column is not automatic. On April 23, Sherry Sonne sent everyone an "Intent To Change Salary Classification" email with an attached form that needs to be completed if you want to shift your salary column to the right and increase your income for next school year. If you are planning to or have taken classes and think you may change salary columns for the 2020-21 school year, you need to fill out and submit the form to Sherry by June 1, 2020. Your salary will be enhanced during the summer when the district receives your official transcripts and intent form. The deadline to turn in your official transcripts is October 1, 2020.

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