

Chariho Regional School District Committee
and
NEA Chariho

PRESS RELEASE

The Chariho Regional School District Committee and NEA Chariho are pleased to announce the ratification of a new three-year collective bargaining agreement. This new agreement, which will expire in August 2012, is the result of many hours of respectful and frank discussion about improving the quality of our educational program, the nature of our relationship, and the reality of our economic situation. Our work together was supported by information obtained from a public hearing in December 2008 where the School Committee sought out and seriously considered contract suggestions from the public. This groundbreaking agreement establishes a performance-based compensation design team and system; eliminates longevity for new employees; aligns the teacher evaluation system, with parent and student feedback to teachers, with new Educator Evaluation Standards; and replaces the current employee absence structure with a new Paid Time Off concept. Our new contract, which is significantly thinner, calls for a number of joint committees to further advance concepts developed during the negotiation process. The agreement freezes or reduces steps on the salary schedule, while increasing compensation for top step teachers by 2% in 2009-2010, 2.25% in 2010-2011, and 2.25% in 2011-2012. At the conclusion of this agreement, all members of the bargaining unit will contribute 16% toward health care premiums. The Committee and NEA Chariho look forward to professionally implementing the many facets of this agreement that will lead to increased student achievement and financial stability for both NEA Chariho members and the taxpayers who contribute to the Chariho Regional School District.