

Jeffery Chick  
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LD 34

My name is Jeffery Chick, I am a grades 4 - 6 science/social studies teacher at Harrington Elementary School in MSAD 37. I live in Steuben. I have been an educator for nearly 40 years. At the age of 64, I'd like to teach for another 10 years. Throughout my career I have seen many changes. Today I have many concerns regarding the future of education. The increase in unacceptable behavior issues in grades K-5 is by far the most difficult and encompassing problem we have. The time it takes away from the children that are there to learn is very concerning. With this being said, the outlook in education depends on the future generations of teachers. What are we going to do to entice bright and energetic young people into teaching careers? The first and foremost thing is to make sure they are paid a fair and reasonable salary. A \$100 grocery bill before Covid is now nearly doubled, leading to an inflated cost of living. In closing, nearly 40 years ago I had my first interview for a teaching position. There were 400 applicants, I was one of eight to be selected for an interview. Today we have openings going unfilled because we can't get applicants for the positions. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.