**From:** Merklein, Trip [CO]   
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2012 2:48 PM  
**Cc:** Burkett, Kay [CO]; Docherty, Fran [CO]  
**Subject:**1/26/12 Member Update

**Exceptional Online Resources for Colorado Educators**  If you are not already familiar with [www.eNetColorado.org](http://www.eNetColorado.org) it is a site you should check out and bookmark. It’s a growing statewide consortium that can deliver high quality standards-based content to your students. You may be aware of the DREAM (Digital Resource Exchange and Marketplace) site [www.Learning.com/coloradodream](http://www.Learning.com/coloradodream); other eNetColorado resources include FREE music and movies through Colorado iTunes U, opportunities for online professional development, and more.

**District Self-Funded Health Insurance**  Several member questions were generated from the 11/16 Member Update which mentioned the Board of Education moving towards self-funded health insurance. The concept of self-funded health insurance has been addressed by our UniServ Director, Fran Docherty, at both the November and January AR meetings. It is a growing trend that has been successfully implemented by several Colorado school districts and municipalities. Briefly, the profits historically made by insurance providers are instead applied towards a self-funded system tailored to meet the needs of SVVSD employees to ultimately help contain rising health care costs. A program manager would be contracted to oversee the plan and complete patient confidentially is maintained. The district’s Insurance Advisory Committee is meeting on Monday, January 30, and the SVVEA is well-represented. However, it is important to note that the committee is *advisory* only, though the Master Agreement Article 33: Group Insurance Plans, does allow for the negotiation of employer/employee-only contribution amounts.

This editorial by Board President John Creighton and BOE member Bob Smith appeared in the Times-Call last Tuesday, January 17th.  It is well worth reading to provide an idea of their present thinking on the concept. [SVVSD BOE shares its vision of self-funded health Insurance](http://www.timescall.com/opinion/letterstotheeditor/ci_19753690)

**2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION began January 11th :**

**Your Help will be Needed**  The most current information on K-12 funding was addressed in the 1/5 Member Update. Legislation important to educators and public employees include the perennial attacks on PERA, codification of Educator Effectiveness (SB 191), adjustments to the state formula for funding schools, and an effort to eliminate collective bargaining rights of our state employee brethren. This session promises to be very active and you will be asked to contact legislators on key issues. Please respond when called upon – the future of public education is at stake. Get regular legislative updates from the[CEA Capitol Connection blog](http://www.ceacapconn.wordpress.com/)

**Local Government Option to Change PERA Contribution Rates, Senate Bill 16  (Sen. Lamborn (R) El Paso County):** This bill would allow cities and counties who participate in PERA to lower their contributions. CEA opposes the bill and is working with the PERA coalition to gather enough votes so the bill dies in the Senate. It will be heard next Monday, January 30. To stay up to date on PERA issues, click below. Save this link for PERA issues throughout the session. [Colorado Coalition for Retirement](http://www.securepera.org/)

**Negotiations** for 2012-13 have been underway since December. We have an unprecedented 15 dates scheduled through mid-May. During our first four meetings your SVVEA Negotiation Team has been working with the district team to define educators’ rights related to fair implementation of SB 191, including meaningful teacher input on their principal’s performance. This work will continue into February when we will shift into bargaining workload and time issues, followed by compensation as the state legislative budget picture becomes more clear in April. The survey information members have provided has been extremely helpful to define expectations about time and workload. The next survey will deal more with compensation issues. Stay tuned!

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