

The CEA Voice

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www.ceaohio.org

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Want insurance? You must see the counselor

All eligible employees who want medical coverage must re-enroll in the Core Benefits program that packages medical, dental and vision coverage. This applies to everyone, even if you plan to waive coverage or if you already have coverage.

If you do not meet with a counselor, you will put your coverage at risk. Counselors are extending their hours and making an effort to meet in convenient locations. If you want dependents covered, please bring the following:

- ☑ A copy of the first page of your most recent IRS Form 1040 tax return
- ☑ Applicable evidence, such as marriage certificate, birth certificate, adoption award letter, child-support order and domestic-partner affidavit.

In addition, there are new requirements for adding dependents up to age 26. To be eligible for coverage, such dependents must be your natural children, stepchildren or legally in your care. Legal proof, as listed above, is required. However, such dependents do NOT have to live with you nor must they be students or dependents listed on your IRS tax return.

If you have met with a benefits counselor but did not provide the appropriate documentation or if you did not get a chance to meet with a counselor in your building:

- ☉ Reschedule with the counselor at the building site and provide necessary documents.
- ☉ Find an alternate location that is close and convenient to you. The counselors' schedules are available online. Contact the site office to see if there is any availability in the schedule.
- ☉ If you cannot reschedule at another location, stop by the CEA during the last week of open enrollment (ending Nov. 1). The CCS Benefits Department will be able to enroll employees in core deductions.

If you have questions, please call CEA, or call the Benefits Office at 365-6475.

Don't be part of the one percent

On Friday, Oct. 12, CEA was bombarded with phone calls from members. The reason? They weren't paid. Because of a computer glitch, the new MUNIS system failed to direct deposit the pay of approximately fifty of our members—more than one percent of CEA's membership. The Payroll Department was not aware of the glitch and, therefore, did not notify members of the mishap.

CEA immediately called affected members and informed them of the Payroll Department's plan to remedy the problem by issuing manual checks.

Rest assured that your Association does not take payroll errors lightly. However, your best offense is a strong defense. Go to <http://columbus.munisselfservice.com> on Tuesday after-

noons before a payday to check that your pay is scheduled to be deposited. If you detect an error, call the Payroll Department immediately at 365-6440. The error will be fixed, and your pay could be direct deposited as usual. If you wait until payday to report an error, you will receive a manual check that you will have to deposit yourself. Remember, your next payday is Friday, Oct. 26. Go <http://columbus.munisselfservice.com> on Tuesday, Oct. 23, and check your pay.



United for our kids

It's easy. You get a pledge card. You fill it out. Then the miracles begin. Our collective funds, along with the efforts of hundreds of organizations, provide resources for those seeking quality education, stable income, good health and secure housing.

Columbus City Schools' annual United Way campaign ends Oct. 26. Realize that when you support the effort, you are providing so many things our families need. United Way programs provide early intervention for young children so they are prepared for school and have a better chance of making it all the way to graduation. They provide food for central Ohio pantries, where many of our families get their groceries. The United Way of Central Ohio also funds programs that:

- * Provide job-skills training for displaced workers
- * Coach people in managing their finances
- * Point the way to jobs for those with special challenges
- * Find ways across barriers to health care
- * Ensure needs are met in times of crisis

and so many other things that you might not notice, but which mean our community thrives.

Read more at www.liveunitedcentralohio.org. And when you get your pledge form, give generously. Remember, we don't ask for ourselves. We ask for our families.

No wireless routers

Your Association knows our members are at their wits' end over the state of technology in CCS. We've been forced into finding our own solutions to overcome the district's technological limitations. Using workarounds and bringing in our own laptops and tablets so we can effectively teach our students just feels like our new normal.

It's frustrating when we're able to access the internet

wirelessly virtually everywhere except at work. It's disconcerting when how you teach a lesson or how you set up your classroom is dictated by an immovable internet drop.

Since we already bring in our own technology to help our students, it may seem logical to connect our own personal wireless routers to the district's network. CEA says: Don't do it.

Installing or using personal wireless routers at work compromises the security of the district's network. Unauthorized users that gain wireless access to our network could upload a virus and take down the network. Worse yet, confidential student and employee information such as phone numbers, addresses and Social Security numbers could be accessed.

We ensure the safety of our students and colleagues by preventing unauthorized visitors from accessing our schools. Let's ensure the safety of the confidential information of our students and colleagues by not allowing unauthorized users network access through personal wireless routers.

Know your ABCs

We've been getting questions about the rules governing the Association Building Council (ABC). Simply put, the ABC is a vehicle through which many problems can be addressed in your building or unit. Many times, your ABC will act as front-line offense to informally resolve problems and prevent them from turning into grievances.

Your ABC consists of five members: the Senior Faculty Representative, two elected members and two members appointed by the principal/supervisor. After soliciting your members for ABC concerns, FRs should share a summary of the forthcoming ABC agenda with your building principal before the upcoming meeting. This allows FRs to answer any questions your principal or supervisor might have prior to the meeting.

ABC meetings are open to all CEA members in the building, unless an executive session has been declared by the council. All CEA members have the right to have matters placed on the ABC agendas and have the right to speak to the council on those items, unless discussion has been limited by a majority vote. Even though your principal is not an ABC member, he or she is required to attend the ABC meeting.

After the meeting, your ABC chairperson writes the report and gives it to your administrator. He or she has five days to provide each teacher with a copy of the report given to them by the ABC chairperson.

More details about the ABC can be found in your *CEA Master Agreement* in Article 202 and in the *CEA Faculty Representative Notebook* on page six. If you have further questions, please contact CEA Vice President Phil Hayes.

Thank you for attending the LA

We thank the representatives who attended the Oct. 4 Legislative Assembly. The Assembly consists of Faculty Representatives, Governors and CEA officers. Meeting attendance is important to ensure effective representation.

The Legislative Assembly meets monthly during the school year in this parliament-like session to vote on matters of great importance to our Association. All CEA members are welcome to attend these meetings.

The following buildings/units were represented:

Alpine ES, Alum Crest HS, Art, Arts Impact MS, Avondale ES, Berwick K-8, Binns ES, Briggs HS, Broadleigh ES, Brookhaven HS, Burroughs ES, CEA Office, CAHS, Cassidy ES, Cedarwood ES @ Stockbridge, Centennial HS, Champion MS, Clinton ES, Columbus Africentric EC SS, Columbus City Prep. School for Boys, Columbus City Prep. School for Girls, Columbus Downtown HS, Columbus Spanish Immersion K-8, Dana ES, Devonshire ES, Dominion MS, Duxberry Park ES, Eakin ES, East Columbus ES, East HS, East Linden ES, Eastgate ES, Easthaven ES, Eastmoor Academy HS, École Kenwood K-8, Fairwood ES K-6, Fifth

Ave. K-8, Forest Park ES, Ft. Hayes Arts and Academic HS, Ft. Hayes CC, Gables ES, Georgian Heights ES, Gifted & Talented, Highland ES, Hilltonia MS, Hudson Comm. Ed. Ctr., Hudson St. Warehouse, Huy ES, Independence HS, Indian Springs ES, Indianola K-8, Johnson Park MS, Leawood ES, Liberty ES, Lindbergh ES, Linden STEM Academy K-6, Linden-McKinley STEM 7-12, Livingston ES K-6, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Maybury ES, Medina MS, Mifflin HS, Mifflin MS, Moler ES K-6, Neil Avenue Center, North Linden ES, Northgate Center, Northland HS, Northtowne ES, Nurses, Oakmont ES, Ohio Avenue ES, Olde Orchard ES, OT/PT, Parkmoor ES, Phys. Ed., Psychologists, Ridgeview MS, Salem ES, Scottwood ES, Shady Lane ES, Sherwood MS, South HS 7-12, South Mifflin STEM Academy K-6, Special Ed. Transition Coord., Speech & Language, Starling MS, Sullivant ES, Tutors, Valley Forge ES, Walnut Ridge HS, Watkins ES, Wedgewood MS, Weinland Park ES, West HS, West Broad ES, West Mound ES, Westgate ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Windsor STEM Academy K-6, Winterset ES, Woodcrest ES, Woodward Park MS and Yorktown MS.

Grade card and TRC update

On Wednesday, Oct. 17, the Curriculum Department sent out two memos. The intent of the first memorandum is to respond to concerns brought forward by CEA regarding the Infinite Campus grade reporting tool. The memo also includes the 2012-2013 interim and grade reporting timelines. Downloaded this document at <http://bit.ly/OJ28bW>.

The second memo announced that the report card and goal levels generated by iPod testing at the elementary level have been changed. Additionally, the deadline to complete TRC testing has been extended to Friday, Oct. 26. This memo can be downloaded by going to <http://bit.ly/T16vj5>.

Special notes

- ❑ **Early voting hours resolved—Secretary of State Jon Husted has set hours for the final three days of early voting that were subject to a legal dispute in the battleground state of Ohio.** Secretary Husted directed the 88 county boards of elections to be **open from 8 a.m.–2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 3; from 1–5 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 4; and from 8 a.m.–2 p.m., Monday, Nov. 5.**
- ❑ **Fee waiver applications for Spring 2013** will be in mailboxes on **Monday, Oct. 29.** The completed application is due back to Northgate by **Friday, Nov. 9, at 5 p.m.** If you have **Priority I** or **Priority II** status, include the proper documentation. **Your priority status will change to Priority III without proper documentation.** Call Norma Oldham, Northgate Center, **365-8993** if you have any questions.
- ❑ Join CEA members for the **Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk** on Sunday, Oct. 28, at COSI. Check-in starts at 8:30 a.m., and the walk begins at 10 a.m. Go to www.makingstrideswalk.org/columbus to register today. Use **Columbus Education Association** as your **team company.** Everybody has been personally touched by this disease, so sign up today.
- ❑ Receive support for your college student from our **Members Scholarship Fund.** The student must be a **senior at a college or university** with a **2.0 GPA.** Download an **application** at <http://bit.ly/Q3ShrZ>. The **due date** is **Oct. 26.** If you have questions, contact **Cora Miller** at CEA (**253-4731**).
- ❑ CEA will hold a **special election** for two **High School Governors-At-Large.** Campaigning for these positions **ends Monday, Nov. 12. Voting** is **Oct. 30–Nov. 12. Tally day** is **Tuesday, Nov. 13.**

CEA Pre-Paid Legal Services Plan OEA/NEA Attorney Referral Program

At Cloppert, Latanick, Sauter and Washburn, we have dedicated ourselves to teachers in and out of the classroom. Our experienced personal injury, divorce, dissolution, criminal, probate and real estate attorneys are available to you at moderate rates which are lower than we normally charge our private clients.

Please contact us today and allow our experience to work for you.

(614) 461-4455 or www.cloppertlaw.com