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Hi Member,

Below is information on the government shutdown, FEA's new website, Weingarten rights, and more.

Government Shutdown

At midnight on September 30th, the federal government officially shut down due to a lack of appropriations. However, DoDEA educators at the school level continue to work.

We know government shutdowns create stress and uncertainty for educators and their families. FEA is committed to keeping you informed and ensuring your rights and protections remain clear during this period. Here are two links from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) that may provide some guidance to some common questions about pay, benefits, leave and other issues:

[Revised Guidance for Shutdown Furloughs](#)

[Special Instructions for Agencies Affected by a Possible Lapse in Appropriations Starting on October 1, 2025](#)

Information for Federal Employees

- **Pay During Furloughs:** Under the Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019 (passed after the last shutdown), both employees who work during a shutdown and furloughed employees are entitled to retroactive back pay after a shutdown ends.
- **Health and Life Insurance:** Coverage continues during furloughs, though changes to benefits may need to wait until employees are back in pay status. Premiums may be withheld from back pay later.
- **Unemployment Benefits:** Furloughed employees and contractors may be eligible for unemployment benefits.

Coming Soon: FEA's New Website

We are excited to announce that FEA's new website will officially launch on October 15, 2025. The updated site will make it easier for members to access key resources and updates quickly amongst other resources. Please note that the "old" website is not monitored or checked anymore. The address for the new FEA website will remain the same (feaonline.org).

We look forward to sharing this new digital home with you in just a few weeks.

Know Your Rights: Weingarten Rights

As an FEA member, you have the legal right to request union representation during any meeting with management that could lead to discipline. These are called your Weingarten Rights. If you are told to attend a meeting or if you are already in a meeting which you believe could lead to discipline, please stop and immediately ask for your faculty representative.

FEA strongly encourages all members to exercise these rights to ensure they are fully protected. If you have questions about this, please contact your FRS for more information.

FEA's Commitment

FEA continues to monitor shutdown and other developments closely and will share updates as they become available. While this shutdown presents challenges, please know that once shutdown ends, your contracts, rights, and protections will remain intact.

FEA stands with you, and we will continue to advocate for the stability and respect you deserve.

In solidarity,

Federal Education Association

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