



Happy 2020! I hope this finds you well rested and ready to make this the best year yet! The students are eagerly awaiting to get back in the routine of learning, a sense of normalcy and to be back in your classrooms! I wanted to bring to your attention to five important things.

1. **A workshop on Referral Writing is being hosted on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 5:00, contact the OEA office to claim your spot. We will have representatives from TAC here to discuss ways to improve what already exists. Plan to take advantage of this opportunity. Bring your building's Code of Conduct and the student handbook with you.**

Topics to be covered:

- What do you write on the referral?
- How do you submit a referral?
- Who can see or change the referral?
- Relationship between the Code of Conduct and what you write.
- What do you do if you believe a referral has been changed.
- Where can you get help for writing a specific referral?
- What can you expect to hear back after you have written a referral?

2. **On Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 4:45, the Retirement Committee is hosting a Retirement Workshop and Cecelia Carter, Executive Director of OSERS, will be present to answer questions on your benefits. It is limited to 30 OEA Members. Contact the office at 402-346-0400 to be added to the list.**
3. **Reminder that the Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher nominations are open until January 15th! Each one of you are deserving of this award and I hope there are nominations for all of you. Take the time to nominate a colleague.**
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5. **As you know OEA has been a part of the Better Together Coalition that has been researching and discussing options to address the unfunded liability of OSERS. The group has had healthy discussions with all stakeholder representatives being heard. The coalition's proposal to address the funding shortfall includes several options. Discussions with legislative leaders about the proposal have begun. The final decisions on how to address this issue must be made and enacted by the Legislature. The district will be sending out information regarding the coalition's proposal this week. As you know, things can change quickly. I will continue to do my best to keep you all informed via constant contact. Please reach out to your building AR as updates will continued to be shared with them during our monthly meetings.**

OEA is STRONGER with YOU!

Have a great first week back in 2020!

**Robert
OEA President**