

Hearing Education Services

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



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MESSAGE FROM Cecilia Cortez

It is a new beginning; a new year is starting. I want to welcome you back. I hope you had a restful vacation. We have to continue to be vigilant about the new information that is coming out to see how it will affect our students and how it will affect us. You have to keep informed about any changes in special education.

Labor will remain united and continue to work to protect the interests of America's working families.—*William Burrus, November 2004*

You Should Know

Hearing Aid Benefits • Information about hearing aid benefits can be found on the UFT Welfare Fund website: <http://www.uft.org/health-benefits/hearing>.

Consultation Meetings

Consultation meetings with Ms. Helen Kaufman will take place the second Wednesday of every month at 4 p.m. at 400 First Avenue in Manhattan. Send your questions and concerns to ccortez@uft.org. Minutes from the meeting will always be posted in our chapter's section of the UFT website.

Things to Do

UFT wins SESIS arbitration! (<http://www.uft.org/news/uft-prevails-sesis-arbitration>)

MENTORING

Mentoring for New Teachers

If you are a new teacher, your school will assign you a mentor to help you through the challenges of your first year. You will develop a special relationship with your school-based mentor who is there to help you grow quickly as a teacher. Your mentor will plan with you, view your classroom practice and conference with you to help you reflect on your teaching practice. Please contact your principal for more information.

Who must be mentored?

Teachers with initial certificates and fewer than two years of full-time prior teaching experience must be mentored.

Mentoring Certification

When you are ready to apply for your Professional Certificate (usually after your third year), you will need to demonstrate proof of completion of a full-year of mentoring. (Expect to meet with your mentor each week for a minimum of two periods.) It is important that your mentoring is documented by your mentor in our on-line Mentor Tracking System (MTS). At the end of each school year, your MTS documentation will be sent by the Division of Human Resources and Talent (DHR&T) to the State Education

Department. Once the electronic file is forwarded to the State, DHR&T will forward a Superintendent Verification of Mentoring Experience letter to your current mailing address. You will then be eligible to apply for your Professional Certification.

When do New Teachers need to complete 175 hours of Professional Development?

New York State requires individuals with a Professional Certificate to complete 175 hours of professional development every five years to maintain their certification. The first professional development cycle begins on July 1 following the effective date of your professional teaching certificate. For NYC public schools, your principal will:

- Function as the approving officer of professional development offerings.
- Keep a record of the professional development offerings you attend in your employee file.

For more information, visit the New York State Office of Teaching Initiatives Professional Development for Professional Certificate Holders Web site (<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/home.html>)

