

Good afternoon, Chairperson Moore-Lee, Vice-Chairperson Kreamer, Superintendent Dr. Navarro, MY Board of Education, distinguished guests and those watching online. As we wind down 2025, and gear up for the back half of the school year in 2026, I thought I would try a different approach. Picture this as sung to the 12 days of Christmas, although thinking about all educational staff for the holiday.

On the first day of 2026, my Board of Ed gave to me . . .

- 1 unrushed trip to the bathroom—just one (I'm on the clock for the entire day from check-in until the students leave).
- 2 working copiers (Copies counted, and I hope the others return in time).
- 3 more minutes to finish my lunch (It starts off warm, but sometimes, interruptions keep it in the microwave or sitting on my desk).
- 4 fewer duties beyond my scheduled responsibilities (there are many tasks beyond my students or staff that I must complete).
- 5 minutes of planning time (Should I grade, plan, make phone calls, respond to emails, write referrals, or make copies instead, or . . . or . . . or . . . ?).
- 6 classes caught up on grades (some teachers have 100-150 students, and elementary specials may include the entire school).
- 7 emails answered (From students, parents, teachers, administrators, and supervisors).
- 8 fewer substitutes needed tomorrow (With so many out today, hopefully, I won't be asked to cover more classes than my own schedule).
- 9 families supporting my school (The work is always easier with family support).
- 10 fewer forms to fill out (If only there could be less paperwork and not having to fill out forms about the forms I just filled out).
- 11 people who appreciate the hard work done daily (Appreciation is invaluable, yet it often costs little. Feeling seen and heard is one of the best experiences).
- 12 students whom I inspire to pursue education (Impacting on this level is beyond the wish list. Having it happen, even once, is extremely rewarding)

Please remember this list this holiday season and thank an educator. Have a great holiday season and EACC will continue to support all educators as we start 2026!