

Event Deadlines Loom

Tenured Staff Seniority Survey: P.E.A. has delivered over 200 Tenured Staff Seniority Surveys to our attorneys for review. That's the good news. The bad news? That it's only about 50% of the people responding. We cannot protect your rights regarding seniority or recall if we don't have the information we have requested. The survey was mailed to you. The survey is on our website: www.patersona.org .

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR????

Retirement Dinner: Even as we face unprecedented reductions in staff caused by The Bully's state aid reductions, we have to pause to honor staff members who have decided to retire from the system. We have received lists of staff members who have announced their retirement to the District. We are hoping everyone who has announced their retirement will be able to join P.E.A. at the dinner we are holding for them. BUT even we face deadlines. If you haven't let us know that you are going to attend by Monday (that's today) at 5:00 pm, we're not going to be able to accommodate more guests. *PLEASE call P.E.A. at (973) 881-9445 to let us know you'll be with us.*

Stand Up for Yourself ... Stand Up for Your Colleagues!

While we honor our retirees, we continue to try to save the jobs of our non-tenured and tenured staff members. Governor Bully has shot down the millionaire's tax, but the President has offered an initiative that is specifically designed to save teacher jobs.

TELL CONGRESS THAT SAVING EDUCATOR JOBS IS AN INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE

As Congress returns from the Memorial Day recess June 8, the fight will continue to pass an education jobs fund that will save hundreds of thousands of educator jobs and ensure the investments necessary to help all students succeed.

While a planned "mark-up" of an emergency funding bill including the education jobs funding was postponed prior to the congressional recess, House Appropriations Chairman, and strong public education advocate, Dave Obey (D-WI) is committed to passing this essential funding. The debate on the emergency funding bill will take place in the next few weeks – **so now is the time to get involved!**

We face an uphill battle in the midst of a larger political battle over spending and deficits. We need to make sure Congress understands that **investing in education is good for the economy** and will reduce costs later on by ensuring a well-educated, competitive workforce. In fact, according to the [Economic Policy Institute](#), the proposed education jobs fund will reduce unemployment, generate additional tax revenue, and reduce safety net spending – **all of which will reduce the ultimate cost of the bill by more than half.**

TAKE ACTION TODAY! Keep the calls and e-mails coming! Ask colleagues, friends, and family to join this fight:

- **You can still call 1-866-608-6355** to contact your Representative in Congress. You will hear talking points and will be connected to the United States Capitol Switchboard – ask for your House Member. Tell your Representative that public education faces a budget catastrophe and that he/she should support including investments to save education jobs in the emergency funding bill (known as the “emergency supplemental” funding bill).
- Continue to [e-mail your Members of Congress](#) to support funding to save education jobs in the emergency supplemental appropriations bill.
- [Share your story](#). Is your school seeing increased class sizes? Shorter school weeks? Programs cut or eliminated? Tell us what is happening in your school and **how it will impact your students**.

SPEAK UP and Keep Up on the Latest News:

NEW! [Watch](#) our new slideshow featuring educators who have been laid off.

NEW! Check out NEA’s [TV commercials](#) calling for an education jobs package, including our newest ads highlighting [education support professionals](#) and [higher education faculty](#).

NEW! [Watch](#) NEA Government Relations Director, Kim Anderson, school FOX News anchor Neil Cavuto on the need for a jobs bill and the sacrifices educators make every day for their students and communities.

NEW! See our [Jobs “Letter to the Editor” template](#) and [click here](#) to submit your letter quickly and easily to local and national news sources through our online interface.

NEW! [Print our “Speak Up” poster](#) and post it at your school or workplace.

Visit [Education Votes](#), where you will find more tools to help you spread the word — television and radio ads, print ads, and audio news releases.

Become a “fan” of [Speak up for Education and Kids](#) on Facebook -- a community of educators and concerned citizens – now more than 20,000 strong – who believe our nation has a responsibility to invest in education and avoid the short-sighted cuts that could deprive our students of the bright futures they deserve.

[Read](#) what your colleagues across the country are saying about layoffs in their schools.

I work in a rural school district where 60+ layoffs have occurred in the last two academic years. Our children won't have an opportunity to maximize their potential unless this insanity stops. Children are our future doctors, accountants, brick layers, scientists, auto mechanics, and social workers. The global economy requires that we compete; doing so requires dedication to the task. Dedicated teachers and counselors and paraprofessionals make a difference in the lives of children every day. Don't allow even one to child suffer because of this economic downturn! – Louise in Arizona

P.E.A. has no power over the draconian reductions in aid imposed on Paterson by this anti-education, anti-teacher Governor. His disdain for all of us and what we do is palpable. **YOU hold the power in your hands!** If you haven't already emailed and written, **DO IT NOW**. If you already have, **DO IT AGAIN!** **Get your family and friends to join in the battle for federal legislation.**

Bypass the bully!

Take the decision out of his hands!

Join P.E.A. in battling against cuts that will throw people out of work, reduce program offerings to kids and hurt public education for years to come.

1st year, 5th year, 10th year, 25th year. It doesn't matter how long you've been working. This battle affects us all.