



September 8, 2025

Coachella Valley Teachers
Association

California Teachers
Association

National Education Association

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Good morning!

Our **Low Desert Leadership Conference** on Saturday was a success! Most site reps attended, and several shared that the sessions were both interesting and useful. Topics covered were site rep and grievance training, school safety, educator technology use, member benefits, inclusion, and organizing at school sites. Be sure to ask your rep(s) to share if any of those topics interest you.

I am out on FMLA for approximately two weeks. I will be unable to attend meetings in person, but will still be checking email and my phone. Your CVTA Vice-President, Jeff Kruger, will be available in-person if needed. His contact information is cvtakruger@gmail.com and 760-333-4307.

We have seen the **Release of Responsibility rubric**, and have reached out to HR for more information regarding its intended use and possible evaluative use. It is surprising that this rubric was not discussed with us during one of our Ed Services meetings where we could have asked questions prior to it being shared by admin. Hold tight while we await a response.

CTA Membership cards are available to download to your phones and/or add to your digital wallets. Emails were sent last week to each member using the email address on file with CTA. If you have questions or need help, please contact your CVTA Membership Chair, Rebecca Kay, at cvtarebecca@gmail.com.

There is a **school board meeting** at the DO this Thursday at 5:30 pm. The [agenda will be posted](#) on the CVUSD website this evening. We do recommend that you take a few minutes to look at the agenda items, as most decisions made by the school board directly affect the work you do each day! **The board is there to hear your concerns or questions** and you have the right to speak should you choose to do so. In our experience, the school board is often unaware of the day-to-day issues taking place at sites and in classrooms, and they need to hear from you. CVTA always has at least one person in attendance at each school board meeting who can help, if needed.

It is time to begin filing grievances if you have issues that have been shared with your admin and nothing has been done (remember, grievances cannot be filed unless a violation of the contract has actually taken place) . This is not to place blame on any site admin, as many issues are out of their hands. It is our understanding from several members who have contacted us that issues are not being corrected, though, and that is not acceptable. To begin

the grievance process, if you would like help, [begin here by completing the form](#) for our Grievance Chair, Ethan Lubin (contact at grievancescvta@gmail.com). Here are issues that have been shared with us and continue to affect our **ability to perform our job duties, increase workload, or create an unsafe environment:**

- air conditioning not working properly
- boarded up windows
- untrained para educators (or none at all)
- class size overages (either actual students in class or on enrollment list)
- administrators not responding to important staff emails
- lack of materials or supplies
- regular classes covered by long-term subs rather than teachers (not a grievance, but possibly a violation of our RIFd teachers' rights, and we need to know)

If something is missing from our list, please let me know. **Filing a grievance is your right** and is literally a process which the district has agreed to use for resolving issues. If you are being made to feel that you should not file a grievance, especially after you have attempted to get an issue resolved informally, please contact me right away.

Catastrophic Sick Bank: Open enrollment continues through October 2nd. Please look for the form sent in your district email on September 2nd from Lorena Gamez.

Teachers, School Counselors, and School Librarians- Are you interested in becoming a **National Board Certified Teacher**? Join us for a virtual informational meeting on **Wednesday, September 17th** at 6:00 PM to learn more about the process and the powerful impact it can have on your teaching practice and your students. We'll also be sharing details about the \$2,500 stipend and the \$25,000 incentive currently available from the California Department of Education for educators who certify.

Whether you're just curious or ready to start your NBCT journey, this session will help you take the next step. Take a look at [the flyer](#), and [register here](#).

We look forward to seeing you on September 17th! ☐

Hosted by: Ashley Sincosky, NBCT

ECYA/Exceptional Needs Specialist

Coachella Valley Teachers Association

Have a great week!

Visit Our Website

Important Dates

- **September 11th:** CVUSD School Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, [Zoom Link](#)
- **September 16th:** CVTA Virtual Office Hours 4:30-5:00 pm (link added soon)
- **September 17th:** Deadline to balance classes
- **September 17th:** Virtual Informational Meeting for National Board Certification, 6:00 pm
- **September 23rd:** CVTA Eboard Meeting 4:30 pm
- **September 25th:** CVUSD School Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, [Zoom Link](#)
- **September 30th:** Deadline for Admin to share site budgets
- **September 30th:** Catastrophic Sick Leave Bank open enrollment ends



Carissa Carrera
CVTA President

"An injury to one is an injury to all."

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