

aea Newsletter

Acalanes Education Association



www.acalanesteachers.org



@AcalanesEA

HOW WE CAN HELP

The teachers and students of Paradise, CA have restarted classes after a disastrous fire that left all of their schools and the district office too damaged to return.

At the time of printing this newsletter all schools and the D.O. have been re-established at temporary locations in and around Oroville to Chico. Students and teachers have been reunited and are trying to find some normalcy in a time of great trauma.

If you want to help click or text the links below:

The North Valley Community Foundation Northern California Fire Relief Fund - [DONATE HERE](#)

Butte County Schools Fire Relief Fund - [DONATE HERE](#)

United Way NorCal Disaster Relief Fund - text BUTTEFIRE to 91999 or [DONATE HERE](#)

Go Fund Me www.gofundme.com/tcb-2018-camp-fire-fund

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH GUIDELINES

Accepted Units for Movement on the Salary Schedule

AUSHSD Teachers looking to acquire units in order move columns on the salary schedule should be aware of the district policy regarding units are accepted and which are not (covered by Article 3.5 of the collective bargaining agreement). If a teacher is earning semester units (or the equivalent) at a college or university in the teacher's area of study (through a masters program, for

example) those units are accepted **without having** to get prior approval through the district. In addition to semester units, all continuing education hours offered through AUHSD (like Summer Institute) are also accepted **without having** to get prior approval. However, there are several other types of units that require District sign off ahead of time. Semester units outside of the teacher's field of study, educational travel and workshop/professional development hours are all examples of units that **would require** prior District approval. The bottom line is that if there is any doubt as to which category a course or program falls under the best practice is to seek guidance/approval through Amy McNamara's (Associate Superintendent - Administrative Services) office.

If teachers are looking for options for growth the following links are to programs that the District has approved in the past:

Stanford online: <https://online.stanford.edu/courses>

University of San Diego: <https://pce.sandiego.edu/>

Brandman University:

<https://www.brandman.edu/academic-programs/education>

UC Berkeley Extension: <https://extension.berkeley.edu/>

Saint Mary's University:

<https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/kalmanovitz-school-of-education>

Again when in doubt get the District's approval before enrolling in (and especially paying for) any course or program.

TONY THURMOND

In a very tight race, Tony Thurmond was elected California's next Superintendent of Public Instruction. Tony defeated Marshall Tuck by only 86,000 votes that took a couple of weeks to declare due to the number of mailed ballots that slowed the counting process. Tony is a Democrat who has worked as a social worker, board member and most recently as an assembly person representing much of the East Bay. He will officially take office in 2019. The Chief Deputy Superintendent will be Lupita Cortez Alcala.



FINANCIAL SERVICES

CTA offers services such as:

- ❖ A retirement savings plan
- ❖ Investment education
- ❖ Credit union service
- ❖ Credit card offers.

Visit ctamemberbenefits.org/Financial-Services for information about how you can prepare your finances for all of life's planned and surprise events.

Especially for young teachers:

Consider how your savings plan is preparing you for retirement. It may seem like something you do not need to think about now, but it really pays to plan early. Do you have a retirement savings plan that will supplement your STRS when you retire? Think about putting away just \$100 a month to start in a special 403(c) account. Increase this amount every year as you are able.

Also, find out about your parental leave benefits and leave amounts. Parental leave is for new mothers, new

fathers and those that are adopting a child. It is also possible to get disability insurance and extra leave for pregnancy-related medical conditions either before or after the birth. Our [AEA contract](#) spells out our AUHSD benefits starting on page 12 and address leave guaranteed to new moms and those caring for family under the Family and Medical Leave Act. [See article 7.](#)

Especially for older teachers:

Take a close look at your disability insurance. Consider adding [CTA's endorsed The Standard](#) disability insurance that will help you even after you are out of sick leave with the District.

Do you need help with your estate planning? We should all create a will no matter our age or years in the business. This legal document needs to be done right in order for it to be fully accepted by the court of law. Look to

ctainvest.org/the-academy/insurance-and-estate-planning/you-need-a-will for advice on creating and validating your will.

AEA SOCIAL

Join us at our next social on Thursday, January 17th from 3:30-5:30 pm at a location that will be announced soon. Let us celebrate and lift each other up as we finish our first semester of the school year. This is a time to come together to honor the hard work we have done.



OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

- January 17 - Last day of finals
- January 18 - Work Day
- February 1 - 3 - Good Teaching Conference in San Jose. Would anyone be interested in going?
- February 15 - Optional P.D. Day