

The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

May 6, 2013

Teachers rock!

National Teacher Day, Tuesday, May 7, is the keystone of Teacher Appreciation Week. Thousands of communities will take time to honor their local educators and acknowledge the contributions they make to our lives.

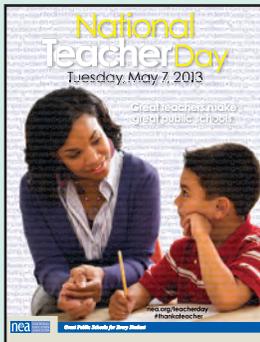
CEA recognizes the crucial role teachers play in making sure every child receives a quality public education and hopes administrators will take the time to convey to parents and the community the hard work educators do each day to make public schools great for every child.

Here are some facts about today's teaching environment:

- › More teachers believe collaborating with colleagues is essential to their work, but many districts still don't provide time for teachers to learn, share and collaborate.
- › Nearly all classrooms (97 percent) have one or more computers, but half of the nation's teachers say they need training to better integrate technology into classroom instruction—and such support is unevenly distributed across schools.
- › Newer teachers put a high premium on exploring new roles and taking on new responsibilities in order to expand career options.
- › Teachers' salaries still lag behind those for other occupations requiring a college degree; and, the pay gap is constantly growing larger.

For more information, visit www.nea.org/.

Bring your school ID to any Chipotle on National Teacher Day, Tuesday, May 7, from 4 p.m. to close, and you'll get schooled with BUY ONE/GET ONE burritos, bowls, salads or orders of tacos.



health of the adults who work in their buildings.

As public health workers, school nurses are in a unique position to promote prevention and wellness, providing access to care for our children to stay healthy, safe and ready to learn. School nurses are an invaluable bridge that connects health care providers, public health and families. Working with 98 percent of school-aged children in the United States, our school nurses serve our nation's most vulnerable children by addressing their health risks and helping parents navigate our complex health system.

Thank you, school nurses, for all you do!

Halt 1622 now

Your Faculty Representative was sent materials explaining Ohio Amendment 1622. This insidious addendum to the budget bill is making its way toward the governor's office, and we must stop it.

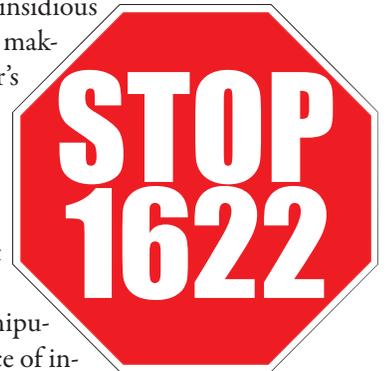
Amendment 1622 would create an appointed five-member academic distress commission for any school district that has been found by the Auditor of State to have knowingly manipulated student data with evidence of intent to deceive.

This amendment adds the following to the state budget bill:

An academic distress commission that would have the power to veto decisions made by the Columbus Board of Education, including 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.

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, Skype and send a postcard to your state senator. "Like" CEA's message on our Facebook page; and share CEA's message on your personal Facebook page.

Don't forget to show solidarity by wearing red on Thursdays. Together, we can stop Amendment 1622!



Thank your school nurse

National School Nurse Day May 8, 2013



On Wednesday, May 8, we celebrate National School Nurse Day, a time to honor the more than 74,000 school nurses who make a difference in the lives of children every day. This year's theme, "Advocacy, Access, Achievement: Leading the Way," captures school nurses' significant role in improving students' health and academic outcomes. School nurses lead the way by ensuring a healthier and more sustainable future for our nation's children.

Take some time this week to thank your school nurse for a job well done. When you do, here are some things to consider: Children come to the nurse for help when taking vital medications for conditions such as asthma and diabetes. Nurses monitor students' overall health by conducting health screenings, such as eye exams and hearing tests, and providing information for teachers and families about keeping children healthy. Some even monitor the

Right to work is SCRTW

On May 1, two state representatives, both Republicans, announced their three-point plan to make Ohio the 25th state with so-called "right to work" (SCRTW) laws. State Representatives Katrina Roegner and Ron Maag introduced HBs 151 and 152, targeting private and public-sector unions, respectively.

Additionally, the duo has also introduced a joint resolution with the intended outcome of putting their SCRTW measure on the ballot in the Ohio General Election in November.

Mere hours after the initial announcement of the legislators' SCRTW efforts, the President of the State Senate, Keith Faber (R-Celina), sharply rebuked his House colleagues' efforts. "We have an ambitious agenda focused on job creation and economic recovery," said Faber in a prepared statement, "and Right to Work

legislation is not on that list.” Without the support of the State Senate, it is highly unlikely that the SCRTW bills or proposed ballot issue(s) will happen—right now.

Together, we are all fighting back, and your help is needed. OEA and We Are Ohio have been working for months on a comprehensive response to this issue. Already, next steps include a special briefing on Right to Work at the Spring 2013 Representative Assembly and exploration of the issue at the OEA Summer Academy. Together, we are all fighting back.

OEA is joining with our We Are Ohio allies and holding Urgent Member Meetings (UMM) to talk to members about the threat from this extreme, anti-middle class agenda. We need everyone to attend—especially now that actual legislation has surfaced!

To learn the truth about the unsafe, unfair, so-called “right to work” laws, attend the UMM on Thursday, May 16, at the Carpenter’s Union Hall, 1545 Alum Creek Drive. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting runs from 6 to 7 p.m. Continue to read *The CEA Voice* for updates.

Commission recommendations are complete

The Columbus Education Commission has completed its report. It calls for four main strategies to help implement the overall set of suggestions:

- A public-private partnership to implement commission recommendations
- An independent auditor’s office to review the district’s fiscal performance and priorities
- A director of educational improvement in the mayor’s office
- A major review and revision of the Columbus School Board’s policy governance

The Commission will ask all parts of the community to get involved to expand PreK education, mobilize neighborhoods and empower businesses to provide students with career pathways.

The recommendations include creation of a \$30 to \$50 million innovation fund of private and public dollars to spur new ideas, including attracting successful charter schools and replicating successful district schools. It would require voter approval to allow some levy money to be used for this purpose.

These recommendations are part of an overall framework, which you can read in full at [www.http://reimaginecolumbuseducation.org](http://reimaginecolumbuseducation.org).

On Apr. 26, during its last session, members discussed elements of the report. Members wanted to ensure a balance between oversight and decision making at the school building level.

CEA President Rhonda Johnson cautioned: “Let’s not forget the role of the teacher in the building and the parents in making decisions. It’s going to take everybody working together. There has to be shared decision-making with the support of central office administration.”

Final recommendations were to be issued to Mayor Coleman and City Council President Ginther on Apr. 30.

Meanwhile, the Commission is conducting a separate review of district operations, focusing on elements of its \$1.3 billion budget. This review is scheduled for completion by July 1. The report won’t suggest cuts but might identify areas where efficiencies in non-teaching areas could generate more money for classrooms.

FBI background checks

Ohio law requires that every five years public school employees must be fingerprinted and pass a criminal background check. Most employees who have eight-year or permanent certificates were last fingerprinted in 2008. Thus, fingerprinting must occur again by May 31, 2013. Those employees who had a background check through the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification (BCII) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in 2008 will only need to obtain an FBI background check.

Fingerprinting will be conducted at the following locations from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.: Eastmoor HS, May 6–7; Beechcroft HS, May 9–10; Whetstone HS, May 14–15; West HS, May 16–17; and East HS, May 21–22.

The cost at each location will be \$38 (cash) or \$40 (credit card). Checks will not be accepted.

The hours for fingerprinting at 270 E. State St. will be from 8

a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The cost for an FBI background check is \$40. Payment must be by credit card, debit card or money order.

You need a valid driver’s license or state-issued ID for fingerprinting.

All fingerprinting must be completed by the deadline of May 31, 2013. Employees not fingerprinted by the deadline will not be permitted to start work at the beginning of the next school year.

If you have any questions, contact Sue Messina by email at smessina@columbus.k12.oh.us or by phone at 365-5617.

Role of CCIT changing

The Ohio State University, the private sector, CCS and CEA are partnering to pioneer a comprehensive, multi-year initiative to improve our students’ K–3 literacy. This initiative will train our elementary College and Career Readiness Instructional Reading TOSAs (CCITs) in two nationally-recognized literacy programs: Reading Recovery and Literacy Collaborative.

Next year, elementary reading CCITs will use Reading Recovery to intervene with some of our lowest-achieving first grade students two and one-half hours each day. Additionally, CCITs will become a Literacy Collaborative literacy coach. They will teach a daily literacy block, lead building-level professional development and observe, model and coach in primary classrooms. In the second year, Reading CCITs will be able to provide the 60 hours of professional development to peers that will satisfy a credentialing requirement of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

Ohio State will use its federal Investing in Innovation (i3) grant to support this initiative. Over the two-year period, the grant will pay for the CCIT’s stipend, graduate tuition, books, materials, supplies and other related professional development fees related to Reading Recovery and Literacy Collaborative.

Due to the late change of the job description for elementary reading CCITs, members who currently work in that role (except first-year teachers) are allowed to remain in the position if they are committed to the requirements of the job. Teachers who do not wish to make the commitment may volunteer for staff-reduction status. Unfilled College and Career Readiness Instructional Reading TOSA—Elementary positions can be found under “Department” job postings, but interviews take place at the building level.

Special notes

- ❑ The **2013–2014 school year annual supplemental contract postings for coaching positions** have been **sent to all building principals and secretaries** who have been directed to print and post these positions for CEA bargaining unit members. **Postings close Tuesday, May 21.** If you have questions, contact **Mary Anne Baum** in Human Resources at **365-8969**.
- ❑ Celebrate **Linda Wright’s retirement at Northgate Center** (6655 Sharon Woods Blvd.) on **Tuesday, May 14, at 6 p.m.**
- ❑ **Elections of CEA Faculty Representatives** for a two-year term beginning **Aug. 19, 2013**, should be held by the end of the school year. Senior FRs received the FR election packet from **Elections Chairperson Michele Mays** last week. Call her at **253-4731** if you have questions.
- ❑ **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 SrFR to make a reservation.
- ❑ **West Broad ES** completed its **UNCF campaign**.
- ❑ **Winterset ES’s 17th Annual Camera Club Auction is Thursday, May 9**, at the school. **Reception and registration** begins at **6:30 p.m.** The **bidding** will begin at **7 p.m.** Contact edietry6606@columbus.k12.oh.us if you have questions.
- ❑ The following **alternative interview panels** have been **approved** since the last issue of *The CEA Voice*: Africentric EC ES, Alum Crest HS, Avalon ES, Clinton ES, Duxberry Park ES, East Columbus ES, Early Childhood, Easthaven ES, Fairwood ES, Innis ES, Liberty ES, Linden STEM Academy K–6, Maize ES, Maybury ES, Mifflin MS, Oakmont ES, Parkmoor ES, Salem ES, School Nurses, Scottwood ES, Southwood ES, Special Needs, Starling K–8, Valleyview ES, Wedgewood MS and West HS.