

U.S. FORUM CONNECTION #133, JANUARY 2015

This publication is intended for your information about issues important to education, women and children. How you choose to use the information included here is up to you.

This free newsletter is sponsored by the United States Forum of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is an organization of leading women educators with over 80,000 members. Delta Kappa Gamma members wishing to subscribe to this FREE newsletter should send a request to the editor Angela O. Bedenbaugh at Bedenbaugh.Angela@gmail.com. We urge you to share this newsletter with other interested individuals who are not members of Delta Kappa Gamma or members who do not subscribe to this publication.

IN THIS ISSUE

**NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND
HEAD START PARTNERSHIPS
GOVERNMENT DENTAL INSURANCE
CHEAP GASOLINE
NEW U.S. FORUM WEB SITE**

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

The Elementary And Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the current version of which is commonly referred to as No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is going to be revised in this session of Congress. Both the House and Senate committee chairs favor reducing the number of tests given in grades 3-8. There is also some consideration being given to changes in how special education and English as a second language student scores will affect school and district ratings. New bills are currently being written which may substantially change the law. The House bill is expected to be reported out in the next week or two and would be similar to H.R.5 from the last session of Congress. See the toll free number in the contact information at the end of this newsletter to contact your Senators and Representatives.

HEAD START PARTNERSHIPS

\$500 million has been appropriated which will be available for new Early Head Start-Child Care (EHS-CC) Partnerships. These grants will allow new or existing Early Head Start programs to partner with local child care centers and family child care providers serving infants and toddlers from low-income families. For a list of the first programs to receive this money and the amount of money allocated to each, go to <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ece/early-learning/ehs-cc-partnerships/grant-awardees>. Most states seem to have at least one program which is receiving some of these funds.

GOVERNMENT DENTAL INSURANCE

One part of the new health care law which has not been much discussed is the availability of dental insurance. Dental insurance plans are available through the Federal Marketplace as well as through private providers. The dental plans available through the Federal Marketplace may be part of your health insurance with a single provider or separate through another provider. (A REMINDER: If you are not enrolled in either a private or government health insurance plan by February 15, 2015, you will be subject to a penalty when you file income taxes in 2016 for the

2015 calendar year. You are not required to have dental insurance.) For information on dental insurance go to <https://www.healthcare.gov/coverage/dental-coverage/> For answers to questions you can call 1-800-318-2596 / TTY: 1-855-889-4325. ,Those lines are manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week with the exception of Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day.

CHEAP GASOLINE

For lowest local gasoline prices in your area go to <http://www.gasbuddy.com/> This site is updated regularly giving both location and price of local gasoline.

NEW U.S. FORUM WEB SITE

The U.S. Forum has a new web site which is <http://www.usforumdkg.org/> The site has some information about the next National Legislative Seminar which will be held in 2016. In the future the registration form and other information about the seminar can be found there.

FORUM FACEBOOK PAGE LINK

For those of you desiring discussion of legislative topics there is a U. S. Forum Facebook page online at <http://www.facebook.com/DKG.US.Forum>

FORUM WEB SITE: <http://www.usforumdkg.org/>

CONTACT ADDRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTACT INFORMATION can be obtained through Congressional Switchboard 1-866-327-8670 [this is a toll free number]. You can contact your Congressman and Senator through this number without paying long distance charges.

<http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House of Representatives <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the U.S. Senate

White House 1-202-456-1111

FIVE CONSTITUENT CONTACTS WILL CAUSE A LEGISLATOR TO PAY SERIOUS ATTENTION TO A GIVEN ISSUE.

