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Viewpoint: A balance of views on collective bargaining

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Viewpoint

A balance of views on collective bargaining

Collective bargaining in the public sector, which includes public schools and public institutions of higher education, is a modern fact of life. Statutes authorizing bargaining rights for public employees now exist in three-fourths of the states in this country, and there is every indication more states will pass some form of permissive legislation during the next several years. The question is thus not one of whether or not bargaining should be extended to the public sector, but rather how is public sector bargaining to be carried out and what is the current and potential impact of such bargaining?

The articles included in this issue all focus on collective bargaining in education, with attention given to schools at the elementary and secondary level, community colleges, private higher education institutions and public colleges and universities. The issue is thus directed to a status report on bargaining. Some comment is perhaps in order with regard to the rationale for singling out the topic of bargaining as a concentrated theme. The answer is simple. Collective bargaining in education is an important subject to educators. All educators! Educational bargaining is becoming more and more a reality in the Midwest region of the country, and that being so, those individuals involved need to know as much as possible about the subject.

A word of caution about the issue. In selecting articles for inclusion no attempt was made to specify the extent to which each author did or did not take a neutral stance with reference to the topic. Clearly some of the authors were not neutral concerning their commentary. So much the better reading! A balance of viewpoint for the issue as a whole was, however, sought. The success of this attempt is left to your judgment.

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