



# PRESIDENT'S ONLINE UPDATE

April 12, 2017

---

Good Morning CEA Members:

Some items of interest in the Past and Week ahead:

## **RESTORATIVE STEP STATUS UPDATE**

We held a rally on March 23 that was terrifically attended by teachers and members of the community. We did a great job showing we have the support of the community and that we will not sit idly by if the commissioners do not meet their funding obligation. Commissioner Hejl made it publicly known at the Teacher of The Year Dinner that he and the other commissioners are doing everything they can to make sure that our restorative step is funded. Nothing is set in stone until the final budget hearing on May 23, so it's important everyone stays engaged and signs the petition posted on our Facebook page. Also please see that attached flyer to see how you can get involved and make a difference for you and your fellow teachers.

## **MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSES LEGISLATION TO LIMIT TESTING IN SCHOOLS**

**Annapolis, Maryland,** The Maryland House and Senate voted to override Governor Hogan's veto on the Protect Our Schools Act Thursday. The House voted 90-50 with the Senate voting 32-15 to push the bill through.

**Annapolis, Maryland,** The Maryland Senate unanimously approved the More Learning, Less Testing Act (SB452) by a 47-0 bipartisan vote, after the House of Delegates approved the widely-supported bill 139-0 last Thursday. The legislation limits mandated testing to 2.2% of the school year—or 23.8 hours in elementary and middle schools and 25.7 hours in high schools—except in eighth grade, when the limit is at 2.3% or 24.8 hours.

## **LETTER OF THANKS**

Below is a letter we are sending to the Calvert Recorder, thanking everyone who helped come out for us to have a successful 2017-2018 Budget Presentation and Human Bridge on March 21, 2017.

## **SPRING BREAK**

Starts tomorrow and back to school on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. The final push to June 9.

**Enjoy Your Time Off and Make Time for Yourself and Family**

**JOIN US ON FACEBOOK**

**AT**

**“CALVERT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION CEA**

To the Calvert Community:

As the officers of the Calvert Education Association, the representatives of the teachers and other educators in the county school system, we wish to thank all the many members of the community who have stepped up to support full funding of the county schools budget and of the beginning actions needed to begin restoring teacher's lost pay steps.

Starting with the superintendent's presentation of the budget back in February, we have been heartened to see so many members of the Calvert community speak up in support of the county commissioners' prioritizing education funding in the 2017-2018 budget. Often noting the fact that so many of our residents moved to Calvert County specifically for the fine school system, these citizens have demanded that the county commissioners remember the importance of education in their budgetary discussions.

We were particularly encouraged by the large number of citizens who joined teachers at their pro-education "human bridge" rally on West Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick on March 21. Members of PTA-type organizations, local churches, political organizations, and other concerned citizens and parents showed up wearing red to support teachers as they fought for full funding of the education budget. Later that night, at the county commissioners' annual budget hearing at the Calvert Pines Senior Center, parents and other citizens outnumbered teachers speaking in support of making education funding a major priority in the new budget.

We also wish to thank the Board of Education, the school system administration, and our county commissioners for working together to try to find a way to fund the county's first restorative pay step to begin restoring teachers to the amount teacher's contracts say they are supposed to be paid. This first restorative step will not give teachers the pay they are supposed to receive, that will require a commitment from the county over a number of the coming budget cycles but we truly believe it will be seen by teachers as a good faith effort to recognize their dedication, hard work and commitment to the county school system. We hope it will staunch the steady flow of teachers leaving county classrooms to move to other counties that have worked over recent years to restore their teachers to the pay steps they are supposed to receive.

The teachers and educators in the Calvert County Schools share with parents and other concerned citizens a vision for the continued potential for exceptionalism in our schools. We share the understanding that exceptional schools require exceptional funding from a committed local government. We appreciate very much the support of our local citizens in the fight to make educational exceptionalism a priority in the county budget. We truly believe that we can all work together to again make the Calvert County Schools one of the best school systems in the nation.

Sincere Thanks,

The Calvert Education Association Executive Board



# What's Next?

Good Morning Sisters and Brothers,

We've had an exciting couple of weeks. Our members turned out loud and in force when asked to "Build a Bridge" to show our support of the Dr. Curry and the Board of Education's budget and demanding the County Commissioners fully fund it. It really was an awesome experience, unlike what many of us have experienced before. Approximately, 225 educators and community members lined the street of from Pines Senior Center to Route 4. Signs supporting teacher Steps and "honk if you support education" were held by retirees to young students.

During the presentation of the county budget, fellow educators spoke eloquently about young teachers leaving for greener pastures and their own low morale due to unkept promises of unfunded Steps. I cannot stress the community support at the hearing. Many non educators addressed the Commissioners about the importance of keeping strong teachers and attracting new teachers to Calvert County. The public understands that Calvert County relies on great schools to make it a great county. CEA leadership truly believes that our strong showing on March 21<sup>st</sup> has made a huge impact on the elected Commissioners. That's what Union power is all about!

It's not over yet. The County Commissioners don't finalize the budget until May 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is still time to get involved and make a difference for you and your fellow teachers.

- Write a letter to the editor of the Calvert Recorder
- Write a letter to your County Commissioner
- Sign the CEA online petition available on the CEA website

[https://www.change.org/p/calvert-county-board-of-county-commissioners-fully-fund-calvert-schools-budget?recruiter=217812101&utm\\_source=share\\_for\\_starters&utm\\_medium=copyLink](https://www.change.org/p/calvert-county-board-of-county-commissioners-fully-fund-calvert-schools-budget?recruiter=217812101&utm_source=share_for_starters&utm_medium=copyLink)

If you need talking points or want another set of eyes to look at any letters written, do not hesitate to contact a member of the Step Up committee. We look forward to you joining in the fight for our future as Calvert County educators.

Thank you for all you do for our students and CEA every day.

CEA Step Up Committee

Dona Ostenso

Mike Spahr

Amy Cox

Gary Clites

Nancy Crosby

Siobhan Tedtsen





# Maryland State Education Association Night

**Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 p.m. vs. Chicago White Sox**  
Orioles Tote Bag presented by MLB Network (1st 20,000 Fans 15 and over)

**Terrace Box Outside Bases (Sections 1-17, 55-65): \$25\***

**Left Field Lower Box (Sections 66-86): \$25\***

**Lower Reserve (Sections 7-17, 55-87): \$15\***

**Upper Reserve (Sections 306-364): \$13\***

\*There is an additional 10% service charge per ticket.

For any questions or accessible seating, please call 888.848.BIRD (2473) and ask for the Ticket Services team.

---

## FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS

1. Click on the link below
2. Select a quantity of tickets
3. Create a Baltimore Orioles ticket account
4. Purchase and print your tickets

**<http://www.orioles.com/tix/msea>**

*Tickets posted for re-sale are subject to cancellation. Offer is NOT valid at the Box Office.*



As a "thank you" for their hard work in the community, the Nationals welcome local teachers, administrators and school employees to the ballpark.

## Teacher Appreciation Day

Games

Phillies

[Fri, May 12 @7:05 PM EDT](#)

Brewers

[Tue, Jul 25 @7:05 PM EDT](#)

Pirates

[Fri, Sep 29 @7:05 PM EDT](#)

<http://m.mlb.com/nationals/tickets/info/special-ticket-teachers-day>