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Hi Member,

In this newsletter issue, learn more about:

- Association Grievances Filed Over Shutdown Pay Issues
- How DFAS issues are resolved through AutoPay
- AutoPay enrollment process
- AutoPay deadline
- NEA's new Letter Writing Campaign
- Bipartisan support in Congress for restoring collective bargaining rights in DoD
- Worldwide Reassignment Program (WRP) update

[Association Grievances Filed Over Shutdown Pay Issues](#)

FEA has filed Association Grievances on behalf of both Stateside and Overseas educators regarding pay during the shutdown.

What you need to know:

- The central issue is the way DoDEA management coded employee pay. Educators in both bargaining units, Stateside and Overseas, were placed in a leave-without-pay (LWOP) status, which triggered penalties and resulted in many members receiving debt letters.
- When the shutdown began, management chose to code all DoDEA employees as KE (furlough), a LWOP code that FEA maintains was not required.
- This coding decision was made by DoDEA management, and FEA believes it directly contributed to the debt notices members are now receiving.

[DFAS Issues Highlight The Importance of Switching to AutoPay](#)

- Recent DFAS errors remind us that DoDEA educator pay is not being handled reliably.
- As members continue experiencing significant disruptions caused by DFAS during the shutdown, FEA is again urging anyone still on Dues Deduction to switch to AutoPay.
- Members in SR were already impacted when DFAS erroneously withheld dues earlier this year.
- Because FEA will not collect dues through AutoPay until after the shutdown ends, there is no financial risk for members who switch now.

All you need to enroll is your zip code on file and your member ID, which we have provided for your convenience:

Zip Code:

Member ID: 0000000000

Note: If your zip code shows with a four-digit extension (for example, 20002-0036), please enter only the first five digits (20002) when signing up.

If you have not yet moved to AutoPay, this is an ideal time to make the transition and protect your membership from DFAS errors.

[Membership Cancellation Deadline: November 10](#)

Enroll in AutoPay by November 10 to avoid cancellation and maintain your membership benefits.

Dues are deferred until the end of the government shutdown, so you can enroll now without any deductions.

(This notice does not apply to members who have already paid in full by check.)

[Letter Writing Campaign](#)

NEA has launched a new Letter Writing Campaign through the NEA Legislative Action Center to help members petition their members of Congress about the ongoing shutdown issues, including DoDEA educators being required to work without pay.

We encourage educators to take action BUT ONLY at home on your own equipment. Please do NOT use government computers, do during work hours or on government property.

Link: [Tell Congress to Immediately End The Shutdown](#)

Your voice makes a difference.

[Update: Bipartisan Support for Restoring Collective Bargaining in DoD](#)

NEA/FEA recognize and appreciate a group of House members who signed a letter urging the House and Senate to maintain language in the National Defense Authorization Act that restores collective bargaining rights in the Department of Defense.

Cheers to:

- Reps. Don Bacon (R-NE), Michael Turner (R-OH), Rob Bresnahan (R-PA), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Michael Lawler (R-NY), Nick LaLota (R-NY), Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY), Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ), Chris Smith (R-NJ), David Joyce (R-OH), Andrew Garbarino (R-NY), Zach Nunn (R-IA), Mike Bost (R-IL), Derrick Van Orden (R-WI), Thomas Kean Jr. (R-NJ), and Pete Stauber (R-MN).

Their support strengthens our fight for workplace rights and protections across DoD.

[Worldwide Reassignment Program Update \(Management's New Name for the Transfer Program\)](#)

- Through a provision in last year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Congress directed DoDEA to restart a transfer program for Overseas educators.
- The Transfer Program is now being called the Worldwide Reassignment Program (WRP).
- After Congress passed the NDAA, DoDEA and FEA negotiated an SOP for the WRP. You can find the agreement [here](#).
- As background, the last time the Transfer Program was run, the program operated with about a four million dollar budget, which FEA maintained was insufficient to run a full and complete Transfer Program.
- FEA has learned that Dr. Beth Schiavino-Narvaez has reportedly only authorized a budget of about 1.5 million dollars for the WRP this year.

FEA will continue advocating for a fully-funded program that supports the mobility needs of educators serving students around the world.

In solidarity,

Federal Education Association

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