

actionLine

MARYLAND STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION • NEA

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 7

Increase in state aid to Maryland schools
and students since 2002

85%

Number of Maryland school systems where
reading and math scores rose since 2002

24 of 24

Maryland's national ranking on AP tests

#2

First year that students must pass Maryland's
High School Assessments to graduate

2009

Year when all Maryland students must be
proficient in reading, math and science under NCLB

2014

**It's worth the fight.
Funding matters.**

ATTENTION

MSTA

MEMBERS

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Sat – 11:00a.m.-3:00p.m., E.T.

8 Funding matters.

The big hurdle this year for educators? Funding. Since Thornton legislation passed in 2002, Maryland's students have made terrific progress, but challenges remain. To continue the progress, MSTA and other education advocates must help secure funding. And that's worth the fight.

It's worth the fight.

6 This month in StartingLine ...

Take advantage of great summer discounts from MSTA! • NEA taps MSTA's Radical Readers Contest as the top middle school Read Across America program. • MSTA's Election 2008 results • Maryland Latino Education Summit draws crowd



Laura Groo's Southern MS (Anne Arundel County) 6th graders celebrate winning classmate Rebecca Rothhaas and MSTA's award-winning Radical Readers Contest.

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Funding is critical first step in creating great public schools



Despite a weakened economy and reduced state revenues, public education was one of the few areas of the budget that escaped virtually unscathed.

MSTA MEMBERS CAN LOOK BACK ON THE JUST-CONCLUDED General Assembly session and let out a collective sigh of relief that what might have happened, didn't.

Our advocacy efforts not only prevented many bad bills from passing, our top priority—adequate funding for students and schools—remained intact. Despite a weakened economy and reduced state revenues, public education was one of the few areas of the budget that escaped virtually unscathed. For that, we should feel proud—and fortunate.

With more fiscal challenges looming on the horizon, we must look for other sources of state and local revenue to make sure the historic investments that began in 2002 with Thornton continue. Your Association is supporting passage of the November referendum, which dedicates half of future slots revenues to an Education Trust Fund. The Fund will help build and renovate schools, reduce class sizes, and replace outdated textbooks and materials.

We'll talk more about that later. Let's first take stock of what we have been able to accomplish with the help of Thornton funding, which has almost doubled the amount the state spends on public schools since it went into effect:

- Maryland was recently ranked the #3 school system in the nation by *Education Week*.
- Reading and math scores have gone up in all 24 districts since 2002.
- Maryland leads the U.S. in improving 8th grade students' math performance and ranks #2 in the College Board's Middle States Region in SAT scores.
- We are #2 in the country on students who get a grade of "3" or above on AP tests, and since 2002, African-American and Hispanic students have seen their AP scores improve by 129 percent and 137 percent, respectively.

Many more success stories could be told at the state, county, school building, and classroom level. Yet we've still got a long way to go to create Great Public Schools for Every Child in Maryland. We need to work even harder and in closer cooperation with parents, communities, and state and local officials to close those achievement gaps holding back large portions of our diverse student population.

Stay tuned for more information in the months ahead about the state and local fiscal situation and how your Association is working to provide you with the tools and training you need to reach every student you serve. For now, I want every one of you to pat yourself on the back for what you have accomplished this past year and enjoy a great summer with your friends and family!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Write Clara:

MSTA, 140 Main Street,
Annapolis, MD 21401
cfloyd@mstanea.org

Update: Spring RA

MSTA welcomed 283 delegates from across the state to take part in the Association's 2008 Spring Representative Assembly (RA) held last month in College Park. The focus of the spring meeting, held every two years, was to approve the budget and discuss and debate issues on the agenda.

2008 Spring RA Action:

- Delegates approved the Association's two-year budget.
- Delegates elected Gary Brennan, Frederick County, as NEA Director to complete an unexpired term (through July 2010) left vacant due to a resignation.

Diana Saquella, MSTA chief lobbyist, and Joel Packer, NEA Education Policy and Practice, offered delegates an update on the federal, state and local fiscal situations and the impact of budget cuts at each level on schools.

MSTA President Clara Floyd presided over the assembly. "It's always a joy to come together as an Association and find our way to consensus," she said. "I was pleased to see so many delegates interested and involved in the business of MSTA share their opinions and expectations."

Look for *MemberVoices* in each issue of *ActionLine*! We'll be asking questions of MSTA members all over the state and sharing their answers with you!

How does your school promote family/school connections?



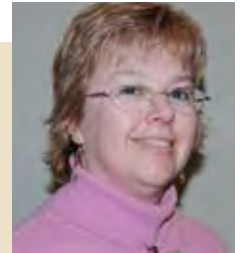
RODERICK FREEMAN
Instructional assistant
Chestertown MS
Member 7 years
Kent County

Promote Partnerships

We have the local PTA and after-school extended day. We also have the Judy Center, which is pre-K and K, and they promote partnerships within the community. With the Judy Center, we have more families than ever at school events.

Parent Involvement

We have a parent involvement committee, a strong PTA, and a lot of parents who volunteer. We also have Muffins for Moms, Doughnuts for Dads, Grandparents' Day, Field Day, Math Night and Reading Night. We are always inviting parents to come to school and help out.



WENDY SYLVESTRI
Instructional assistant
Warwick ES
Member 8 years
Dorchester County



MARY CHRISTOPHER
Instructional assistant
Denton ES
Member 6 years
Caroline County

Volunteer Activity

Through the PTA, we have a reading program, movie nights, and the Harvest Festival—our biggest fundraiser. Our volunteer activity is improving all the time. It really makes me feel good to see dads coming in. For them to take off and come in speaks volumes.

Email

We encourage parents to use email to keep in contact. A lot of parents work all day and don't have the opportunity to come in on their own, but now they can email teachers and counselors to communicate.



DORSEY DAESCHNER
Guidance counselor
Kenwood HS
Member 24 years
Baltimore County



PATRICK DAMON
Kindergarten teacher
Dennett Road ES
Member 5 years
Garrett County

Strong PTO

We have a lot of families active in our school, and our goal this year is to strengthen our school PTO. This year we met as a county, and as a school, to design a strategic plan for incorporating and involving more parents into the whole operation of our building.

StartingLine

NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW

MSTA Election 2008: Results

New BOD members prepare for terms

This summer, MSTA welcomes new Board of Directors members Terry Borneman, treasurer (Carroll), and Cheryl Bost (Baltimore), Sidney Hankerson (Somerset), and reelected members Steve Brako (Frederick) and Steve Yeash (Allegany). Gary Brennan (Frederick) was elected as a new NEA Director in a special election at the 2008 Spring Representative Assembly. At MSTA's Convention 2008, Set Sail with MSTA!, delegates will elect a new Board member to fill the vacant ethnic minority seat. (MSTA bylaws require that minority representation on MSTA's Board of Directors equal the percentage of minority membership in MSTA.)

Visit MSTA OnLine, www.mstanea.org for more information, including vote counts and a list of the elected delegates to the NEA Convention in July.

La primera cumbre enfocada en el éxito de los estudiantes latinos en Maryland unió profesores, estudiantes, oficiales y la comunidad latina



Montgomery County Education Association members Jamie Hathaway, left, an ESOL teacher, and Matilde Vallejos, right, a pupil personnel worker, discuss how to serve the county's growing Latino community, with President Clara Floyd.

The University of Maryland hosted the first ever Maryland Latino Education Policy Summit this spring, bringing together leaders, legislators, policy makers, educators, students, parents and community organizations to discuss Latina/o educational policy issues.

"As Latinos, there is a sense of isolation among us, and the Summit brought everyone together to get inspired, recharged, and to identify our next steps," said Matilde Vallejos, a pupil personnel worker in Montgomery County. "The message was clear that Latinos are considered an important component of our American fabric."

Member Benefits: Don't miss these great deals for summer fun!

Win a dream vacation! Register anytime this month on NEA's Member Benefits website to win a \$1,800 gift certificate toward a cruise, vacation package, or all-inclusive resort* for you and another adult at your choice of hundreds of destinations in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Bahamas or Caribbean Islands. Visit www.neamb.com, look for the Free Giveaways link, and register today! *Some restrictions may apply.



"Bodily exercise, when compulsory, does no harm to the body; but knowledge which is acquired under compulsion obtains no hold on the mind."

PLATO (427 B.C. - 347 B.C.)

Access savings update: Save now. Travel later.

Using your Access card is like having your own personal travel agent! With Access, you can plan—and save on—every detail of your summer vacation, from getting there to enjoying yourself *while* you're there.

Just visit *MSTA OnLine*, www.mstanea.org and save BIG on hotel stays, airline tickets, cruises, travel packages and more. To book your savings online, click the Hotel & Travel Services link. The booking engine makes it easier than ever to find the best rates no matter where you're headed.

When you get there, Access helps you get the most out of your stay. Between your favorite restaurants and local hot spots, you can eat, shop and play—all at up to 50% off! Add in discounts to some of the world's best theme parks like Disney World, Sea World and Busch Gardens, and you've got enough entertainment savings to fill any summer vacation.

Middle schoolers enjoy a good read ...or 10!

NEA recently tapped MSTAs Radical Readers Contest as the top middle school Read Across America program in the nation. The contest boosts reading and literacy for the 'tween set in a contest, requiring students to read, then write about 10 books and submit their work for a statewide drawing.

"Our class was inspired by all the enthusiasm for reading we felt at the award presentation," said Carroll County member Linda Snead. "Thanks to MSTAs and Staples for motivating kids to read."

Lucky winners Rebecca Rothhaas of Laura Groo's 6th grade class at Southern MS (Anne Arundel), Zachary Molin of Snead's 6th grade class at Sykesville MS (Carroll), and Kiran Kaur of Joe Sbordone's 7th grade class at Milton Somers MS (Charles), received a laptop computer (compliments of Staples), a trip for their entire classes and teachers to Bancker Douglas Museum in Annapolis, and a giant pizza party! MSTAs members can see the students in MSTAs upcoming literacy video, "What's So Radical About Reading"?



Laura Groo's Southern MS (Anne Arundel County) 6th graders celebrate winning classmate Rebecca Rothhaas and MSTAs award-winning Radical Readers Contest.

by the numbers

It's time for a good book!

Ever wonder what that person next to you is reading? Is it a romance or graphic novel? See how the top picks for both genders line up for summertime reading whether it's on the beach or the back porch!

Top five categories of fiction books read by gender

MEN

1	Mystery, Thriller, Crime
2	Science fiction
3	Other fiction
4	Literature
5	Graphic novels

WOMEN

1	Mystery, Thriller, Crime
2	Romance
3	Literature
4	Science fiction
5	Other fiction

Source: The Harris Poll® #37, April 7, 2008

on the web www.mstanea.org

➔ **Need a good book!**
Summer reading lists for (mostly) adult summer reading

Laura Bush's family favorites include lists for young children through adults.

www.whitehouse.gov/firstlady/initiatives/familyfavorites.html

Featured on NPR and noted by the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Village Voice*, The Millions covers books, arts, and culture. Check out the book review index.

www.themillionsblog.com

The American Library Association has lists of recommended reading for all ages. Check out the "I Love Libraries!" link designed especially for people who love libraries and books.

www.ala.org

One person's list of bests inspired by a high school teacher's *Recommended Reading List for the Well Educated Adult*.

www.listsofbests.com/list/2366

EDUCATION COMES OUT WINNER IN A YEAR OF DRASTIC BUDGET CUTS

It wasn't easy, but public school funding held its own as legislators struggled to balance a budget hit hard by revenue shortfalls and a looming recession. Legislators listened to your protests, shutting down notoriously bad bills and passing others that MSTA gave an unequivocal thumbs up.

The big hurdle this year for educators was the funding issue. Since Thornton legislation passed in 2002, Maryland's students have made terrific progress: Public school test scores are up in all 24 districts. Maryland leads the U.S. in improving 8th grade students' math performance. The number of African-American and Hispanic students scoring "3" or higher on AP exams has risen 129 and 132 percent, respectively. And Maryland now ranks among the top 10 states in providing prekindergarten to four-year-olds.

Continuing that progress is the priority of MSTA and other education advocates, but securing the funding needed to do so has been, and will continue to be, a tough challenge.

THE FALL SPECIAL SESSION

Let's rewind to the November 2007 Special Session called by Governor O'Malley to address the state's "structural deficit". For those of us less inclined to insider jargon, a structural deficit means state revenues continually fall short of state spending on education and other priorities. In other words, the state keeps finding its bank account short when it comes time to pay the bills.

What happened during the Special Session? With the Governor and legislators constitutionally required to balance the budget, they compromised on a three-part solution: increasing revenues through a package of \$1.3 billion in tax reforms, \$500 million in budget cuts, and a referendum allowing 15,000 slot machines in five selected Maryland locations (See opposite page).

Thanks to the activism of MSTA members as part of our Great Public Schools for Every Child campaign, public education funding was, for the most part, protected. Legislators provided at least minimal increases to school districts. MSTA members rallied successfully against a bill that had gained the serious attention of legislators for counties to share the cost of retirement benefits, which if passed, would have strained county budgets.

THE 2008 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By the time the 2008 General Assembly reconvened in January, legislators were already on the defensive over the bitter medicine of tax hikes and budget cuts. By March, the state's earlier revenue estimates, upon which the budget was based, were off by \$333 million, thanks to the economic slowdown affecting Maryland and the entire country. With further tax increases off the table, more budget cuts would be needed, and attention fell on all areas of government spending, including, again, public education.

Concerned that the progress made with Thornton funds would be jeopardized, MSTA, Local Associations, and members once again stepped up lobbying efforts using the Great Public Schools message. In emails, phone calls, letters and visits, legislators heard how student achievement and school quality had improved since the historic funding increases began and how, with aging facilities, growth related to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), looming *No Child*

Left Behind mandates and Maryland's own high school assessments, the state could ill-afford cuts to the education budget.

This year, public education was spared the budget ax, one of the few areas that emerged intact. In fact, school districts even received an additional \$327 million for school construction, and those with a higher cost of educating students received an additional \$76 million in first-time funding of the long-sought Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI, a component of the Thornton bill). *(See box below right for more funding information.)*

All told, legislators have trimmed \$1.1 billion from the state's budget since August 2007. Now, the economy is approaching a recession, gas prices are sky-high, home foreclosures are up, and according to the Maryland Budget and Tax Institute, the state can expect shortfalls estimated at \$243 million in 2010 and \$596 million in 2011. Even though public education was spared draconian cuts this year, there are no easy fixes on the table to avoid future budget shortfalls.

THE 800-POUND GORILLA

With no major prospects for additional revenues, and the state's most recent revenue projections offering little relief, MSTA is working hard to explain to members and the public why passage of the November slots referendum is needed for students and public education. Although not sufficient to close the deficit, the funding provided by the referendum is the only viable revenue alternative currently available.

The referendum provides Maryland with an additional source of funding beyond the Thornton formula, beginning in early 2009 with \$90 million in licensing fees. It also establishes an Education Trust Fund and dedicates half of the future proceeds to our public schools.

Failure to pass the referendum would leave students, teachers and support staff with larger classes, outdated facilities and textbooks, and shortages of materials, and leave school systems with fewer resources to recruit and retain the best teachers and staff.

"MSTA members know how Thornton funding has helped them in their work to raise student achievement. We can't pull back now," said Maryland General Assembly Senate President Mike Miller. "We're very pleased that MSTA will be working with us to pass the referendum to secure a funding source that will help us continue the progress our kids are making. We have another rough couple of years ahead. The support of MSTA is essential."

Q&A: The Slots Referendum

Why does MSTA support passage of the slots referendum?

Because of Maryland's fiscal woes, students, educators and schools will face serious cutbacks if the referendum fails. Although this is not the ideal solution, it is the only new, major source of revenue that will protect education funding.

Half of all proceeds will be dedicated to an Education Trust Fund. The Fund will provide an additional source of revenue specifically to help build and renovate schools and provide additional funding increases.

Aren't there better ways to raise the needed revenues?

MSTA continues to fight hard for other long-term sources of revenue that support our members and students.

We recognize that slots revenues will not solve every funding problem. However, there's no chance that legislators will raise taxes in the near future, nor is there additional money available now to invest in industries that will yield benefits to the state far in the future.

More questions? Visit *MSTA OnLine*, www.mstanea.org. Look for the Election Day 2008: Issues link.

Despite the drastic measures legislators have taken to balance the budget (cuts reached a total of \$1.1 billion), public education funding remained a priority this year. Here's how education fared at the session's end:

- The state's aid to education includes a \$127 million increase in funding for a total state amount of \$4.5 billion.
- Legislators provided first-time funding for the \$76 million Geographic Cost of Education Index.
- Legislators earmarked \$327 million for school construction.
- The state's aid includes a \$55 million increase in state payments towards school employees' pension and retirement—a total payment of \$622 million.

This spring, MSTA was joined in its efforts to pass the referendum by several allies concerned about the state's fiscal and economic future, including the Maryland Association of Counties, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, and the AFL-CIO. "We've been making good progress in raising student achievement statewide," said David Helfman, MSTA executive director, at a press conference announcing the Chamber's support. "But we won't stop until every child in Maryland has access to small class sizes, a high-quality teacher in every classroom, and safe and modern facilities."

Fighting for passage of the referendum is one important and necessary step in MSTA's ongoing effort to ensure that all educators and schools have the tools and resources they need, and all students have the opportunity to attend great public schools in their community.

**Visit MSTA OnLine, www.mstane.org, for more good news from Maryland's schools.*

Counties are already on notice to expect cuts due to their own budget woes. Here is just a sampling of how education is taking the hit at the county level:

In Anne Arundel County, 200 teaching positions were cut to balance the county's budget.

In Baltimore County, the Board and county officials refused to negotiate a 2 percent COLA.

In Calvert County, 18 Computer Assisted Instruction positions have been eliminated and employees transferred.

In Charles County, plans for a new high school have been scrapped and 19 trailers added instead.

In Harford County, class size will increase when 56 vacated positions are not filled.

In Kent County, surplus from a medical consortium is being used to fund a payout to teachers near retirement and 11 contracts are not being renewed.

In Montgomery County, 20 12-month positions have been eliminated.

MSTA's annual report card

Were your delegates and senator RIGHT or WRONG on public education issues?

Unfortunately, it's not really love that makes the world go 'round, more than anything else, it's politics and politicians. Politicians are the "deciders"—they write and pass the laws that affect everything we do as educators. One of the most important things we can do as citizens is to hold the politicians we elect accountable for their campaign promises.

Each year, MSTA's government relations department studies the outcome of the General Assembly session, and prepares a report card based on delegate and senator support of important education bills. Use the report card on the following pages when considering issues that come up through the year and compare the votes to rhetoric you hear at town hall meetings or in the media.

These are by no means the only bills MSTA researched, testified about, or lobbied for or against. Not every bill MSTA advocated for or against received a vote; the report card includes those that received a floor vote and indicates whether they supported MSTA's position on the issues.

"We have every right to expect legislators to keep their promises," said Diana Saquella, MSTA's chief lobbyist. "One of the most effective ways to use the scorecard is to write, email or phone your legislators and thank those who supported our position or, if they didn't, ask for an explanation. Elected officials do respond to constituent concerns. After all, you're the ones who put them in office."

IN THE SENATE ...

Here's how your senators voted on key education legislation

Amendment to SB 90 Budget Bill

Sen. David Brinkley, Republican Senate Minority Leader (Carroll, Frederick), offered an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2009 Maryland Budget that would limit the state's contribution to educators' pensions at the first \$60,000 of salaries and require the local counties to pay the states'

MSTAVotingGuide

SENATE	Amendment to SB 90	SB 96	SB 373	SB 436	HB 40
DISTRICT 1 (Allegany, Garrett & Washington)					
Sen. George C. Edwards (R)	W	R	R	W	W
DISTRICT 2 (Washington)					
Sen. Donald F. Munson (R)	R	R	W	W	W
DISTRICT 3 (Frederick, Washington)					
Sen. Alexander X. Mooney (R)	W	R	W	W	W
DISTRICT 4 (Carroll, Frederick)					
Sen. David R. Brinkley (R)	W	R	W	W	W
DISTRICT 5 (Baltimore Co. & Carroll)					
Sen. Larry E. Haines (R)	W	R	W	W	W
DISTRICT 6 (Baltimore Co.)					
Sen. Norman R. Stone (D)	R	R	W	R	R
DISTRICT 7 (Baltimore Co.& Harford)					
Sen. Andrew P. Harris (R)	W	W	W	W	W
DISTRICT 8 (Baltimore Co.)					
Sen. Katherine A. Klausmeier (D)	R	R	W	W	R
DISTRICT 9 (Carroll & Howard.)					
Sen. Allan H. Kittleman (R)	W	R	W	W	W
DISTRICT 10 (Baltimore Co.)					
Sen. Delores G. Kelley (D)	R	R	R	R	W
DISTRICT 11 (Baltimore Co.)					
Sen. Robert A. Zirkin (D)	R	R	R	W	R
DISTRICT 12 (Baltimore Co. & Howard)					
Sen. Edward J. Kasemeyer (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 13 (Howard)					
Sen. James N. Robey (D)	AB	R	W	R	R
DISTRICT 14 (Montgomery)					
Sen. Rona E. Kramer (D)	R	R	W	R	R
DISTRICT 15 (Montgomery)					
Sen. Robert J. Garagiola (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 16 (Montgomery)					
Sen. Brian E. Frosh (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 17 (Montgomery)					
Sen. Jennie M. Forehand (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 18 (Montgomery)					
Sen. Richard S. Madaleno, Jr. (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 19 (Montgomery)					
Sen. Mike Lenett (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 20 (Montgomery)					
Sen. Jamie Raskin (D)	R	R	R	R	R

SENATE	Amendment to SB 90	SB 96	SB 373	SB 436	HB 40
DISTRICT 21 (Anne Arundel & Prince George's)					
Sen. James C. Rosapepe (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 22 (Prince George's)					
Sen. Paul G. Pinsky (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 23 (Prince George's)					
Sen. Douglas J.J. Peters (D)	R	R	W	R	R
DISTRICT 24 (Prince George's)					
Sen. Nathaniel Exum (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 25 (Prince George's)					
Sen. Ulysses Currie (D)	R	R	W	R	R
DISTRICT 26 (Prince George's)					
Sen. C. Anthony Muse (D)	AB	R	W	R	R
DISTRICT 27 (Calvert & Prince George's)					
Sen. Thomas V.Mike Miller, Jr. (D)	R	R	W	R	R
DISTRICT 28 (Charles)					
Sen. Thomas McLain Middleton (D)	R	R	W	W	R
DISTRICT 29 (Calvert, Charles & St. Mary's)					
Sen. Roy Dyson (D)	R	R	W	W	W
DISTRICT 30 (Anne Arundel)					
Sen. John C. Astle (D)	R	R	W	W	R
DISTRICT 31 (Anne Arundel)					
Sen. Bryan W. Simonaire (R)	W	R	W	W	W
DISTRICT 32 (Anne Arundel)					
Sen. James E. DeGrange, Sr. (D)	R	R	W	W	W
DISTRICT 33 (Anne Arundel)					
Sen. Janet Greenip (R)	W	R	W	W	W
DISTRICT 34 (Cecil & Harford)					
Sen. Nancy Jacobs (R)	W	R	W	W	W
DISTRICT 35 (Harford)					
Sen. Barry Glassman (R)	R	R	W	R	W
DISTRICT 36 (Caroline, Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's)					
Sen. Edward Pipkin (R)	W	R	W	W	W
DISTRICT 37 (Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, Wicomico)					
Sen. Richard F. Colburn (R)	W	R	W	W	R
DISTRICT 38 (Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester)					
Sen. J. Lowell Stoltzfus (R)	W	R	W	W	W
DISTRICT 39 (Montgomery)					
Sen. Nancy J. King (D)	R	R	W	R	R
DISTRICT 40 (Baltimore City)					
Sen. Catherine E. Pugh (D)	R	R	W	R	R

MSTAVotingGuide

SENATE	Amendment to SB 90	SB 96	SB 373	SB 436	HB 40
DISTRICT 41 (Baltimore City)					
Sen. Lisa A. Gladden (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 42 (Baltimore Co.)					
Sen. James Brochin (D)	R	R	W	W	R
DISTRICT 43 (Baltimore City)					
Sen. Joan Carter Conway (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 44 (Baltimore City)					
Sen. Verna L. Jones (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 45 (Baltimore City)					
Sen. Nathaniel J. McFadden (D)	R	R	W	R	R
DISTRICT 46 (Baltimore City)					
Sen. George W. Della, Jr. (D)	R	R	W	R	R
DISTRICT 47 (Prince George's)					
Sen. David C. Harrington (D)	R	R	R	R	R

pension contribution for any salary over \$60,000. *MSTA urged a NO vote and the amendment failed.*

SB 96 - Education - Truancy Rates - Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support Programs and Behavior Modification Programs

This bill requires schools with truancy rates in excess of 8 percent of their enrollment during the 2008-2009 school year, to implement a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) Program or a comparable behavior modification program. *MSTA urged a YES vote and the bill passed.*

SB 373 – Building Opportunities for All Students and Teachers (BOAST)

This bill establishes a 75 percent tax credit for business contributions to organizations that provide scholarships for students to attend private or secular schools. *MSTA urged a NO vote and the bill passed the Senate only.*

SB 436 – Education – Age of Compulsory Attendance – Exemptions

This bill extends the compulsory age of attendance from 16 to 17 years of age beginning in 2009. *MSTA urged a YES vote, however, the bill failed.*

HB 40 – Flexible Leave Act

This bill allows employees flexibility to use sick leave to care for ailing family members if an employer already provides sick leave for employees. *MSTA urged a YES vote and the bill passed.*

IN THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES ...

Here's how your delegates voted on key education legislation

HB 40 – Flexible Leave Act

This bill allows employees flexibility to use sick leave to care for ailing family members if an employer already provides sick leave for employees. *MSTA urged a YES vote and the bill passed.*

HB 1391 – Kids First Act

This bill requires Maryland's Comptroller to notify low-income taxpayers if they have a dependent child who is eligible for state-provided health care benefits. *MSTA urged a YES vote and the bill passed.*

Amendment to SB 90 Budget Bill

Del. Tony O'Donnell, Republican House Minority Leader (Calvert, St. Mary's), offered an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2009 Maryland Budget that cut \$76 million for the Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI), which provides funding to 13 counties that educate 86 percent of the student population. *MSTA urged a NO vote and the amendment failed.*

Amendment to SB 90 Budget Bill

Del. Jeannie Haddaway, (R-Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, Wicomico) offered an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2009 Maryland Budget that cut \$251 million from various state agencies, plus the entire \$76 million for the Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI). *MSTA urged a NO vote and the amendment failed.*

SB 96 - Education - Truancy Rates - Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support Programs and Behavior Modification Programs

This bill requires schools with truancy rates in excess of 8 percent of their enrollment during the 2008-2009 school year to implement a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) Program or a comparable behavior modification program. *MSTA urged a YES vote and the bill passed.*

Casting call: Let us make you a star!

Do you work in theatre or creative arts at school or as a part-time job or hobby? MSTANeeds members with acting chops (and experience!) to appear in future MSTANeeds ads, videos and other communications. Interested? For more information, contact Dan Kaufman, dkaufman@mstaneeds.org, 800/448-MSTANeeds, x3630

MSTAVotingGuide

HOUSE OF DELEGATES	HB 40	HB 1391	SB 90 O'Donnell Amendment	SB 90 Haddaway Amendment	SB 96	HOUSE OF DELEGATES	HB 40	HB 1391	SB 90 O'Donnell Amendment	SB 90 Haddaway Amendment	SB 96						
DISTRICT 1 (Allegany, Garrett & Washington)						Del. J.B. Jennings (R)						W	R	W	W	R	
Sub-District 1A (Allegany & Garrett)						Del. Patrick L. McDonough (R)						W	AB	W	W	R	
Del. Wendell R. Beitzel (R)	W	R	W	W	R	DISTRICT 8 (Baltimore Co.)											
Sub-District 1B (Allegany)						Del. Joseph C. Boteler, III (R)						W	W	W	W	R	
Del. Kevin Kelly (D)	W	R	W	W	R	Del. Eric M. Bromwell (D)						R	R	R	R	R	
Sub-District 1C (Allegany & Washington)						Del. Todd Schuler (D)						R	R	R	R	R	
Del. LeRoy E. Myers, Jr. (R)	W	R	W	W	R	DISTRICT 9 (Carroll, Howard)											
DISTRICT 2 (Washington)						Sub-District 9A (Howard)											
Sub-District 2A						Del. Gail H. Bates (R)						W	W	W	W	R	
Del. Andrew A. Serafini (R)	W	R	W	W	R	Del. Warren Miller (R)						W	W	W	W	R	
Sub-District 2B						Sub-District 9B (Carroll)											
Del. Christopher B. Shank (R)	W	R	W	W	R	Del. Susan W. Krebs (R)						W	R	W	W	R	
Sub-District 2C						DISTRICT 10 (Baltimore Co.)											
Del. John P. Donoghue (D)	R	R	R	R	R	Del. Emmett C. Burns, Jr. (D)						NV	R	R	R	R	
DISTRICT 3 (Frederick, Washington)						Del. Adrienne A. Jones (D)						R	R	R	R	R	
Sub-District 3A (Frederick)						Del. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam (D)						W	R	R	R	R	
Del. Galen R. Clagett (D)	W	R	R	R	R	DISTRICT 11 (Baltimore County)											
Del. C. Sue Hecht (D)	R	R	R	R	R	Del. Jon Cardin (D)						R	R	R	R	R	
Sub-District 3B (Frederick, Washington)						Del. Dan K. Morhaim (D)						R	R	R	R	R	
Del. Richard B. Weldon, Jr. (R)	W	R	W	W	R	Del. Dana Stein (D)						R	R	R	R	R	
DISTRICT 4 (Carroll, Frederick)						DISTRICT 12 (Baltimore County, Howard)											
Sub-District 4A (Frederick)						Sub-District 12A (Baltimore, Howard)											
Del. Joseph R. Bartlett (R)	W	R	W	W	R	Del. Steven J. DeBoy, Sr. (D)						R	R	R	R	R	
Sub-District 4A (Frederick)						Del. James E. Malone, Jr. (D)						R	R	R	R	R	
Del. Paul S. Stull (R)	W	R	W	W	R	Sub-District 12B (Howard)											
Sub-District 4B (Carroll, Frederick)						Del. Elizabeth Bobo (D)						R	R	R	R	R	
Del. Donald B. Elliott (R)	W	R	W	W	R	DISTRICT 13 (Howard)											
DISTRICT 5 (Baltimore Co., Carroll)						Del. Guy Guzzone (D)						R	R	R	R	R	
Sub-District 5A (Carroll)						Del. Shane E. Pendergrass (D)						R	R	R	R	R	
Del. Tanya Thornton Shewell (R)	W	R	W	W	R	Del. Frank S. Turner (D)						R	R	R	R	R	
Sub-District 5A (Carroll)						DISTRICT 14 (Montgomery)											
Del. Nancy R. Stocksdale (R)	W	R	W	W	R	Del. Anne R. Kaiser (D)						R	R	R	R	R	
Sub-District 5B (Baltimore Co.)						Del. Karen S. Montgomery (D)						R	R	R	R	R	
Del. A. Wade Kach (R)	W	W	W	W	R	Del. Herman L. Taylor, II (D)						R	R	R	R	R	
DISTRICT 6 (Baltimore County)						DISTRICT 15 (Montgomery)											
Del. John A. Olszewski, Jr. (D)	R	R	R	R	R	Del. Kathleen M. Dumais (D)						R	R	R	R	R	
Del. Joseph J. Minnick (D)	W	R	R	W	R	Del. Brian J. Feldman (D)						R	R	R	R	R	
Del. Michael H. Weir, Jr. (D)	W	R	R	R	R	Del. Craig L. Rice (D)						R	R	R	R	R	
DISTRICT 7 (Baltimore Co., Harford)						DISTRICT 16 (Montgomery)											
Del. Rick K. Impallaria (R)	W	W	W	W	R	Del. William A. Bronrott (D)						R	R	R	R	R	

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HOUSE OF DELEGATES	HB 40	HB 1391	SB 90 O'Donnell Amendment	SB 90 Haddaway Amendment	SB 96
Del. C. William Frick (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Susan C. Lee (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 17 (Montgomery)					
Del. Kumar P. Barve (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Jim Gilchrist (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Luiz R. S. Simmons (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 18 (Montgomery)					
Del. Alfred C. Carr, Jr. (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Ana Sol Gutiérrez (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Jeff Waldstreicher (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 19 (Montgomery)					
Del. Henry B. Heller (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Benjamin Kramer (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Roger Manno (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 20 (Montgomery)					
Del. Sheila Ellis Hixson (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Tom Hucker (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Heather Mizeur (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 21 (Anne Arundel, Prince George's)					
Del. Barbara A. Frush (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Joseline A. Pina-Melnyk (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Ben Barnes (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 22 (Prince George's)					
Del. Tawanna P. Gaines (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Anne Healey (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Justin D. Ross (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 23 (Prince George's)					
Sub-District 23A					
Del. James W. Hubbard (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Geron S. Levi (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Sub-District 23B					
Del. Marvin E. Holmes, Jr. (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 24 (Prince George's)					
Del. Joanne C. Benson (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Carolyn J.B. Howard (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Michael L. Vaughn (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 25 (Prince George's)					
Del. Aisha N. Braveboy (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Dereck E. Davis (D)	R	R	AB	AB	R

HOUSE OF DELEGATES	HB 40	HB 1391	SB 90 O'Donnell Amendment	SB 90 Haddaway Amendment	SB 96
Del. Melony Ghee Griffith (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 26 (Prince George's)					
Del. Veronica L. Turner (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Kris Valderrama (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Jay Walker (D)	NV	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 27 (Prince George's, Calvert)					
Sub-District 27A (Prince George's)					
Del. James E. Proctor, Jr. (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Joseph F. Vallario, Jr. (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Sub-District 27B (Calvert)					
Del. Sue Kullen (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 28 (Charles)					
Del. Sally Y. Jameson (D)	AB	R	AB	AB	R
Del. Murray D. Levy (D)	W	R	R	W	R
Del. Peter F. Murphy (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 29 (Calvert, Charles & St. Mary's)					
Sub-District 29A (Charles, St. Mary's)					
Del. John F. Wood, Jr. (D)	W	R	R	W	R
Sub-District 29B (St. Mary's)					
Del. John L. Bohanan, Jr. (D)	W	R	R	R	R
Sub-District 29C (Calvert, St. Mary's)					
Del. Anthony J. O'Donnell (R)	W	W	W	W	R
DISTRICT 30 (Anne Arundel)					
Del. Michael E. Busch (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Virginia P. Clagett (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Ron George (R)	W	R	W	W	R
DISTRICT 31 (Anne Arundel)					
Del. Donald H. Dwyer, Jr. (R)	W	W	W	W	R
Del. Nicholas R. Kipke (R)	W	R	W	W	R
Del. Steve Schuh (R)	W	R	W	W	R
DISTRICT 32 (Anne Arundel)					
Del. Pamela G. Beidle (D)	R	R	R	W	R
Del. Mary Ann Love (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Theodore J. Sophocleus (D)	W	R	R	NV	R
DISTRICT 33 (Anne Arundel)					
Del. Robert A. Costa (R)	W	R	W	W	R
Del. James King (R)	W	AB	W	W	R
Del. Tony McConkey (R)	W	R	W	W	R
DISTRICT 34 (Cecil, Harford)					

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HOUSE OF DELEGATES	HB 40	HB 1391	SB 90 O'Donnell Amendment	SB 90 Haddaway Amendment	SB 96
Sub-District 34A (Cecil, Harford)					
Del. Mary-Dulany James (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. B. Daniel Riley (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Sub-District 34B (Cecil)					
Del. David D. Rudolph (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 35 (Harford)					
Sub-District 35A					
Del. H. Wayne Norman, Jr. (R)	W	W	W	W	R
Del. Donna M. Stifler (R)	W	R	W	W	R
Sub-District 35B					
Del. Susan K. McComas (R)	W	W	W	W	R
DISTRICT 36 (Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's)					
Del. Michael E. Smigiel, Sr. (R)	W	W	W	W	R
Del. Richard A. Sossi (R)	W	R	W	W	R
Del. Mary Roe Walkup (R)	W	R	W	W	R
DISTRICT 37 (Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, Wicomico)					
Sub-District 37A (Dorchester,Wicomico,)					
Del. Rudolph C. Cane (D)	NV	R	R	R	R
Sub-District 37B (Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, Wicomico)					
Del. Adelaide C. Eckardt (R)	W	R	W	W	R
Del. Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio (R)	W	R	W	W	R
DISTRICT 38 (Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester)					
Sub-District 38A (Somerset, Wicomico)					
Del. D. Page Elmore (R)	W	R	W	W	R
Sub-District 38B (Wicomico, Worcester)					
Del. James N. Mathias, Jr. (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Norman H. Conway (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 39 (Montgomery)					
Del. Saqib Ali (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Charles E. Barkley (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Kirill Reznik (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 40 (Baltimore City)					
Del. Frank N. Conaway (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Barbara A. Robinson (D)	AB	R	R	R	R
Del. Shawn Z. Tarrant (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 41 (Baltimore City)					
Del. Jill P. Carter (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Nathaniel T. Oaks (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Samuel I. Rosenberg (D)	R	R	R	R	R

HOUSE OF DELEGATES	HB 40	HB 1391	SB 90 O'Donnell Amendment	SB 90 Haddaway Amendment	SB 96
DISTRICT 42 (Baltimore Co.)					
Del. Susan L. M. Aumann (R)	W	R	W	W	R
Del. William J. Frank (R)	W	R	W	W	R
Del. Stephen Lafferty (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 43 (Baltimore City)					
Del. Curtis S. Anderson (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Ann Marie Doory (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Maggie L. McIntosh (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 44 (Baltimore City)					
Del. Keith E. Haynes(D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Ruth M. Kirk (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Melvin L. Stukes (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 45 (Baltimore City)					
Del. Talmadge Branch (D)	R	AB	R	R	R
Del. Cheryl D. Glenn (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Hattie N. Harrison (D)	R	R	AB	AB	R
DISTRICT 46 (Baltimore City)					
Del. Peter A. Hammen (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Carolyn J. Krysiak (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Brian K. McHale (D)	R	R	R	R	R
DISTRICT 47 (Prince George's)					
Del. Jolene Ivey (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Doyle L. Niemann (D)	R	R	R	R	R
Del. Victor R. Ramirez (D)	R	R	R	R	R

It works!

Anyone can be a public education activist!



Look for the 5-Minute Activist logo in *ActionLine*, on *MSTA OnLine*, or in your Local publications and website. When you see it, ACT! All it takes is an email, phone call, fax or letter to your legislators to let them know you expect them to vote for students, schools and educators!

Remember: You voted them in—you can vote them out.

LocalLine

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MSTA LOCALS

Charles County SPARKS light up Annapolis!

The MSTA headquarters welcomed the Education Association of Charles County's SPARKS program last month as 13 teachers, all with fewer than five years experience, discovered their professional Association and the support and camaraderie it brings.

"New teachers are the future and we want to be sure they get involved. When new teachers know everything there is to know about EACC, MSTA and NEA and recognize there's a place for them here, they get really excited," said trainer Ashley Nicholson, one of four new EACC SPARKS trainers.

"I like the idea of getting new people involved in things that affect education in our county. It's a very laid back atmosphere here and people really open up and ask questions they might not ordinarily feel comfortable asking an administrator, or even their rep," Nicholson added.

SPARKS has reached Locals across the state, helping new teachers by strengthening their relationship with their Local and their profession. The new Charles SPARKS join program alumni from Baltimore, Allegany, Howard and Montgomery counties. Expect more programs to crop up as member-trainers from Anne Arundel, Calvert, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, Somerset, and Worcester get their programs underway.

"SPARKS is the best program that's come around in a long time to get young people and career changers involved in



Charles County teachers Kesha Edelin, left, and Lisa McGowan, right, fill their "suitcases" with images describing their personalities for a SPARKS get-acquainted activity.

the Association. This is where they can learn about the Association and how we serve and support individuals and professionals," said Bill Fisher, EACC president.

"I hope our new group of teachers will become activists. I hope we can get them to become an Association rep, get involved in committees, become delegates to the NEA and MSTA conventions and run for office," Fisher added. "We need to foster another generation of leaders in our county, and this is a terrific way to do it."

Membership Workshop Goes for Olympic Gold

MSTA's Membership Organizing Committee fired up 120 members at informative and skill-building sessions at this year's Membership Workshop, *Go for the Gold!* Each one focused on increasing the influence and importance of MSTA as the voice of education professionals.

"The work I do for our committee builds my pride in my profession," said membership committee member Catherine Grantham, Washington. "Sharing the benefits of membership is one important way I connect with my colleagues."

2008 MSTA Membership Organizing Committee

Sandra Raymond, chair, Montgomery; Ann Ellis, Garrett; Catherine Grantham, Washington; Joan C. Sabree, Prince George's; Donna Schulze, Howard; Rhonda Shaak, Harford;



Left to right: EACC SPARKS trainers Ashley Nicholson, Laura Duffy, Stacy Orr, and Alayna Effinger coordinated the Local's entire SPARKS event, including preparing lunch for their colleagues!



Dawn White, Somerset County, tries her hand at designing a newsletter for her Local at the Running the Relay workshop on member communications.

Meme Suznavick, Worcester; Dawn White, Somerset; Rosalind Yee, retired, Prince George's Steve Brako, MSTA Board of Directors liaison.

Is this your year? MSTA/NEA-Retired membership is ready for you!

If you're ready to retire, you need to know this: MSTA/NEA-Retired and the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (formerly MRTA) are not the same. Only with MSTA/NEA-Retired membership do you continue to receive NEA and MSTA benefits.

Here's a sampling of the NEA programs available to retired members: NEA MemberCare Long-Term Care Insurance, NEA MemberCare Medicare Supplement Program, NEA MemberCare In-Hospital Plan, NEA Income Protection plans, NEA-Retired MasterCard credit card program, NEA Valuebuilder Program, NEA Guaranteed Issue Life Insurance, and reverse mortgages.

Membership is the ultimate way to stay active in public education, says Roz Yee, chair of the MSTA-Retired Advisory Council. "During the past year, we've worked to protect retiree healthcare and school employees' pensions in Maryland," said Yee. "On the federal level, we've opposed privatization of social security, advocated for reasonable drug prices, and lobbied to protect Medicare Insurance and supplemental coverage."

Your profession kept you in touch with children and your community for years. By continuing your membership in MSTA/NEA-Retired you choose to remain an active advocate and participant in public education.

Questions about retired membership? Contact Herman Whitter, hwhitter@mstanea.org or 800/448-6782, x3650.

Remember! NEA member benefits are available only to members. If you retire without continuing membership in the retired ranks, you will lose your benefits.

datebook

JUNE 2008

- 3 MSTA KEYS Forum
- 6-7 MSTA Board of Directors Meeting
- 12 MSTA Coordinated Urban Bargaining Council
- 26-28 NEA Student Leadership Conference
- 28-29 NEA Joint Conference on the Concerns of Minorities and Women
- 30-2 NEA Board of Directors Meeting

JULY 2008

- 2-6 NEA Annual Meeting, Washington D.C.
- 4 Fourth of July
- 7-8 MSTA New Officers Advance
- 8-10 Emerging Leaders Academy
- 16-17 Leadership/Organizational Development Institute

SEPTEMBER 2008

- 1 Ramadan Begins at sunset
Labor Day Office closed
- 5-6 MSTA Board of Directors Meeting
- 8 MSTA West Coordinated Bargaining Council
- 9 MSTA East Coordinated Bargaining Council
- 11 MSTA Urban Coordinated Bargaining Council
- 16 MSTA Joint Governance Staff Meeting
- 18 MSTA Southern Coordinated Bargaining Council

Political action steers the change bus driver Shirley Adams is looking for

Ask anyone in public education, and they'll tell you—the job of the school bus driver is one of the most stressful and varied jobs in the field. Drivers build relationships with students and parents along their route, maintain their bus to strict safety guidelines, and deal with traffic, route changes, weather, and multilingual challenges but also increasing volatility, violence, bullying, and even weapons use by students.

For Prince George's County bus driver and activist Shirley Adams, being a member of Prince George's County Local 2250 (AFSCME) and MSTA means support and representation on those issues and more. And, since MSTA's pension improvement victory in 2006, Adams is convinced that working through the political process and MSTA's Fund for Children and Public Education is the way to change and improve her job.

Adams is truly an activist—she represents transportation employees on AFSCME's Executive Board and 133 members at her Crossland Bus Lot worksite, and is a delegate to both the MSTA and NEA representative assemblies. She's also recruited more than 50 members and Fund contributors to the Local this year.

Her first call to action was during the exciting Push for Pensions campaign when, thanks to member-activists and friends of education in the Senate and House of Delegates, MSTA's pension improvement bill passed. The experience, says Adams, made her realize how important being a part of the political scene is to the quality of her job, and how a strong Fund leads to success.

"I think one of the most important things we can do as union members is contribute to our political action fund so we can elect the right people to the General Assembly," Adams said, "and have the resources we need when it's time to lobby them. Our elected senators and delegates make the decisions that impact our jobs; we need access to them and a strong political organization is the way to get it."

This year, the ongoing struggle for school funding wears heavily on school transportation employees in Prince George's County. Drivers have had to double up on runs and

bus trips, and that overtime is putting a crunch on valuable personal time.

"With better funding, we could open the door to train and hire more drivers and attendants who could help deal with escalating behavior issues." Plus, Adams added,

"We have outdated bus lots where some mechanics don't even have a closed garage to work in."

Air conditioned buses, upgraded bus lots and an improved way to inform and educate administrators, parents and the community about safe bus riding behavior top Adams's job-related wish list. And she sees union activism through the political process as the vehicle to make the changes.

"For me," says Adams, "political action is the only way we can make a difference. I think that contributing to the Fund is an essential investment in my job, and it's one of the benefits to union membership."

"With better funding, we could open the door to train and hire more drivers and attendants to help with escalating behavior issues."

*Shirley Adams
Prince George's County bus driver*



"I think one of the most important things we can do as union members is contribute to our PAC fund so we can elect the right people to the General Assembly," said Shirley Adams, "and have the resources we need when it's time to lobby them."

For nine days in July it's all about you, MSTA and your professional development

If you spent some time this past General Assembly session rallying around MSTA's calls to action, you know that while the Association works hard to get you the salaries and benefits you deserve, it's also about school quality, student achievement and your professional development.

This summer, MSTA's annual Summer Training Series (STS) is all about you, and your growth and development as an educator, individual and leader. "We simply can't be effective in our classroom and schools without strong skills in leadership and a deep understanding of the role of the Association as an advocate for educators, student achievement and public schools," said MSTA President Clara Floyd.

"That's why our Association puts so much time and effort into programs like the Summer Training Series and our year-round professional development schedule. We want to play an important role in improving and supporting our members' professional experience."

This summer's event, *Change Begins with US! MSTA Members Making a Difference for Public Schools*, is set to challenge new and veteran teachers and support employees at trainings in locations across the state.

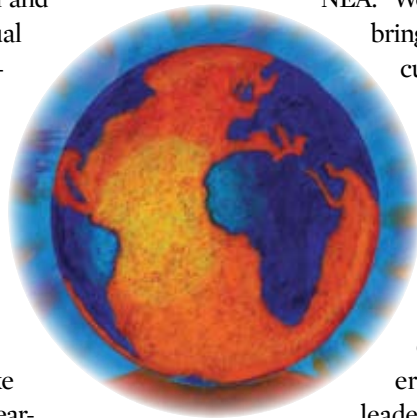
Here's a brief look at some of the exciting learning opportunities taking place this year at *Change Begins with US!*

The Professional Development Institute

Rocky Gap Lodge & Resort, Cumberland
July 22-24

Each of three workshops at the Professional Development Institute is tailored to meet your demand for strategies and techniques you can immediately implement at your work-site. At "I Can Do It!", you'll discover what you didn't learn in school, as presenters focus on classroom management and parent/teacher/school communication.

At Part 2 of NEA's C.A.R.E. (Culture, Ability, Resilience, Effort) program—you'll discover research-based tools to improve student achievement and close achievement gaps.



And, at "The Role of ESP in Closing the Gaps" workshops, MSTA's education support professionals learn how collaborative strategies can boost student learning. "During this highly interactive session, ESP members will examine their roles in their work places, and their communities," said Marcie Dianda, a senior policy analyst and program consultant at NEA. "We'll also discuss the unique vantage point they bring to MSTA's efforts to make sure that students' culture, unrecognized abilities, resilience, and effort are recognized and used by schools to ensure students' success."

Aspire to Lead!

Burkshire Marriott Conference Center, Towson
July 8-10

The Emerging Leaders Academy welcomes Generation 5! MSTA's year-long leadership training consistently sends able new leaders to Local Associations to organize fellow members to act and advocate for their professions and public schools.

Inspire Change!

Harbourtowne Golf Resort & Conference Center, St. Michaels
July 16-17

Grassroots activism is the heart and soul of any successful Association initiative. At *Inspire Change!*, MSTA's building and work-site representatives will learn how to organize and galvanize members at the building level. MSTA professional staff assigned to areas such as collective bargaining, legal issues, membership recruitment and retention, communications and professional development will share their expertise and experience.

"We have to reach members at the building level using the compelling issues that affect their jobs every day," said David Helfman, MSTA's executive director. "Building representatives will see we're returning to basics—exciting members by making a difference to them on the front lines where they work every day."

Sound interesting? Visit *MSTA OnLine*, www.mstanea.org, to download a Summer Training Series brochure and registration form, or contact Debra Nixon, dnixon@mstanea.org; 800/448-MSTA, x3658.

Local cutbacks call for increased local activism



Respond to your Local's "call to action" so that when your colleagues, parents, or students ask what you've done to ensure your school has adequate resources, you're proud of your answer!

IT'S GETTING ROUGH OUT THERE.

Between 2002 and 2008, *three of every four dollars* [insert correct figures] of the \$1.5 billion in state spending increases went to funding public schools. Thanks to your activism, public schools will continue to receive increases in fiscal year 2009.

But with the state battling economic and fiscal problems, the days of double-digit yearly increases are over. According to the Department of Legislative Services, *"While budget action has narrowed the imbalance in the general fund between ongoing revenues and ongoing spending, a gap of several hundred million remains... [T]he State faces cash and structural deficits which will require additional actions to endure balanced budgets over the next few years."*

Smaller state increases, coupled with higher energy and food costs, create havoc at the local level. For example, a badly-needed Charles County high school was put on hold and 19 additional trailers were added. Only half the negotiated Talbot County salary increase was funded. Harford County eliminated 56 positions by attrition and increased class sizes.

Local Association leaders are mobilizing to fight for resources for public schools and school employees. With Queen Anne's County considering slashing the School Board's proposed increases by half, QACEA President Bill Hackett rallied members to turn out in force for County budget hearings.

In Anne Arundel County, 200 positions may be left vacant next year. Local Presidents Tim Mennuti and Debbie Schaefer have organized all four local labor groups, Parent Teacher Organizations and other community groups to speak up at their budget hearings.

Facing a salary schedule freeze that will lower some members' paychecks, hundreds of Baltimore County teachers engaged in weeks of protests, emails, calls and work-to-rule actions. Now TABCO President Cheryl Bost is urging members to continue their political activism: "Each of you represents votes so don't stop the pressure now. Next year health care is on the table, and we need to show our strength this year to be able to fight against health care increases next year."

Cheryl and other leaders understand the need to engage members in collective action today—*no matter what the outcome*—to better protect our interests in the future. Our silence emboldens those who want to gut our contracts or cut staff and increase class sizes.

Respond to your Local's "call to action" so that when your colleagues, parents, or students ask what you've done to ensure your school has adequate resources, you're proud of your answer!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Write David:
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dhelfman@mstanea.org

Members react to MSTA's position on slots referendum

David Helfman's April editorial on the November referendum caught the attention of several members. Here's some of what they said:

"I am extremely disappointed in the MSTA backing of a pro-slots position in the upcoming referendum. ... A stable revenue stream for education is the only acceptable one."

James Clodfelter, Baltimore County

"Nothing wrong with idealism, but what puts bread on tables and money in classrooms is old fashioned common sense. ... I applaud our Board of Directors' action in backing the slots referendum."

Geoff Smoot, Wicomico County

"It is myopic of MSTA to think that slots money will be earmarked for education. The General Assembly has a proven record of broken educational promises"

Michael J. Fell, Cecil County

New teacher? Grizzled vet? Support professional? Save the dates! MSTA's Convention 2008 workshops hit the hot topics

Hip-hop, autism, social studies, stress, literacy, conflict resolution, math and addiction. What could they possibly all have in common?

The average person would have to stretch their imagination a bit to find the common denominator of such unrelated topics. But public school educators like you aren't average. At any given time you may be nourishing an explosion of cultural, social and academic dynamics that is the new American school house.

"That's exactly why MSTA's eclectic offering of workshops at this year's MSTA Convention and Representative Assembly is so exciting," said Jan Erskine, MSTA School Quality. "Our lineup of fascinating workshops was hand-picked to provide new and veteran teachers with fresh and innovative skills to help every student in their classroom succeed."

Are you a new teacher? There's an entire series of workshops designed especially for the early-career teacher in mind, plus scores of others to boost classroom skills, and ultimately help you enjoy your job even more.

Here's a sneak peak at just a few of the more than 50 free workshops MSTA is hosting at Set Sail with MSTA! Convention 2008, October 17-18.

In **Tips for New Teachers**, you'll discover new classroom management techniques and interesting ways to engage your students in your well-planned lessons—skills destined to make every day a success.

Understanding how issues of race, ethnicity, culture, social class and communications styles influence teaching and learning is the topic of **Hip, Hop and Literacy**. You'll review and refine curricular and instructional practices for cultural relevance so you can meet your connect with your students and get to the serious business of teaching

In the interactive, **Putting the Movement Back into Civil Rights Teaching**, you'll learn not only how to teach lessons about the Civil Rights Movement, but a new

approach to teaching lessons about other historic events and people.

Teachers occasionally face sudden and dramatic conflicts in the classroom that disrupt their planned instruction and established routine. How can you deal with the conflict and maintain control? In **Effective Conflict Resolution Skills for the Secondary Classroom**, you'll learn how to react safely to challenging situations.

Talking with parents during back-to-school night, at parent conferences, or by phone call or email can be intimidating. **Talking to Parents: It's Not So Bad**, will teach you how to engage parents and guardians by enlisting them as partners in their student's education.

Alcoholism and drug addiction are truly family diseases—no one escapes untouched. For families and educators, the best defense is education. Knowing the signs and symptoms of abuse and early intervention can help families avoid years of turmoil. **Addiction Information for Educators**

focuses on addiction issues, including identifying abuse, the names and effects popular drugs and resources for help.

Actual case studies will help as you examine some of the early symptoms of autism spectrum disorders in **Autism: Understanding and Interventions**. As more and more autistic children are welcomed into regular education classrooms, understanding autism, and the unique nature of the autistic child, is a necessity for new and veteran teachers alike.

Stress and Tension in Math is a hands-on workshop using the TI-84 calculator. Expect a fun and engaging workshop meant to take the stress and tension out of your math and science classrooms.

Visit *MSTA OnLine*, www.mstanea.org, this summer for more about Convention 2008, Set Sail with MSTA!



**October 17-18, 2008
Ocean City, Maryland**

About you! By you!
Send us photos and captions about your life! Visit MSTA OnLine, www.mstanea.org, to learn how your life can become My Life in ActionLine!

John Hendrix

Science teacher
John F. Kennedy HS, Montgomery County

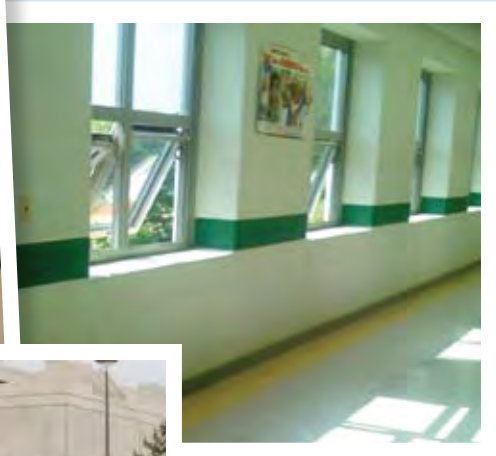


My name is Juan, but most of the English-speaking world calls me John. Names are one of the minor inconveniences facing Mexicans here—there's the whole language-barrier bit, the illegal immigration issue, and the fact that there's no good Mexican food in the Mid-Atlantic.

Like all of us, I owe a debt of gratitude to my alma mater, Missouri State University, and to the professors still there after all these years. I had the pleasure of visiting Missouri again recently and going on yet another geology field trip.

Today, I'm happy to be teaching Earth/Space Systems at John F. Kennedy HS in Silver Spring—"the world in a zip code." This is my life: an American/Mexican who migrated without immigrating, who fell in love with some rocks, and who loved school so much, that he couldn't leave.

My classroom room at JFK HS. Where the rubber hits the road, as they say. I love this room.



Temple Hall in Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. Half the stuff in my brain got there here. It was a strange experience to be there again after 20 years.



The windows at school that I constantly have to close because everybody keeps opening them. Energy conservation, anyone?



Jim Miller, distinguished paleontologist and my professor, standing before an outcrop of the Burlington Limestone as he leads his last official field trip.



Fossils in the Burlington Limestone near Springfield. The round things are parts of the stem of a marine animal that looked like a flower.

When you need help or have a suggestion, contact your Association Representative at school or:

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