

SKYLINE VIEW

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1. Ways to Save Money with Membership

ATTENTION NEA MEMBERS

GIVE YOUR BUDGET A BREAK WHEN YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR HOLIDAY SKIP PAYMENT OPTION

NEA members can take advantage of our exclusive Holiday Skip Payment option and have **one less bill to worry about during the holiday months!**

When you insure with the NEA Auto & Home Insurance Program provided by California Casualty, you can choose to skip your insurance payments in November and December or December and January. Plus, you will receive exceptional service and benefits.

Attention First-time Homebuyers

Put the Newly Enacted Tax Credit Legislation to Work for You

- o Available to first-time homebuyers
- o Credit amount up to \$8,000
- o Mortgage loan must be approved on or before April 30, 2010 and must close on or before June 30, 2010
- o Available on single-family detached homes, townhomes and condominiums—newly constructed or pre-existing homes
- o The tax credit does not need to be repaid unless the home is sold within the first three years after purchase

NEA \$200 Gift Card

Receive a \$200 gift card when you close a new mortgage or refinance with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage.²

Be sure to mention you are an NEA member at application.

Thinking about buying your first home? Good news—now may be a great time to make your move! For a limited time, qualified first-time homebuyers may receive a tax credit up to \$8,000 as part of the extended First-time Homebuyer Tax Credit and Advance Loan Program.

If you plan to live in the home as your primary residence and have not owned a home during the past three years, you may qualify for the tax credit. As long as the home remains your primary residence for at least three years, you will not have to repay this tax credit.

Get Started Now

Take your first step by talking to your tax advisor for more information and then talking to a home mortgage consultant for a **PriorityBuyer**[®] preapproval. You may be able to buy your first home sooner than you thought possible.

Call the NEA Home Financing Program today!

1-800-NEA-4YOU

1 (800-632-4968)

2. Public Hearings Science and English SOL's

On October 22, 2009, the Virginia Board of Education accepted for first review proposed revised English Standards of Learning and Science Standards of Learning. The Virginia Board of Education is now seeking public comment on the proposed revised English and Science Standards of Learning for use in the public schools of the Commonwealth.

The proposed revised English Standards of Learning may be found on the Virginia Department of Education's Web (VDOE) site at:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2009/10_oct/agenda_items/item_i.pdf <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2009/10_oct/agenda_items/item_i.pdf> . Comments should be e-mailed to Tracy Fair Robertson, English coordinator, at englishsol@doe.virginia.gov <<mailto:englishsol@doe.virginia.gov>> .

The proposed revised Science Standards of Learning may be found on the VDOE's Web site at:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2009/10_oct/agenda_items/item_j.pdf <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2009/10_oct/agenda_items/item_j.pdf> . Comments should be e-mailed to Paula Klonowski, science coordinator, at sciencesol@doe.virginia.gov <<mailto:sciencesol@doe.virginia.gov>> .

The Virginia Board of Education will hold public hearings to solicit comments on the proposed revised English Standards of Learning and Science Standards of Learning. A public hearing will be held on December 1, 2009, at 7 p.m. at:

Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, VA 22032

Registration of speakers for public hearings will begin at 6:30 p.m. Speakers will have

three minutes to speak and should bring copies of their comments for the Board.

Comments on the proposed revised English Standards of Learning may be faxed to the VDOE at (804) 786-5466 or sent via mail or e-mail until November 23, 2009, to Tracy Fair Robertson, English coordinator, Office of Middle and High School Instruction, Virginia Department of Education, P.O. Box 2120, Richmond, VA 23218-2120.

Comments on the proposed revised Science Standards of Learning may be faxed to the VDOE at (804) 786-5466 or sent via mail or e-mail until November 23, 2009, to Paula Klonowski, science coordinator, Office of Middle and High School Instruction, Virginia Department of Education, P.O. Box 2120, Richmond, VA 23218-2120.

If you need additional information about the proposed English Standards of Learning, please contact Ms. Robertson by e-mail at Tracy.Robertson@doe.virginia.gov <<mailto:Tracy.Robertson@doe.virginia.gov>> or by telephone at (804) 371-7585.

If you need additional information about the proposed Science Standards of Learning, please contact Ms. Klonowski by e-mail at Paula.Klonowski@doe.virginia.gov <<mailto:Paula.Klonowski@doe.virginia.gov>> or by telephone at (804) 371-0249.

3. VRS – 10 Minute Meetings

In your local you should be hearing about the VRS – 10 Minute Meetings coming your way. VEA wants to let you know about recommendations the Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission has made concerning VRS. We don't want to alarm you but inform you and you can take action if you choose. The changes that are being recommended could have an impact on your retirement or those coming into the profession.

4. Office Closing

The Skyline UniServ office will be closed November 26th and 27th for Thanksgiving. We will reopen on Monday, November 30th. *We wish you and your family a safe and happy Thanksgiving!*

5. Teacher Rights - Evaluation

If I do not agree with the assessment of my performance on my observation form, do I have to sign the form?

Yes, sign the form or you can be dismissed for insubordination. Beneath your signature write something to this effect: "I do not agree with this assessment of my performance and reserve my right to append additional comments." Signing the form is simply documentation that you are in receipt of the information. Be aware of one thing: never sign a blank or partially completed evaluation form. Also remember to ask for a copy of the completed evaluation. You are entitled to it.

Write a rebuttal. If you disagree with the evaluation, you may give a written rebuttal in the space provided on the evaluation form. However, you may desire to be more specific with the rebuttal than the space on the evaluation form allows. In this case, you may write a rebuttal on a separate sheet and have it attached to the evaluation.

In writing a rebuttal, you are free to give your opinion of your work performance for the year and express disagreement with the performance ratings and written comments given by the evaluator. You do not have to write the rebuttal during the evaluation conference. Instead you may want to take time to think about what to say and carefully write your rebuttal statement. You should tell your evaluator that a rebuttal will be submitted. Remember, if you do not challenge the information within a reasonable time frame, all parties may assume that you do indeed agree.

6. Membership

It is everyone's responsibility to help recruit membership. Membership in hard times is more important than ever. If we all stand together our voices can be heard; when we stand alone no one hears. If you have a story about something that has happened to you or someone you know, tell non-members about it. Signing up a member may be the best thing you can do for someone.

7. Season's Savings from neamb.com

You deserve all the savings and support we can give! The holidays are an exciting and busy time for everyone, but they can also be demanding for NEA members. We'd like to do everything we can to save you time and keep you within your budget. That's why we've negotiated a series of special deals, discounts, and giveaways on your behalf. Be sure to check our site frequently for special discounts and valuable offers – find it all at neamb.com!

November Online Giveaways – *Win one of 10 \$150 L.L. Bean gift Cards, Win one of 15 \$100 Barnes & Noble Gift Cards*

December Online Giveaway – *Win one of 8 \$250 Visa Gift Cards*

Skyline UniServ/District 21 Information

Skyline UniServ/District 21

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