

The LMEA

Apple Core



The officers publish the Apple Core for LMEA members

February 2021

Employee Assistance Program

Even in a normal year, winter is a good time to remind people that one of the features of our health care plan is the Employee Assistance Program, Health Advocate. This program provides help with Personal, Family/Relationships, Legal, and/or Financial concerns you may be dealing with. Below is a link to a video you can watch with more information, and another link you can follow as well.

UTILIZATION OF THE EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS ANONYMOUS AND FREE OF CHARGE TO ALL LMSD STAFF AND IS AVAILABLE 24/7/365 BY CALLING 1-877-240-6863.

Link to video: <http://healthadvocate.com/video/membereap.html>

Link for info: <https://members.healthadvocate.com/Account/OrganizationSearch>

Testing Update & The COVID Website

Last week we received an email from Megan Shafer with updates on the progress of the ACE-IT testing program, which has been a success. This program is an important element of a comprehensive defense against virus transmission, and we encourage you to take advantage of it. It's easy to register and sign up and efficiently run. For those of you who hesitate to participate because you don't want to be sent home, the district will provide paid leave if you need to submit to a second verification test after a positive result, and will provide work-from-home options during isolation/quarantine periods that result from LMSD rapid testing.

Important Dates in the Contract

April 1, 2021—applications/paperwork for sabbaticals beginning in fall 2021

May 1, 2021—applications for retraining/study leave

May 1, 2021—deadline for using all but one of your IEP days

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Standardized Testing?

Recently, PSEA President Rich Askey issued a communication regarding federal standardized testing requirements. He's asking us to contact our government representatives and help him articulate the PSEA's position that this is no time to give students standardized tests, and that they should be eliminated for this year. The text of his statement is below:

Pennsylvania's students and educators are facing enough challenges right now, and this is no time to force students to take standardized tests. That's why it is so important to encourage members of Congress to tell the U.S. Department of Education to waive federally required standardized tests for Pennsylvania's students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contact your U.S. senators and representative today and tell them how important it is for the U.S. Department of Education to waive federally required standardized tests.

Here's what you need to know

- Meeting the challenges of teaching and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic is hard enough without forcing students to take standardized tests.
- Right now, it is extremely difficult to administer standardized tests in a way that is safe, equitable, and fair for every student.
- Pennsylvania needs the flexibility to do what is right for our students this year through a federal assessment waiver.
- The U.S. Department of Education has the authority to waive federally required standardized tests during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contact your U.S. senators and representative today

Pennsylvania's students and educators are working very hard to teach and learn as we're confronting the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, it's important that we focus on educating students – and promoting their overall well-being – not creating even more anxiety with standardized testing.

Contact your U.S. senators and representative today and tell them how important it is for the U.S. Department of Education to waive federally required standardized tests.

Rich Askey
PSEA President