

NOTEBOOK

Issue #7 January 10, 2018



TEACHING TO DIVERSITY CHECKLIST

On Monday, you received a communication from the district on the Teaching for Diversity Checklist. This checklist has been used in the past and may be of some value but we have heard concerns expressed at RAs that this checklist can be a barrier to getting support for your students.

We would like to get teacher feedback on the form and our hope was for the Mainstreaming/Integration Joint Committee to include this as part of a proposed survey. We will continue to advocate for this as a way of ensuring that students brought to SBRT get the supports they need as quickly and efficiently as possible. For now, know that the Directors are making their own recommendations that the Diversity Checklist be completed when they indicate that "School-based resource teams are strongly encouraged to adopt the practice of ensuring that a Teaching to Diversity Checklist is in place at time of referral." This is not a current recommendation coming from the Joint Mainstreaming/Integration Committee.

Please be assured that failure to complete the Teaching to Diversity Checklist should not hinder any student being referred to SBRT and should have no negative impact on that student then being referred to the District Screening Committee.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the NVTA, a Happy New Year to you all. May 2018 bring you warm friendships, strong family connections, and good health.

Please remember that the NVTA is always here for you to ensure that you have support, even when everything is not going as well as you would like it. Through the BCTF we offer a variety of supports that can help you manage the many curve balls that life often tosses your way.

Programs such as Health and Wellness, SIP, Peer Support Services, Mentorship, Professional Development, and the Internal Mediation Service are there for the specific purpose of supporting teachers. Further, Robin, Carolyn, and myself are always here to provide advice and are always ready to represent you if needed. We work for you and you should never hesitate to give us a call at the office or to send us an email.

The NVTA **GENERAL MEETING** is **Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 4 pm** at St. Martin's Anglican Church. NVTA delegates to the BCTF AGM will be elected at this meeting. Elections will also be held to fill positions on the NVTA's Bargaining Committee. If you have any questions about the upcoming elections, contact the NVTA office. Superintendent Mark Pearmain will be a special guest at this meeting to discuss the Employee Engagement Survey.

THIRD AND FINAL CALL FOR NVTA DELEGATES TO THE 2018 BCTF AGM March 17 - 20, 2018

The North Vancouver Teachers' Association's BCTF AGM delegation will be elected at the January 31, 2018 General Meeting. The NVTA can elect **15 delegates** who, along with the three NVTA Local Representatives, will comprise our delegation. Please consider putting your name forward as a candidate. Contact NVTA President, Martin Stuble (martin@nvta.ca) or First Vice President, Robin Deleurme (robin@nvta.ca) at the NVTA office for more information.

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KNOW YOUR RESTORED LANGUAGE

There are several clauses that deal specifically with the allocation of EA hours.

1. Article D.4.A.5.g.i

A Special Education Aide (EA) [*shall be provided*] for the number of hours recommended by the District Screening committee

What This Means? This means that the District Screening Committee, a joint committee with the school district and the NVTA, determines the amount of hours provided to a student in a low incidence category. These hours are assigned to the individual student. These hours cannot be moved away from the student by administration or the district.

2. Article D.4.A.5.h

Special Education aide time for High Incidence students... shall be allocated by the School Based Resource Team (SBRT) from the total school allocation....

What This Means? This means that the high incidence hours, which are a minimum of two hours per student, are allocated by SBRT. They are not to be re-allocated solely by the administration or any other school board administrator. SBRT looks at the total and makes the appropriate allocation.

3. Article D.4.B.3

This article discusses other students with special needs, specifically students identified entering the District at kindergarten or from other districts, who have been previously identified as students with special needs. These students shall be provided assistance as per this Article while awaiting screening by the District Screening Committee.

What This Means? This means that these students shall receive the hours as per the designation they received from a previous district or prior to entering kindergarten.

NVTA MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR 2018

JANUARY 2018

- 8 Schools reopen
- 17 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)
- 19 Curriculum Training
- 26 BCTF Representative Assembly
- 31 NVTA General Meeting (St. Martin's Anglican Church)
- elect delegates to the BCTF Annual General Meeting

FEBRUARY 2018

- 12 Family Day Stat Holiday
- 21 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)
- 23 District-wide Professional Development Day

MARCH 2018

- 14 NVTA Representative Assembly dinner meeting (Sutherland Library)
- 17-20 102nd BCTF AGM (Hyatt Regency – Vancouver)
- 30 Good Friday

March 17 – April 2 SPRING BREAK

APRIL 2018

- 2 Easter Monday
- 3 Schools reopen
- 18 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)
- followed by NVTA All-Candidates Meeting

NOTICE TO ALL TEACHERS' PORTING SENIORITY AND SICK LEAVE CREDIT FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL DISTRICT

For all teachers new to the District this year, please have a good look at your pay statement for January 15, 2018. Please review your seniority and sick day bank to ensure that it accurately reflects your sick days and seniority, including any ported from another district.

A reminder that all teachers in BC are able to port up to **ten** years of seniority from another district once they have a continuing contract in North Vancouver. When you have secured a continuing contract, you have 90 days to submit the necessary verification forms from your previous school district.

In addition, the North Vancouver Collective Agreement allows you to port **all** your sick days from your previous district. If you see any errors please give us a call at the NVTA.