



A Newsletter for Beginning Teachers in NC



Regional Education Facilitators-NC Department of Public Instruction
www.regedfac.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/home

A Message from : 2016-2017 North Central Teacher of the Year– Margaret McNeill

Come on, let's **S-C-R-E-A-M** together! Greetings Beginning Teachers! You have officially made it from the end of summer to the beginning of winter! Just as the seasons change, our students will change and we, the teachers, will undoubtedly change! I am sure you have experienced some wins, battles, losses and yes, even the moments where you contemplated just throwing in the towel. Hold on! I have come to bring you great news! We have the only profession where it is okay to **S-C-R-E-A-M** at children all day, every day! Yes, that's right. The letters in the word **S-C-R-E-A-M** are sure to remind us why we have chosen the best profession in the world! **"S."**As educators we must **SEE** the student. We must convey to our students our commitment in his or her overall success. We must **SEE** the students in order to cultivate and stimulate positive academic achievement. **"C"** promotes educators to **CREATE** a learning environment. This environment must be student

centered while allowing students to work at his or her highest potential. Expectations for excellence must be identified by ALL persons in the class. Teachers have to model what a stable classroom resembles. A stable classroom environment has evidence of differentiation, safety, fairness and equality. These types of classrooms celebrate even the "smallest" wins. **"R"** represents **RELATIONSHIP**, the word we know all so well. Students need to know we are fully invested in every aspect of their lives. Establishing and maintaining a therapeutic relationship with students will tear down boundaries while supporting individual growth. **"A student does not care how much you know until they know how much you care."** This quote is true for every student in our classrooms. **"E."** **Engagement** is key in all classroom settings. Teachers must have excitement about what they are teaching. We must be willing and ready to "step out of the box." Remember, "Do whatever it takes, no

matter how long it takes to get the desired results!" **"A."** **ACCENTUATE** the positive. There is something every child does well. When we accentuate the positive, we are fostering the positive relationship. We have to recognize those teachable moments and go for it! In my classroom, we accentuate the positives in each other by offering spirit fingers! If someone has made a great gain for the day, we celebrate by giving positive energy to the student. Never underestimate how something deemed so small by some can create life changing moments for others. That is the power of a teacher! Lastly, **"M."** We must continue to **MOTIVATE** our students! We have to be cheerleaders for our students! We must remind and encourage students that no matter how dim or dreary a situation looks, they are overcomers. Keep pressing, keep pushing, keep moving through the difficult times. As teachers, remember to **S-C-R-E-A-M** all day, every day! So come on, Let's **S-C-R-E-A-M** louder!

Margaret McNeill– Harnett County Schools– Dunn Middle School

The Language of Educators: What is it and what does it mean?



Educators use abbreviations on a regular basis and for beginning teachers this can cause some frustration when in conversations with veteran teachers. Here's a sample of abbreviations that are frequently used in education:

1. **AIG**– Academically and Intellectually Gifted
2. **BT**– Beginning Teacher
3. **CTE**– Career and Technical Education
4. **EC**– Exceptional Children
5. **ELL (ESL)**– English Language Learners
6. **IEP**– Individualized Education Plan
7. **IHE**– Institutions of Higher Education
8. **LEA**– Local Education Agency (school system)
9. **NCDPI (DPI)** NC Department of Public Instruction
10. **NCEES**– NC Educator Evaluation System
11. **PD**– Professional Development
12. **PDP**– Professional Development Plan
13. **PLC**– Professional Learning Community
14. **PLN**– Professional Learning Network
15. **SBE**– State Board of Education

Here's a funny example:

After I graduated from my IHE and was licensed by DPI, I was hired as a BT to teach in the LEA I once attended. It's been a wonderful experience and I love the diversity of children. In my class this year, I have 8 AIG students, 4 EC students and 3 ELL students. The 4 EC kids have IEPs with specific accommodations for their CTE classes. I've also attended PD to help meet the goals of my PDP and improve my ratings in NCEES.

Join the Twitter Chat!

Reminder: There's an opportunity for beginning teachers to participate in a twitter chat on **December 7th from 7:00-8:00 pm.** This promises to be an informative hour of collaboration and networking. To participate in the twitter chat, use the hash tag **#NCBChat** and join the conversation on current topics in education that pertain to those newest to the profession. We look forward to hearing from you.

PD Module Information:

Check out the self-paced module **Writing to Learn: Research from the GTN Project** under the PD tab through Home Base. Find strategies to improve instruction and student achievement here.



The last two weeks of school prior to the holidays are filled with many responsibilities. Schools may have programs that require extra work for children and extra time for teachers. Some high schools may have high stakes sporting events happening. There may be tests that need to be given and graded before the semester ends. Search for those moments to enjoy this time with students, but remember, you may also have students who do not participate in the holiday season. Make sure to accommodate their needs during this time, too.

