

Legislation: SB1133 the Quality Education Investment Act provides funds to reduce class size to average of 25 to 1 in grades 4-12 at eligible schools and provide a credentialed counselor for every 300 students in eligible high schools.

SB1209 is new legislation that goes into effect January 2007. Any teacher who holds a professional clear credential (which has to be renewed every five years) will only have to pay the fee to renew. The 150 clock hour requirement to renew has been **eliminated**.

Paycheck Changes: On January 1, 2007 Business Tools for Schools (BTS) will replace LAUSD's current payroll and time-reporting systems. Certificated employees will be paid once a month on the fifth day of the month. Full-time, 10, 11 or 12 month employees' annual salaries will be divided into twelve equal monthly payments. Employees who currently receive thirteen checks in a calendar year will receive a slightly higher amount (annual pay divided into 12 instead of 13). Employees who currently receive twelve checks should not see a change in the amount received. Go to www.lausd.net/bts for the 2007 payroll calendar.

Paycheck Problems: There have been multiple problems with the new system. All auxiliary and professional experts payments were not made. Many Adult and Substitutes teachers were not paid all of their salary. Teachers with multiple assignments had UTLA dues deducted for each assignment (district will automatically refund). There were teachers as well as entire schools that didn't receive a check at all! The district will issue emergency checks to those who have not been paid. Call the employee Helpdesk at (213)241-6655, email at btspayroll@lausd.net and/or go in person (if unpaid) to Beaudry Headquarters and wait for an emergency check. Please send copies of your emails to Judith Bruner at jbruner@utla.net.

CTA Scholarships: applications are being accepted for the 2007. There are CTA Scholarships for members, dependent Children and Student CTA (SCTA). Five \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to CTA members. Twenty-five \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to dependent children of CTA members. Three \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded to SCTA members. The 2007 CTA Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Education Awards is celebrating its sixth year. This is an art and essay competition designed to provide recognition for teams of students and teachers who demonstrate an understanding of the vision and guiding principles by which Chavez lived his life. Prizes include \$500 savings bond for the student and \$500 for the CTA member. Group entries will share the award. For application forms and additional information go to (www.cta.org).

Assessment Taskforce: The details of the agreement reached has been published in the September addition of the United Teacher Newspaper. There are two official Memorandums associated with this agreement. Mem-2554 which outlines the purpose and appropriate use of periodic assessments and Mem-3275.0 which outlines the changes to the periodic assessment schedule in language arts and mathematics. Call or email if you need assistance in getting a copy.

District Reading Programs: Carol Fujita has been named the new director of the Elementary District Reading Programs. The stipends from the Governors Initiative will be one week late due to a processing error. All 4/5 teachers, Special Education teachers, Coaches and Course repeaters will be paid the usual \$100.00 per day. The tenths rate is for K-3 teachers only. There will be training for substitutes in November.

Daily Schedules: If your site has been given daily schedules that outline minute by minute instruction please fax them to me immediately. These schedules are not "best practices" and are totally unrealistic.

Minimum Day Schedules: If your site has implemented a new minimum day schedule that excludes recess and/or lunch please contact me. Sites are reporting some very strange schedules that are not contractual.

Use of Assessments: Assessments are not to be posted with teacher or student identification. They are also, not to be used to evaluate teachers. If this is happening at your site please email, fax or call me.

School Based Management (SBM) & Los Angeles Educational Alliance for Restructuring Now (LEARN): The Local District Superintendent must receive addendum and waivers for 2006-07 by Friday, May 19, 2006 to begin implementation on July 1, 2006. All **waivers** expire June 30th each year. The "LEARN plan" and the "SBM plan" are included in the school's **Single Plan for Student Achievement**. Waivers must be approved by the Local District Superintendent and UTLA. *Chapters may fax, email or call UTLA for a waiver request form or to receive additional information.*

California Left Behind: The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2005, ranks California 44th in math at both 4th grade and 8th grade. It ranks 48th in reading at 4th grade and 49th in reading at 8th grade. California also ranks below all but one state (Mississippi) in sending high school seniors to four-year colleges. California's seniors are **half** as likely to enroll in four year colleges as seniors than in New York and Massachusetts. The National average of per-pupil expenditures is \$8,041. California's average in majority white schools is \$7,268 and in segregated minority schools is \$6,634. If you would like a copy of this report call or email the request to me.

Elementary Negotiation Demands: An increase in salary and maintenance of health care benefits were the two top priorities identified by elementary sites. Class size, Assessments & Pacing, Staff selection, Discipline Code, Excessive Paperwork, Professional Development and Control over School Site budgets were also top issues for elementary members. See the UT or visit our web site for details.