

# September 2017

# SANTA ROSA PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS



## September Calendar

- 4th Labor Day
- 5th/ Contract Ratification Vote
- 6th
- 6th 17-18 Contract Negotiations Begin
- 7th 2nd School Board Budget Public Hearing
- 12th SRPE Exec. Board Mtg. 4:15 PM
- 13th Early Release/PD
- 19th AR Meeting 4:15 PM  
(All members are encouraged to attend)
- 26th School Board Meeting 9:00 AM

## State of the Union

**Educator Retention** Our school year is winding its way into September. August has moved at a maddening pace full of meetings, both during and after work hours, beginning of the year employee obligations, emails, new technology programs to navigate, and countless after hours in preparation for our students. Our employee dedication and fortitude is what made our district an 'A' district once again.

While we improved our [2015-16 grade from a 'B' to an 'A'](#), we dropped in our overall state rating. For years we remained in the state's top 5 school districts. We are now ranked #8. As much as we are dedicated to our students, we must also be as dedicated to our profession and livelihood. SRPE believes this drop in state ranking is due to our district's inability to retain our trained and experienced educators, many of whom choose to cross county lines for more lucrative salaries and employment.

Our union, Santa Rosa Professional Educators has shown our school district this to be true by quoting statements from its own surveyed administrators. Yet, our voice falls on deaf ears. Why? So very disappointing is the fact that while the majority of the employees voiced the need for a union at our recent PERC election, too many employees are content to allow a few employees to support our union's efforts.

Our surrounding counties have greater union membership and also greater salaries. They are able to retain their employees. Union membership and salaries go hand in hand. Membership is a tool. Okaloosa has an average salary of \$10,000 greater than SRC. It also has an 80% union membership. Our union's voice has the potential to be just as strong! Potential... add your voice to strengthen your advocacy. Engaged membership improves working conditions, benefits and wages. Become an engaged member. **A single arrow is easily broken; a bundle of ten is not.**

**Contract negotiations** will once again open beginning Wednesday, September 6th. Employees are encouraged to attend each negotiation session. Your first-hand knowledge and involvement will empower your outlook. Negotiation sessions are public meetings. Meeting dates are listed as scheduled on the District's homepage and SRPE's facebook page. Over 4,300 individuals and groups like and follow our page.

**Educational Support Personnel** are in the midst of reaffirming their confidence in SRPE as their bargaining agent. Your election ballots were rolled out August 21st with the absolute return due date being September 19th at 10:00 am. If you are an ESP and have not received a ballot in the mail by Sept. 1, 2017, or if you want your ballot to be mailed to an address other than your home address, currently on file with the district, communicate immediately with PERC, Suite 300, 4708 Capital Circle, Tallahassee, Florida 32303, (850) 488-8641. If you need assistance or more information, please contact us at [srpe.office@srpeducators.com](mailto:srpe.office@srpeducators.com).

*In Unity*



Please View, Like and Share!

I do not believe in a fate that will fall on us no matter what we do. I do believe in a fate that will fall on us if we do nothing.

Ronald Reagan

**SRPE**  
6798 Caroline St.  
Milton, FL 32570

rhonda.chavers@srpeducators.com  
SRPE.Office@srpeducators.com  
[SRProEducators.org](http://SRProEducators.org)

Tel. 850 623 5877  
Fax: 850 623 5827

# Kudos to our ESOL Resource Educators!



Please take note that of the 203 ELL students tested this past year in Santa Rosa County schools, 37% tested proficient in English. This ranks us as 3rd only behind Virtual School (44 students at 41% proficient) and Baker County (15 students at 40%) and well above the state average of 24% proficient. KUDOS! [2017 Spring ACCESS Results](#)

## ENGAGED EMPLOYEES MAKING A DIFFERENCE



IN THEIR LIVES AND CLASSROOMS

### My Education Discount

You can find a comprehensive list of education discounts available to you [here](#).

As a school employee, you can get discounts on hundreds of products and services. You can also check to see if your [auto insurance and cell phone plans](#) can be lowered. Additionally, you'll find assistance with many financial issues like [consolidating student loans, travel](#) and more.

**Start saving TODAY with My Education Discount**



### Be Active. Be Involved.

- Step 1: [Join SRPE](#). *We are stronger together!*
- Step 2: [LIKE](#) our Facebook Page and [JOIN](#) our Facebook Group to stay in the loop.
- Step 3: Become ACTIVE and make your voice heard. *You can start by attending monthly AR meetings.*

## Professional Liability Policy Protections

SRPE provides a 2 million dollar professional liability policy for ALL SRPE members, instructional and non-instructional. You are covered from your first day of enrollment and will receive your certificate within the next few weeks.

This policy is yours to be used at your discretion. You are not responsible for the \$50,000.00 deductible unlike Florida's professional liability policy and our state/national union professional liability policy.

**Deductible free...** Now THAT is real protection!

### In the News...

#### [Legal Challenge to Education Law Grows to 10 Districts](#)

Ten public school districts have now lined up to challenge Florida's charter-friendly education law. What is the word from our own district? The greater the number of challengers, the stronger the voice. Is our district in?

#### [Dear Teachers: You're Not Fooling Me!](#)

This mom thinks she has teachers all figured out. Do you agree with what she has to say about it?



### Membership Perks & Educator Rewards

#### [Abenity Rewards Program](#)

Register today with your SRPE Membership. When it comes to your bottom line, your SRPE membership pays dividends through Abenity. We have partnered with some of your favorite companies to get you the most for your money. Ask your site AR for your registration code.



**SRPE**

6798 Caroline St.  
Milton, FL 32570

rhonda.chavers@srpeducators.com

SRPE.Office@srpeducators.com  
[SRProEducators.org](#)

Tel. 850 623 5877  
Fax: 850 623 5827