

The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

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Stop Amendment 1622

Don't get too comfortable. There are legislators out there who aren't giving up the fight to strip you of your bargained rights. The latest in the war against teachers' unions: Amendment 1622, introduced by a small group of Republicans and slipped into the proposed state budget bill now in the Senate. As portions of this bill move to the House, this malicious proposal is poised to slip right along beside them:



Amendment 1622 would create an appointed five-member academic distress commission for any school district that has been found by the Auditor of State to have knowingly manipulated student data with evidence of intent to deceive.

- An academic distress commission would have the power to veto decisions made by the Columbus Board of Education, including a majority of the language in the *CEA Master Agreement*. At risk: class size, elementary art, music and physical education, professional development, the length of the school day and much more.

- Take note: Mayor Michael Coleman has declared publicly that he is opposed to this idea. This language has nothing to do with the Columbus Education Commission. The mayor opposes this amendment and views any conversation around a Columbus District takeover as a distraction to the important work of the Commission.

We *must* make sure this amendment dies. You can help:

- Attend a Ten-Minute Meeting with your Faculty Representative. Get more information about what you can do to stop this amendment. You will be asked to email, call and Skype your state senator. "Like" CEA's message on our Facebook page and share CEA's message on your personal Facebook page. Lastly, wear red on Thursdays to show solidarity.

To access your state senator, visit www.ohiosenate.gov/senate/members/senate-directory.

One more step on the budget bill

On Apr. 16, the Ohio House Finance and Appropriations Committee passed House Bill 59, the state budget bill. Prior to passage, the committee accepted an omnibus amendment that contained approximately one hundred issues. Here are some details:

- Allows the state superintendent to create an Academic Distress Commission for any district the state auditor determines to have knowingly manipulated student data

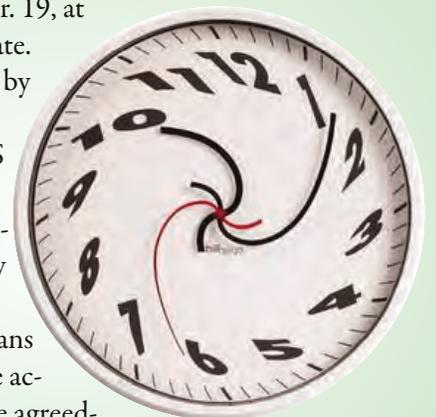
- Allows school districts to charge tuition for an all-day kindergarten student who is counted as less than one full-time equivalent student
- Allows a school district to combine levy requests for current expenses and permanent improvements
- Increases the Foundation Funding by \$250,000 each year for home-schooled students to participate in Post-Secondary Enrollment Options
- Appropriates \$5 million each year for the state's contract with public and private providers to fund early childhood education for 2,200 underprivileged preschoolers
- Includes gifted-unit funding to pay for coordinator services or gifted intervention specialists
- Charges the state to conduct a study on gifted education
- Maintains phonics as a part of reading instruction
- Requires a state school board review of report card performance levels and benchmarks for dropout recovery community schools by Dec. 31, 2014
- Permits the Department of Education to decline sponsoring a community school whose contract has been terminated
- Permits an e-school that serves at least grades 1–8 to divide into two schools as long as the sponsor agrees
- Provides career technical education funding and core opportunity grant and special education funding for e-schools
- Permits a community school to charge tuition for a student who is not an Ohio resident

The bill now goes to the Ohio Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee for consideration. OEA/CEA opposes the bill as currently constructed and will continue to advocate for changes to the measure. Go to: <http://bit.ly/ohiobudget13> to read additional information on the House version of the budget.

Better late than never? We think not

CEA staff finally received an email with the 211 postings—Friday evening, Apr. 19, at 6:41 p.m., several hours late. CCS had promised them by the end of the workday, which is 2:45 p.m. for HS and MS teachers and 4 p.m. for elementary teachers. Because teachers' only access to the Intranet is a school computer, this means that teachers did not have access to the postings on the agreed-upon date.

Never before, in the history of the school district, have we received this information so far behind schedule. By the time



we sorted through it, it was 7:09 p.m. when we were finally able to send out the message to members for whom we had email addresses. Consequently, CEA has filed a grievance on your behalf. Go to our Facebook page to see a copy of the grievance.

We know that the people in the HR Department are doing their very best under the circumstances. We know that when decisions are made at the last minute by central office administrators, it causes people who are otherwise competent to look bungling, ineffective and disorganized. CEA knows that leadership, especially in this case, matters. This is not a new process. Assignments and transfers occur every year. CEA has tried to be flexible, agreeing to a later date because of late-breaking and important adjustments to the state budget. Obviously, CCS administrators still are not ready for prime time.

Reading Guarantee update

The state is looking at possible amendments to the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, SB 21, already approved by the Ohio Senate. However, these amendments are still pending before the Ohio House. Please ask your state representative to support these changes.

The amendments change the way teachers can demonstrate their competency to work with K–3 students on an intervention/monitoring plan. Instead of requiring that a teacher possess three years of immediate prior experience before delivering additional reading instruction to students, it now allows teachers to:

- ♦ Earn a reading endorsement
- ♦ Possess a master's degree in reading
- ♦ Complete an approved reading instruction program
- ♦ Pass a reading instruction test
- ♦ Be rated an "effective" reading instructor as determined by ODE

These changes create flexibility for teachers and districts to ensure that a qualified teacher is working with K–3 students who need extra help.

Visit <http://www.ohiohouse.gov/> to find your state representative's contact information.

Go paperless now

CCS has had a paperless payroll system for quite some time. The new Employee Self Service website makes it easy for employees to change their address and information regarding direct deposit and W-4s. You can access your information Monday or Tuesday of each pay week to see that your pay will be available in your bank on payday.

Some of us haven't taken steps to halt the paper flow. We encourage you to do this for many reasons: If you are not at work the day your statement is distributed, you do not have to worry about where it will be when you return. During breaks and summers, your statement will not be sitting in your mailbox or linger in the mail. The district saves the cost of paper, toner, postage, printing, sorting and delivery.

To take this step, send an email message to payroll@columbus.k12.oh.us with the following information: employee ID number, full name and work location.

For questions, contact Jane Barnard at 365-6403 or jbarnard@columbus.k12.oh.us.

Share your story

We Are Ohio is hosting Urgent Member Meetings across the state to get the word out about why we need to prevent the unfair, unsafe, so-called "right to work" amendment from becoming law in Ohio. The meeting in Columbus is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, at Carpenters Union Local 200, 1545 Alum Creek Dr. Dinner will be provided at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

In preparation for these events, We Are Ohio is looking for union members who have worked in a so-called "right to work"

state in the past to share their stories. If you are willing to share your personal experience of what it was like working without a union contract at an upcoming Urgent Member Meeting, please contact Michele Prater at praterm@ohea.org.

Early voting for the May primary

The May 7 primary election is coming, but you can vote early at your board of elections. In Franklin County, visit the Franklin County Board of Elections, 280 East Broad Street. Early voting will continue weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Friday, May 3, and from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 4.

In Franklin County, you will vote for:

- ☑ Columbus City Council: non-partisan primary with seven candidates
- ☑ Hilliard City Council: Republican primary with five candidates
- ☑ Reynoldsburg City Council: Republican primary with six candidates
- ☑ Gahanna: proposed city income tax increase to 2.5 percent from the current 1.5 percent
- ☑ Groveport Madison schools: request for new 7.08-mill, five-year emergency levy
- ☑ Licking Heights schools: request for a new 8.92-mill levy for operations
- ☑ Madison-Plains schools: request for a 2.5-mill, five-year levy for permanent improvements

For more complete information, visit this site:

<http://c3.thevoterguide.org/v/columbus13/race-index.do>.

Special notes

- ☐ Did you know that more than 6,000 children and youth will experience homelessness in Columbus this year? Attend the **Third Annual Dinner to Benefit Homeless Youth** in Columbus on **Saturday, May 11**, at the **Westin Hotel**, 310 S. High St. Tickets are \$50 each and can be ordered by contacting **Mary Jane Quick** at mjquick59@yahoo.com.
- ☐ Celebrate **Valorie Moore Rushing's retirement** at **Bar Louie** in the **Arena District** on **Friday, May 10**, at **4 p.m.** *RSVP* to **Darlene** at F_F@sbcglobal.net or call her at 578-2622 by May 7. The cost per person is \$20.
- ☐ **Teacher selection forms for Credit Flexibility Committees** must be received at the CEA office by **5 p.m. on Friday, May 17**. If you have questions, contact **Cheryl Watson** at **365-6599** or cwatson@columbus.k12.oh.us.
- ☐ **Elections of CEA Faculty Representatives** for a two-year term beginning **Aug. 19, 2013**, can begin as early as **Tuesday, Apr. 30**. Senior FRs received the FR election packet from **Elections Chairperson Michele Mays** last week. If you have **questions**, call her at CEA at 253-4731.
- ☐ The following **alternative interview panels** have been **approved** since the last issue of *The CEA Voice*: A.G. Bell/CHIP, Burroughs ES, Dominion MS, Eastgate ES, Ft. Hayes CC, OP/PT, South Mifflin STEM Academy K–6, Stewart ES @ Beck, Windsor STEM Academy K–6 and Woodcrest ES.
- ☐ Save the date for one of our best-loved events. **The 37th Annual CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet** is **Saturday, May 18**, at the **Hilton Columbus Downtown**. Social hour is 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. There is no cost for retirees, honorees and Senior Faculty Representatives to attend. Call CEA or see your Senior FR to make a reservation.
- ☐ The following building/unit completed their **United Negro College Fund campaign** since the last issue of *The CEA Voice*: West Mound ES.
- ☐ **Share your ideas—anonously**. You now have the opportunity to share your ideas on how to improve the **CCS Transition Evaluation** by completing a brief survey. This survey, conducted by Community Research Partners, is completely confidential. We urge CEA members to take part at <http://s-2b1a4c-i.sgizmo.com/s3/i-100008094-397886>.