Waiting for Superman? Speak Out!

The documentary film, Waiting for “Superman,” by producer Davis Guggenheim is scheduled to open in Columbus on Friday, Oct. 15. A film that evokes strong emotions, it tells the story of injustice in America’s education system. It says important things about the challenges of the public education system. However, the reductive messaging—“charters are good” and “teachers unions are bad”—oversimplifies complicated issues and threatens to thwart thoughtful discussions about improving public schools.

Improving public education is a shared responsibility—parents, teachers, administrators, elected officials and other adults must come together to determine how to make schools in their communities great. Unfortunately, this is not reflected in the film’s tone, which is divisive rather than collaborative. For example, the film:

► Promotes nostalgia for a school system of years past, seemingly forgetting past inequities like: segregated schools; institutionalization of children with disabilities; and marginalization of and discrimination against female teachers and teachers of color.

► Glosses over the negative effects of testing mania and Bush-era reforms (NCLB) and ignores the impact of these so-called reforms on certain student populations, such as students with disabilities and English-language learners.

► Promotes charter schools as the silver bullet to improve public education, even as it admits that only one charter school in five is more effective than traditional public schools.

► Focuses on experts who are uniformly anti-union—mostly “reformers” who believe teachers unions are the main obstacle to great public schools. The film ignores places like Columbus where the union, superintendent, elected officials and community leaders are working together to make real change.

► Asserts that good teachers are the only solution to what ails public schools, ignoring key issues such as parental and community involvement or teaching and learning conditions.

You will be tempted to get defensive about this film. But CEA welcomes and encourages people who have seen the film to join us in our mission of making great public schools for every student. Association members have always led the fight for great public schools, and we hope the movie inspires others to become engaged in a larger discussion about the shared responsibility for public education.

Speak Out! about Waiting for “Superman” on the CEA Blog at http://blogceaohio.org/. Share your thoughts with us, or write a review of the film.

This area of The Voice has been intentionally left blank because it contains a political endorsement.
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fall, CEA election dates are as follows: Declarations– Oct. 

18–22; Campaigning–Oct. 25–29; Voting–Nov. 2–15; Ballots 
talled–Nov. 16.

Anthony Kearns, founding member of The Irish Tenors, will 
perform songs of Broadway, opera and Ireland on Thursday, 
Oct. 21, 7 p.m. at the Southern Theatre. This benefit concert is 
presented by the Wexford Institute to improve the education of 
children with autism or trauma. Tickets may be obtained by 
going to www.ticketmaster.com or calling 800-745-3000. The 
code word "Irish" should be included to obtain a $10 discount. 

Special notes

The deadline for applying for the CEA Members Scholarship 
Fund is Oct. 29. Get $750 in tuition assistance for your college 
For more information, call Cora Miller at 253-4731.

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The first CEA Legislative Assembly was held Sept. 16. 
The LA consists of elected faculty representatives, CEA ofﬁcers 
and the Board of Governors. The assembly sets our di-
rection. It stays up to date on governmental affairs and school 
board discussions. It also formulates endorsements of elec-
tion candidates and ballot issues.

We thank those who represented their units: 5th St. 
Annex, 6th St. Annex, A.G. Bell Program, AAA, Alpine ES, Alum 
Crest HS, Art, Arts Impact MS, Beecherhof HS, Berwick K–8, 
Binns ES, Briggs HS, Broadleigh ES, Brookhaven HS, Buckeye 
MS, CAHS, Cassidy ES, CEA Ofﬁce, Cedarwood ES, Centennial 
HS, Champion MS, Clinton ES, Columbus Africentric FC ES, 
Columbus City Prep, School for Girls, Columbus Downtown HS, 
Columbus Spanish Immersion K–8, Davidson ES, Devonshire ES, 
Dominion MS, Duxberry Park ES, Eakin ES, East HS, East Columbus ES, 
East Linden ES, Eastgate ES, Easthaven ES, Eastmoor Academy, 
Ecole Kenwood K–8, Fairmoor ES, Forest Park ES, Ft. Hayes 
MEC HS, Gables ES, Gifted & Talented, Guidance Counselors, 
Hamilton K–6, Heyl ES, Hillmontia MS, Huy ES, Independence 
HS, Indian Springs ES, Indianola K–8, Innis ES, International HS, 
I-PASS @ Mifflin MS, Johnson Park MS, Juvenile Detention 
Center, Kingwood Center, Liberty ES, Lindbergh ES, Linden K–6, 
Linden-McKinley 7–12, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Maybury 
ES, Medina MS, Mifflin HS, Milﬁn MS, Monroe MS, Music, Neil 
Avenue Center, Northgate Center, Northland HS, Northtowne 
ES, NPSS Tutors, Nurses, Oakmont ES, OT/PT, Olde Orchard 
ES, PAR, Parkmoor ES, Parsons ES, Psychologists, Ridgeview MS, 
Shepard Center, Sherwood MS, South HS, South Mifflin K–6, 
Southmoor MS, Southwood ES, Speech & Language, Starling MS, 
Stewart ES, Sullivan ES, Tutors, Valley Forge ES, Valleyview ES, 
Walmart Ridge HS, Watkins ES, Wedgewood MS, Weinland Park 
ES, West HS, West Broad ES, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS, Whet-
stone HS, Windsor K–6, Winterset ES, Woodcrest ES, Woodward 
Park MS, Work Study and Yorktown MS.

Please call the CEA ofﬁce if your building/unit was in 
attendance but not in the above list.

We are UNITED

The fact that we are united is reason enough to give to 
United Way of Central Ohio. But if you are looking for more 
than community spirit, consider this: United Way 
has developed “bold goals” 
within education, neighbor-
hoods, income and health care and a 10-year strategy that 
builds on its previous work. The goals are designed to create 
broader change that will improve all of us. 

More than 300 volunteer experts from the ﬁelds of busi-
ness, government, health and human services and education 
worked with the United Way staff to develop these goals. 
The goals for education include:

Increasing the percentage of young children entering 
kindergarten in Franklin County public school districts from 
71 to 85 percent.

Increasing the percentage of students who graduate 
from high school in Franklin County public school dis-
tricts from 87 to 95 percent.

Classified work…still not our job

More than 80 percent of our laid-off members have been 
offered recall notices. However, we must remember the secre-
taries and other classiﬁed staff that are still in layoff status. 
With the reduction in front-line professionals, many of our 
building ofﬁces undoubtedly will run less smoothly. We want 
all teachers to know that classiﬁed work is not your responsi-
bility.

If your building administrator asks you to perform the 
functions of classiﬁed staff, such as ofﬁce duty, we urge you to 
say that CEA does not perform the work of another bar-
gaining unit. Not only is it not our area of expertise, but class-
ﬁed employees do not want you to do their work. To do so 
interferes with their bargaining rights and constitutes an un-
fair labor practice. Would we want laid-off teachers replaced 
with non-bargaining unit members? Absolutely not.

We need to show solidarity with the classiﬁed staff and 
support each other in these diﬃcult times. If you run into 
problems or have questions, call CEA.

There’s nothing like Capital Day

Every year the Capital District brings you a day of learning. 
This well-earned chance to enhance your repertoire of 
knowledge is one of our most popular events. Get out your 
notebook and pen, enjoy the fellowship and share the enthu-
siasm for innovation and best practices.

Members must register on the professional development 
planner by Tuesday, Oct. 12.

The oﬃcial Capital Day activities will begin at 8:30 a.m. 
on Friday, Oct. 15, at the Columbus Convention Center, 
with registration and continental breakfast at 7:30 a.m. The day’s activities include the opening keynote address by Dr. 
Samuel Betances, a sociologist and educator, who will bring 
an inspiring and refreshing perspective to the subject of the most important “R,” relationships. The keynote speaker for 
the luncheon is Reg Weaver, past president of NEA, known 
internationally as an outspoken advocate for public educa-
tion and one of the country’s foremost labor leaders.

Choose your learning sessions, held in the morning and in 
the afternoon. We have great topics planned, including a 
presentation about the real meaning of Service Learning and 
how it can work in your classroom.

Visit vendor exhibits throughout the day. The closing ses-
sion will feature door prize drawings. The grand prize is a 
laptop computer and carrying case.

United Way will leverage extensive relationships through-
out central Ohio to solve community problems, and it will 
hold everyone accountable for the group’s progress, adjusting 
programs and approaches as needed to ensure that we are 
making the most effective use of our resources.

Be part of it all. CEA’s two-week campaign is under way, 
ending on Friday, Oct. 22. GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUN-
TEER. LIVE UNITED.

Thanks for attending!

We are UNITED

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