

# AHEM Friday Blast

Valerie Holthus, President

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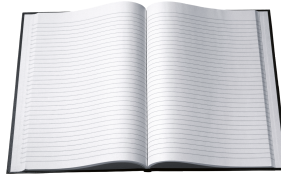
## ELEMENTARY REPORT CARDS – 2021

Your building may be able to have report cards printed, folded, stuffed and mailed from the ESC! If so, grade level classroom teachers will need to collaborate when report cards are complete to see that all students are accounted for and not duplicated. There are links to forms you can use to create a PDF excel chart that I am unable to post here, but please check with your building principal or secretary. Hopefully they have been advised of this, not all principals seem to know about this option, or have decided to take advantage of it. Val Holthus

## NEGOTIATIONS NOTEBOOK

Greetings AHEM Members!

By the time you read this, the negotiations team will have met with the district for the first time. This first meeting will be focused on setting ground rules and plans for future meetings.



As we continue to meet with the district, we can best keep you informed if you share summer contact information. The team just sent out our first message to this group on Wednesday. You can use this form to provide your home email address: <https://bit.ly/3tWFxyg>

Thanks for everything you have done for your students and for each other this year. Through constant change, you have all kept education moving forward. The negotiations team will do all we can this summer to bring back a contract that recognizes your dedication and hard work.

You can contact the team at [AHEMNegotiations@gmail.com](mailto:AHEMNegotiations@gmail.com) if you have questions.

In Solidarity,  
Your AHEM Negotiations Team  
John Wolhaupter - Lead Negotiator  
Luke Amundson  
Mark Corcoran  
Traci Intihar  
Jon Plotz  
Brandon Voss



June is Pride Month



The colors of the rainbow flag reflect the diversity of the LGBTQ community, as the flag is often used as a symbol of gay pride. While this use of the rainbow flag originated in San Francisco, it is now used worldwide.



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## Celebrate Juneteenth



Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond.

Today Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future. Its growing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dignity in America long over due. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. Sensitized to the conditions and experiences of others, only then can we make significant and lasting improvements in our society.

From [www.Juneteenth.com](http://www.Juneteenth.com), 2021

## **In Case You Missed the PEIP Q and A Last Week...**

(PUBLIC EMPLOYEE INSURANCE PROGRAM)

**Mindy Pazen, Chairperson**

PEIP is not an option during open enrollment this year. You should have received a link in an email from the PEIP committee who has shared a link to the AH PEIP informational video and the 2020-2021 Step-by-Step Guide to PEIP. The guide includes a document with questions and answers that were asked during the informational meetings. The committee has also sent another question and answer document provided by PEIP (2021 Advantage Q and A). This information was set to you to help you understand PEIP and answer your questions. The Q and A is also included below.

Anoka Hennepin PEIP Informational Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?t441GSVcR8s>

Please know that certain contractual issues need to be solved before PEIP can be presented to you for a vote.

**PUBLIC EMPLOYEES INSURANCE PROGRAM (PEIP)  
ADVANTAGE HEALTH PLAN**

**2021 Questions & Answers**

(Information Also Available Online @ [www.innovomn.com](http://www.innovomn.com))

**Q1. What is the Advantage Health Plan and how does it work?**

**A1.** The State of Minnesota implemented Advantage in 2002 to address rapidly rising health care costs and to maintain access to as many health care providers for state employees as possible. The PEIP Advantage Plan was first offered in 2007 to all public employers. PEIP has had great success with the Advantage program. Over the last eleven years, PEIP's average pool increase has been approximately 3.5%.

Under Advantage, primary care clinic systems available to employees are placed in cost levels according to their actual, risk-adjusted costs of delivering care and to meet geographic access needs. Employees and their family members are free to select providers of their choice in their area, and to change their selection during the year within the same health carrier. The amount employees and family members pay out-of-pocket for copays, deductibles, and coinsurance varies according to the cost level of the provider used. The lower the cost level of the provider, the lower the out-of-pocket costs for Advantage members.

This award winning plan design and structure gives members flexibility and choice while taking advantage of best practices in provider competition and managing the cost of care.

**Q2. Why are there four Advantage provider cost levels?**

**A2.** Advantage places health care providers in cost levels based on their actual costs of delivering care and to meet geographic access needs. The purpose of the cost levels is to help inform employees and their families of differences in the cost of healthcare delivery, and to create incentives for providers to control costs. The premium for each plan level does not change but employees pay different levels of copays, deductibles, and coinsurance depending on the cost level of the provider they use.

Cost level four reflects the fact that a number of clinic systems have much higher costs than others. Without cost level four, it likely would not be possible to continue offering the highest cost providers to employees. Cost level four preserves the availability of these highest cost providers. Employees are free to choose any cost level provider, including those in cost level four. There is no difference in monthly premium, but employees will continue to pay less out-of-pocket in deductibles, copayments, etc. when using a provider with a lower cost level, and more when choosing a higher cost level provider.

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# VIRTUAL COACHES NEEDED

## Education Minnesota is seeking virtual coaches to mentor early career teachers for the ELP (Educators Leading the Profession) Program



### Candidates must possess:

- Exemplary teaching abilities and proven record of achievement.
- A minimum of five years classroom experience.
- Excellent communication skills, both orally and written, with diverse audiences.
- A commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion to support students, peers, and new teachers.

Virtual Instructional Coaches will provide guidance on teaching methods and practices directly related to their subject matter.

To view the selection process overview, role description, and application instructions go to:

<https://edmn.me/3u0PsTh=>

**For additional questions, please email [Vicki.Turner@edmn.org](mailto:Vicki.Turner@edmn.org)**

## Educators Leading The Profession

*In partnership with Education Minnesota*

Updated: May 21, 2021

[www.educationminnesota.org](http://www.educationminnesota.org)

Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and AFL-CIO. ~~1945~~ 1945



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# AHEM Executive Board

## Openings for Leaders

The Executive Board has responsibility for fiduciary accountability, policy implementation and management of the activities of Anoka-Hennepin Education Minnesota.

### Powers and Duties

The Executive Board shall have and exercise general supervision and management over the activities of the Association. The Board shall have the following powers:

1. to manage the Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota calendar;
2. to oversee the disbursement of the Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota budget;
3. to direct the collection, disbursement, accounting and auditing of all funds and property of the Association;
4. to be the final authority for the submission of grievances to arbitration;
5. to implement policy enacted by the Representative Assembly;
6. to advise the Representative Assembly on needed actions;
7. to make the final decision on the authorization of a strike, based on the vote of active members; and
8. to act on behalf of the Rep Assembly outside of the contract year.

Representation on the Executive Board includes the AHEM officers, eight members from the elementary instructional level; four middle school; four high school; one pre-Kindergarten; two at-large; and one Education Minnesota Governing Board member.

In the event that an instructional level does not have sufficient candidates to fill their allotment, persons from any other instructional level may be considered for the position.

Terms of office on the Executive Board shall be one year, unlimited terms, beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> and ending May 31<sup>st</sup> and there is one meeting of the Executive Board held during each month of the school year. The Executive Board decides if their meetings will be held virtually or in person.

There is a stipend for serving on the Executive Board.

Please contact [valerie.holthus@edmn.org](mailto:valerie.holthus@edmn.org) if you are interested in serving on the Executive Board. The only requirement of a Board member is to be an AHEM member, and an interest in union functions.

## Happy Summer!



# Government Relations Update

**Biden Administration:** In his latest budget proposal, Biden seeks to lessen the disparity between rich and poor school districts. The plan includes a \$20 billion program for high-poverty school districts. States would get additional funding if they “address longstanding funding disparities” between rich and poor districts.

**Education Petition:** Last I heard, about 850 members signed the petition. The petition was recently sent to key lawmakers to show solidarity for this issue.

**Legislative Action:** The Minnesota budget needs to be passed by June 30th or a shutdown will occur. Leaders from all sides indicate there’s a low chance of a shutdown. A special legislative session will likely be held from the 14th to the end of the month. While the education omnibus bill is at a stalemate, Senator Roger Chamberlain offered a compromise, increasing the educational funding formula by 3% year 1 and 1.5% year 2, which would still be the biggest increase in 15 years. To read more go to: <https://www.senate.mn/media/index.html>

**Lobby Days:** Provided that COVID restrictions stay low, we will likely again hold Coffee and Politics sessions in the fall.

**MN Department of Education:** A first draft of the new Social Studies standards has been released.



Aaron Balzer, Government Relations Chair

## **AHEM EARLY ENROLLMENT PROGRAM**

Anoka Hennepin Education Minnesota is now offering an Early Enrollment program. If you are **not** currently an AHEM member, the Early Enrollment program is a great opportunity to pledge your membership for the 2021-2022 school year and gain access to many member benefits immediately (with full access starting Sept. 1) without paying dues until October 2021. To enroll in the program use the link below to complete the application:

<https://join.nea.org/minnesota/>

**MN Department of Education’s Safe Learning Plan will expire the first week of June. There will be a different plan starting for 2021 Summer Programming.**

Below is the current recommended Policy Option Range (14-day case rate per 10,000 people). Daily covid case rates have shown a significant decrease in the last week in case rates in both Anoka and Hennepin Counties. How decisions are made about instructional models has changed, and will now be made at the building level, rather than at the District level.

In-person learning for all students	0 to less than 10
Elementary in-person, Middle/high school hybrid	10 to less than 20
Both hybrid	20 to less than 30
Elementary hybrid, Middle/high school distance	30 to less than 50
Both distance	50 or more

MN Dept. of Health: Case Rates per 10,000, Based on 14-day Case Rate, Updated 6/3/21

5/9 – 5/22/21:                      Anoka County, 22.08                      Hennepin County, 13.81

Data for K-12 Schools: jwolfson.shinyapps.io 14-day Case Rate by County Updated 6/1/2021

Anoka: 8.0                      Hennepin County 5.8

## Retirement Congratulations

Retirees: If you would like to have your retirement party announced, please email [valerie.holthus@edmn.org](mailto:valerie.holthus@edmn.org).

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Hello, Retiring Members!

This is Susan Witt and I serve on the Education Minnesota Retired Governing Board. As the end of the year nears, I am asking that you please let your retirees know about an opportunity to stay connected to the union through continuous membership. Continuous membership allows most members who retire after Sept. 2015, are at least 55 years old, have been a member for at least ten years and are an active member at retirement, to join at **no additional annual cost**. However, members must register online for the retired membership. They should register online at [www.educationminnesota.org](http://www.educationminnesota.org) .

By staying connected to the union, retirees have access to professional development and member benefits including NEA life insurance they may have purchased. In addition, retirees who do day-to-day subbing will continue to have liability insurance under the retired membership. Retirees are also a vital part of the union as we continue to fight for full funding of public education. As a reminder, the membership doesn’t transfer automatically, so retirees must register online at [www.educationminnesota.org](http://www.educationminnesota.org) .

Thank you,  
Susan Witt  
Ed MN Retired Director

## UPCOMINGEVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

### ❖ Announcements

- June 11: Grading Day, teachers may work from home, if possible.
- June 14: School Board Work Session, 5:30 p.m.
- June 14: Flag Day
- June 15: QComp Steering Committee Meeting, 8:00 a.m.
- June 15: AFL/CIO General Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- June 15: AHEM Officer Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- June 18: QComp Payout



- June 20: Father's Day

## *Let it go*

The past is done with  
all the mistakes, all the disappointments.

Let them go.

There is nothing you can change.

But nothing is ever wasted.

All of it was learning.

Make good use of it.

Charlotte Gray

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