

The Voice

www.ceaohio.org

Volume XXXVIII, No. 35

Columbus Education Association

May 12, 2008

NCLB changes inadequate

NEA President Reg Weaver is opposing the way U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings has taken matters into her own hands to change some of the rules of *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB).

Late last month, Spellings announced proposed new regulations to strengthen and to clarify NCLB, including:

- Making graduation rates more uniform and easier to use, including an analysis of subgroups
- Giving parents more timely information about supplemental education services and school choice
- Allowing multiple types of questions and multiple assessments within a subject area
- Requiring states to set graduation goals

Weaver called the changes, “too little and too late for children, parents and educators across America to effectively deal with the unintended and adverse consequences of the *No Child Left Behind* law. These proposals fail to move away from the test, label and punish framework established under the current law.”

Among NEA objections are that:

- The basic NCLB framework is unchanged. It still is test-based.
- More paperwork will be required, and it will cost more.
- Graduation requirements may be too punitive for schools with ELL students and older students who have left and returned.
- Dropout prevention programs—so badly needed—are not part of these changes.

The regulations proposed by the Secretary are online at www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/reg/proposal/.

Collect the cash and follow these rules

We have been told by the State Auditor that we are not following the rules when handling cash from school events. If you are in charge of collecting the money for any school activity, please note these requirements. If you have questions, call CEA.

General rules:

- 💰 Self-supporting accounts are known as “200” accounts and include those established by a student organization, student officers and faculty advisers.
- 💰 Fundraising events must be approved in advance by the building administrator.
- 💰 A district application form is required for each



fundraiser and must be kept on file at the school.

- 💰 Money must be available to cover the event even though funds are being raised. This ensures that any deficits can be covered.
- 💰 Sponsors for each fundraiser must keep the collections and expense records. Uncollectable funds must be clearly documented.

Forms required:

- 💰 Purpose Statement and Budget Forms—filed by student activity advisers. Each must show a positive balance by June 30
- 💰 Financial Fund-Raising Report form—advisers give them to building administrators after each event.
- 💰 Ticket-sellers Report—filed after athletic and other ticketed events. Retain unused tickets and account for all unused numbers.

School stores:

- 💰 Count all merchandise as it is received. Two people must be present.
- 💰 Keep inventory in a secure place with limited access.
- 💰 Take inventory count regularly (weekly or monthly). Should be done by someone OTHER THAN those selling or purchasing items.
- 💰 Document sales daily. Reconcile sales and collections accurately.
- 💰 Deposit funds in main office safe daily. Include deposit dates.
- 💰 Keep a record of purchase vs. sale prices of each item.

Benefit to relieve stress

We all have problems from time to time, whether it's trouble making ends meet, difficulty finding childcare or challenges in our family relationships. CEA has negotiated a benefit to help you cope. It's called the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). (See Article 815 of the *Master Agreement*.) It's a way to get help.



EAP is a confidential service that helps with issues such as depression, drug abuse, financial or legal difficulties, stress and dependent or elderly care.

To use the service, call **People Resources at 800-765-9124**. Operators are available 24 hours. You may also register at www.WorkLifeTools.com. Enter *Columbus Public Schools* as the company name to read articles, take self-assessments and find out more about the service.

Don't suffer alone anymore. Get help. It's your right!

Is your license expiring in 2009?

If your license/certificate will expire next school year, you must complete the required coursework or CEUs necessary to renew your certification/license. Certain renewal levels carry additional requirements. You also must have an Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) on file with the Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC).

If you do not complete your coursework for renewal by the Feb. 1 deadline, you may lose the right to maintain your teaching position at the end of the school year. In addition, if you do not apply for your license renewal by March 2009, your name may be submitted to the Board of Education for non-renewal at the April 2009 board meeting. If you apply for your license renewal after March 2009 but by June 30, 2009, you may be able to maintain a teaching position in the district based on availability and seniority.

For information about licensure or certification, contact Cheryl Creamer at 365-5658. For information about CEUs or fee waiver timelines, call Northgate at 365-5039.

NEA officers assume new posts

Dennis Van Roekel has been declared the NEA President-Elect, and Lily Eskelsen has been declared Vice President-Elect. Each ran unopposed.

They will assume their new duties on Sept. 1. An election for NEA Secretary-Treasurer will be held at the NEA Representative Assembly in July.

Reg Weaver will continue to serve as NEA President through Aug. 31.

Interested in being a cooperating teacher?

CCS would like to expand the opportunities for Columbus teachers to work with those interested in our profession. Area colleges and universities have worked with the district to refine the process for college/university student placements for field observation and methods and student teaching/internships for 2008–2009. Remember, your participation in these opportunities helps to generate fee waivers for graduate-level courses for teachers.

To be considered as a cooperating teacher, five years teaching experience and Highly Qualified Teacher status (if applicable) are preferred. Also, research shows that effective cooperating teachers exhibit the following qualities:

- Positive rapport with students, parents and colleagues
- High organizational skills
- Extensive content knowledge
- Effective communication skills
- Effective classroom management
- Positive professional role model
- Willingness to contribute to the teaching profession by sharing classroom expertise with pre-service teachers

If you possess these qualities, talk to your principal. He or she will be making recommendations to the Staff Development Office by May 16.

We continue the voucher fight

A bill before the state legislature would give homeowners in blighted areas vouchers for private-school tuition.

Rep. Larry Wolpert, a Hilliard Republican, is sponsoring H.B. 26 to help bring people back to urban areas. The OEA says this is NOT the way to help urban areas. OEA and CEA oppose this dangerous idea.

Under the bill, residents can create special zones which homeowners who spend between \$40,000 and \$120,000 on improvements would see part of their property taxes support vouchers for their families.

OEA believes that this bill will undermine the public schools. It isn't enough to pay for educating even one family. It essentially undermines the original goals of the school voucher program by giving vouchers to wealthier families. It also could divert funds from police and fire services to the voucher program.

According to the OEA: "The best way to strengthen Ohio's large cities is to invest in public schools that provide a high quality education to all students."

We encourage you to call your state representative to express opposition to H.B. 26, another attempt to siphon money from public to private enterprises. To find your legislator, visit www.house.state.oh.us/jsps/Representatives.jsp.

Living better with Wal-Mart?

Think you just got a bargain on those rolled-back prices? Think again. You may have just helped break unions and dismantle public schools.

Wal-Mart will stop at nothing to prevent its employees from organizing, even closing down the one Wal-Mart store where employees voted to form a union.

The company has drained billions from public coffers—money that could otherwise fund schools. The Walton family, multi-billionaires thanks to Wal-Mart and Sam's Club profits, contribute heavily to anti-public education efforts like private school voucher initiatives and anti-public education political action committees (PACs).

The NEA Executive Committee has endorsed a national effort called *Wake-Up Wal-Mart* that educates the public about the impact of Wal-Mart on its employees, their communities and our schools.

For more information on Wal-Mart's destructive practices, contact NEA at walmartfacts@nea.org or 866-399-0847.

Special notes

- ❑ **Pam Treboni** is celebrating her **retirement** on **Monday, June 2**, from **4:30–6:30 p.m.** at **Hoggy's at Polaris**. Make your \$20 check payable to Maureen Nie (mnie@insight.rr.com) at Avalon ES by **May 20**.
- ❑ There is a **retirement party** for **Sue Feyh** and **Robin Kanaan** at Damon's Grill, 3799 Park Mill Run Drive, Hilliard on **Tuesday, June 3, 3–5:30 p.m.** *RSVP* by May 25 to Teresa Bombrys at polaris61@aol.com or 657-6649. Send your favorite memories about Robin and Sue to Tonya Shinabargar at tonya5641@yahoo.com.
- ❑ Send a girl in your life to **Microsoft DigiGirlz High Tech Camp**. Students must be in grades 10–12. The **free camp** is held in several states to **learn about careers in technology** and meet Microsoft employees. The **deadline** for submitting applications is **May 30**. Visit www.microsoft.com/about/diversity/programs/camps.msp.
- ❑ Participate in the **Annual Career Center Golf Challenge** on **June 9**. Tee off is at **10 a.m.** at **Homestead Golf Course**. The cost per player is \$37. The deadline for sign up is June 2. Register your foursome with **Adam Viney** at aviney9819@columbus.k12.oh.us or call 365-5442 ext. 259.
- ❑ Take the **STAR Trek north June 20–23** to explore the science, technology and African-American resources in the **Detroit** area. The trek will include visits to science centers, the zoo and museums. The price of \$159 includes hotel (3 nights), motorcoach transportation, tour guides and admission to sites. **Ashland graduate credit is available**. For more information or to register, contact Glo Kenley at Glo@KenleyKonnection.com or call 898-9505 or JoAnnette Byas-Marston at jbyas@columbus.k12.oh.us or call 323-9699.
- ❑ There will be a **Teachers for Better Schools (TBS) general membership meeting** on **Thursday, May 22**, following the CEA Legislative Assembly at 5:30 p.m. to elect members to the TBS Board of Trustees.

See us on the Web at

[www.Ceahio.org](http://www.ceahio.org)



To learn about America's campaign to change Wal-Mart, go to

www.ceahio.org/newsPage.aspx?artID=331.