I believe educational assistants and para staff should be able to collect unemployment between school years and during unexpected breaks such as the current pandemic. We make barely enough to get by . In fact if you are the sole wage earner and have a child you qualify for SNAP! We don't make enough to save for a rainy day. This past school year brought hardship to many of us, as furlough days lost wages. The unemployment process was difficult to navigate and took months to go through all the while our families suffering trying to pay rent , utilities ,buy food and medicines.

sincerely, Amy Burdge Educational Assistant ,Springfield School District 19