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New Business Item #: 8

Title: Virtual Learning Days for PSAT and SAT testing

Submitted by: Delegate's Name: Joanne Osborne

Delegate's Email: aosborne@ameritech.net

Delegate's Phone #: 734-231-5807

Representing MEA Local/Region: Region 2

Text of proposal:

The MEA RA directs MEA Leadership to begin a dialogue with MDE about the need for virtual instruction days. The officers should advocate for the reinstatement of virtual instruction days to count as a day of instruction when the PSAT and SAT are being administered.

Rationale:

When administering the PSAT and the SAT, there are rules and guidelines which must be adhered to in regard to seating students so many feet apart, the requirement to have separate testing rooms for students with different accommodations, the silencing of bells when switching classes, and no noise from other grade levels who are in the building while students are taking the test. For many schools, it is physically and ergonomically impossible to have all students physically in attendance and meet the requirements for the test. When other grade levels are doing a virtual instructional day while the testing grade is the only group in attendance, the testing parameters can be met and provide a more conducive environment for testing.

The MDE has eliminated the budget and permission for districts to count up to 15 virtual instructional days toward the required number of annual school days. The MDE has required districts to administer the PSAT and the SAT to their student population.

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