

**Dear Members,** please see some trending issues and supports that are in place to assist educators and encourage student success.

**TOPICS:**

- **Grading Day, October 21**
- **Asynchronous Day, Nov 8th & ASD's Mandatory Trainings**
- **Lesson Plans**
- **Staffing Shortage Continues**
- **ASD Board to review staffing, facilities, and programs**
- **Professional Development: Credits & TISS Hours**

**Grading Day, October 21**

The last day of the first quarter is our GAP day. (Grading, Assessment, and Planning) The day should be yours to focus on your students, families, and learning spaces.

Although AEA encourages grades to be submitted Friday before the end of the GAP day, Members who need additional time have until the end of the day Monday, October 24. Article 417 B states: *"The last day at the end of the first, second and third quarters shall be a student-release day for the purpose of grading, assessment, and planning (GAP) by members. First, second, and third quarter grades/report cards/comments will be due by the end of the first workday of the following quarter. Fourth quarter grades/report cards/comments will be due before the member is released for summer. Submission of grades/report cards/comments may be required at the end of the GAP day only when the administrator has previously documented a concern about a member's untimely submission of grades/report cards/comments."*

**Asynchronous Day, Nov 8th**

November 8th has been scheduled as an asynchronous learning day for students. In discussions with ASD, schools may hold a half day of PD for members with the remaining half day dedicated as member time to: work

on classrooms, work with colleagues, work on mandatory trainings, etc. **ASD has extended the due date for this year's mandatory trainings to the end of the school October 8th.** If you have already completed the trainings, wonderful. If you have not and are looking for time to do so, the half day is yours to do what is best for you as an educator.

## Lesson Plans

I want to remind members, lesson plans are for you and you alone. They are for your planning and should reflect your needs in knowing what will be taught. How you design your lesson plans is up to you. Principals may ask for lesson plans to be on our desks so they can browse over them, that is all! Lesson plans should not be collected unless the member has a documented performance concern and is on a plan of growth or a plan of improvement.

Article 402, paragraph 5 states: *"The submission of lesson plans shall only be required for a member on a plan of growth or a plan of improvement, or if the Administrator has a specific previously documented performance concern."*

## Staffing Shortage Continues

The facts are: as of September 9th, there are 171 unfilled AEA positions and 120 unfilled TA positions, there are not enough subs to fill the need, ASD is working hard to fill positions at every level but there are just no applicants, and lastly, educators continue to quit leaving more unfilled positions. School vacancies are a countrywide issue that continue to challenge schools and impact student learning.

I wish I could say that I see that changing in the near future. Unfortunately, I do not. I want to acknowledge the job as a specialist at the elementary level has changed dramatically over the last two years being asked to cover classes more than just about any other educator grouping. Please know you and your colleagues play a vital new role in supporting our students and our schools. Patience, persistence, grit, commitment is what is going to

get us through. Everyday, we need to take a deep breath and pace ourselves for the long haul.

I have been told working with students is a calling and the most important job in the world. That being said, it is still just a job. As the employment landscape continues to challenge schools into the near future, every Member must take the time to care for themselves, spend time with loved ones and friends, and support one another, students, and families as we pace ourselves moving into the future.

### **ASD Board to review staffing, facilities, and programs**

All Members should pay close attention as the school board begins to evaluate staffing, facilities and programs in an effort to balance the projected budget shortfall for the 23.24 school year.

Dr. Bryantt's email from Wednesday stated: *"On Friday, we will publish the first of several community surveys on our [FY24 budget solutions webpage](#) and in the September edition of ASD Connect. The first survey is intended to understand general areas to prioritize for potential reductions. Next month, you can expect another survey along with in-person and/or virtual outreach opportunities to provide us with recommendations. The District will continue to update the School Board every two weeks during the budget work sessions. You can view previous budget work sessions on the [School Board webpage](#). The next budget work session is scheduled for September 20th at 4 p.m."*

### **Professional Development: Credits & TISS Hours**

Please go to the [AEA Website](#), September 2nd Update, for previous shared PD offerings including: Yoga, Canvas Courses, Capturing Kids Hearts, and more.

#### **Additional Courses include:**

**AEA Retirement Security Summit Breakfast** (See attached.)

Purpose: AEA Retirement Security Summit featuring EMPOWER and SOAR. Empower is the State of Alaska contractor that manages your retirement account. SOAR (Saving Our Alaska Retirement) is a committee of your colleagues dedicated to educating members about retirement security and advocating for a secure retirement for Alaska educators.

Date: September 24

Time: 9a-12p

Location: AEA Office

No credits or TISS hours available for this informative seminar.

## Indigenous Awareness & Culturally Responsive Teaching, Register by September 20, 2022



ALASKA  
NATIVE  
HERITAGE  
CENTER

EXCELLENT LEARNING  
OPPORTUNITY FREE FOR  
EDUCATORS SEEKING  
CERTIFICATION  
IN ALASKA!

**ED 55500: Indigenous Awareness & Culturally Responsive Teaching**  
Register by September 20, 2022

**WHAT?**  
Elder Instructor-led course approved by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development for teacher certification in Alaska!  
This 3 credit course is offered through a partnership between the Alaska Native Heritage Center's Ilakucaraq Project and the Alaska Pacific University. *The Ilakucaraq Project is funded through a grant from the US Department of Education's Alaska Native Education Program.*

**WHEN?**  
Fall 2022 Semester, 9/27/22 - 12/8/2022  
Tu and Th, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**REGISTER TODAY:**  
Use this link: <https://bit.ly/3Q3AvLk>

**WHO?**  
Instructors: Doug Modig & Amy Modig  
Course designed for K-12 Educators, including veteran teachers seeking recertification.

**HOW AND WHERE?**  
This hybrid course will be offered via direct instruction by Alaska Native Elders at the Alaska Native Heritage Center and via remote engagements.

**TUITION COST:**  
The tuition fees for this course are fully covered by the Alaska Native Heritage Center. Please register for the course by September 20, 2022.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Contact Alice Hisamoto at [ahisamoto@alaskanative.net](mailto:ahisamoto@alaskanative.net)

8800 Heritage Center Drive, Anchorage, AK 99504 | [www.alaskanative.net](http://www.alaskanative.net) | 907.330.8000

In Solidarity,

Corey Aist



Connecting Educators  
Inspiring Students

**Corey Aist**  
President

Anchorage Education Association  
Work: 907.274.0536  
Home: 907.563.7048

[corey.aist@anchorageea.net](mailto:corey.aist@anchorageea.net)  
[anchorageea.org](http://anchorageea.org)