New Year’s Greetings SVVEA Members!

I trust you have settled back into the school routine after having a restful winter break. Here are a number of opportunities for you to provide your input on the issues that significantly impact educators.

**CEA Time to Teach, Time to Learn Member Forums/Listening Tour**

(You may have come across this opportunity for assessment input in the December CEA e-Journal, but the first date’s location has since been changed from Ft. Collins to Loveland. The closest events are *next week*.)

CEA President Kerrie Dallman and Vice President Amie Baca-Oehlert are hosting forums across the state to hear directly from educators about your visions for the kind of public schools that students, families, educators, and communities deserve. The forums will provide an opportunity for members to come together and explore solutions to many of the challenges we currently experience and to develop a plan for how we will stand together to achieve our collective vision. Share your perspectives about how mandates and initiatives, including state and district testing and the new evaluation system, affect your work, your students and your community. Unfunded mandates are out of control and taking away the ability to properly teach our students. Students are also demonstrating their frustration with high-stakes testing. The solutions to these problems must be driven by the experts – the educators who have committed their careers to educating the students in our communities.

Dinner will be provided so please [RSVP here at the Member Forums website](http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=Xt%2B1wJSBXuPSQPKYN%2BMXs5Yn15LJJ9x0). Here is a list of the locations closest to St. Vrain:

         Wednesday, January 21, 6-8pm. Location: Loveland, Chilson Senior Center, 700 E. 4th St., Loveland

         Thursday, January 22, 6-8pm. Location: Louisville, Monarch High School Library, 329 Campus Drive, Louisville

         Tuesday, January 27, 6-8pm. Location: Cherry Creek, Instructional Support Center, 5416 S. Riviera Way, Centennial

         Tuesday, February 17 6-8 pm Location: Denver, Colorado Education Association at 1500 Grant Street

**Legislative Standards and Assessment Task Force Nears Completion of its Task**

Many educators provided input for this task force’s recommendations.

Denver Post, Mon. 1/13/15 [Task force recommends reducing Colorado testing burden](http://www.denverpost.com/News/ci_27305954/Task-force-recommends-reducing-Colorado-testing-burden)Detailed description of the task force recommendations that reflect both agreements and disagreements among the group.

Chalkbeat, Mon. 1/13/15  [Testing task force remains divided on some issues as finish line nears](http://co.chalkbeat.org/2015/01/12/testing-task-force-remains-divided-on-some-issues-as-finish-line-nears/" \l ".VLVPQXs65dg) Article paints a picture of a divided, unfunded and unrepresentative task force, and their final recommendations will reflect that.

**Education Town Hall Meeting with Local Legislators**

Wednesday, January 28, 6-7:30 pm

Longmont Public Library, 409 4th Ave.

Reps. Singer, Foote, and Sen. Jones will speak generally about K-12 education (and some higher Ed), how education issues are being addressed at the Capitol, and have your voice added to the conversation.

**TELL Survey Window**

Every other year licensed educators have the opportunity to complete the online State of Colorado’s TELL Survey about their schools. You will have the opportunity to take this anonymous survey, taking approximately 20 minutes to complete, during this year’s survey window from the first week of February through the first week of March.  Details coming soon.

**Congress extends educator tax deduction—for now** [Read the story at NEA Education Votes](http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=5pbwuOY%2F3oXirpEUuLuWKJYn15LJJ9x0)You can deduct your association dues if you itemize your federal tax returns.

Thank you for sharing your voice on pressing issues in public education and for your SVVEA membership!

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