

# The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

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## CEC update: Governance holds the key

Effective school districts allow administrators and teachers to do their jobs, and some evidence suggests a leaner central office clears the path toward tightly targeted instruction.



However, school governance is one of the difficult factors in reshaping expectations, and no one model holds the answer. Each district has a different population and context. The question is: How do districts balance the public's right to self-govern through board representation with the state's obligation to ensure students receive adequate opportunities?

These were some of the discussion points from the Mar. 21 meeting of the Columbus Education Commission, which is nearing the end of its briefing period and preparing to deliberate toward recommendations expected by Apr. 26. Among the featured speakers were:

Reynoldsburg Superintendent Steve Dackin on leadership: He described how he gives principals the power and responsibility to ensure kids learn—who in turn give their teachers the authority to address achievement issues. The system works propelling Reynoldsburg, with its many disadvantaged students, to an “A” status. Administrators and teachers know what is expected, and they hold each other accountable. The school board is part of this process. To give students as many options for coursework as possible, the district also has partnerships with Columbus State and a statewide e-school.

Consultant Susan Bodary, of Education First ([educationfirst.org](http://educationfirst.org)), on the successes of various governance models: No one size fits all. The key is the willingness to explore the options and try them on.

Mark David Milliron, formerly of the Gates Foundation and now chancellor of Western Governors University Texas, on the changing education model, which includes the ways students now learn virtually and experientially through gaming and technologies: Students need more and flexible options for the future allowing them to be “curators of their own credentials,” navigating new paths toward the skills for future professions. Students graduating today don't necessarily need traditional four-year college or associate degrees in a system that isn't adapting to ever-changing learning styles.

A number of speakers talked about what's already going on locally in the private sector to help young people. It included Steve Campbell of Mayor Coleman's office; Assis-

tant Superintendent Anthony Smith of Cincinnati schools; and CEC member Janet Jackson, CEO of United Way of Central Ohio.

Meeting facilitator Eric Fingerhut talked briefly about the aim of the commission's work, and its hope that recommendations will lead to results. He noted that similar commissions have met in Columbus during the past 40 years, with many of their reports simply gathering dust afterward. Commission member Rev. Otha Gilyard said: “We're here. We can't stay here. I don't want to be part of a group that's not going to do anything.”

CEC members asked questions about the balance between community and state control of schools. Lois Carson, President of Local 150 of the Ohio Association of Public School Employees, asked fellow members of the commission to read a new OAPSE/AFSME report entitled, “Corporate America and Takeovers of Public School Districts” to inform their thinking on governance. She stressed the need for community awareness and involvement in education.

The commission will next meet on Apr. 10 to begin shaping recommendations. A draft report is expected to be presented at the Apr. 26 meeting. To find out more, visit [www.reimaginecolumbuseducation.org](http://www.reimaginecolumbuseducation.org).

## Where's *my* reading guarantee?

Research points to the need for strengthened Pre-Kindergarten preparation. Only 40 percent of Columbus students now reach reading proficiency by third grade. The CCS Pre-Kindergarten Expansion Proposal Committee has signed off on a body of work supporting need for a stronger program that engages parents, seeks community partnership and ensures appropriate class sizes so students receive proper instruction. CCS already has won many awards for its Pre-K

program, but the program is not large enough. Mayor Coleman's Columbus Education Commission, on which CEA sits, is likely to recommend an expansion of quality Pre-Kindergarten services for Columbus children. The mayor has said that Columbus must aspire to provide access to quality preschool for every four-year old, regardless of income. The district can't do it alone, and the city can't do it alone. We need private sector, nonprofits and faith-based organizations, along with state and federal government to help us fund and deliver this essential foundation of a quality education. We believe the community will support a recommendation to fund Pre-K through partner-



ships and a tax levy.

The superintendent intends to move ahead now and increase up to 18 the number of Pre-Kindergarten units for next school year, placing them in the schools with the greatest need. Funding for these new units will come from re-allocated Title I dollars. Adding Pre-K units would mean decreasing the number of Title I teachers allocated to serve grades K–5. As of yet, the administration has not presented a reorganization plan, but the shuffling could mean 36 fewer teaching positions to serve those grades.

We believe we have a more immediate need for teachers at the elementary level to make sure students meet the requirements for the Third Grade Guarantee—and beyond. More attention at Pre-K will help future students; however, it won't help our current K–3 classes. It won't lower class size, and it won't help reduce splits. There is a proposal to add reading specialists at the elementary level, but you would likely see only one of these teachers assigned to your building. We did not have any other information about Title I teaching positions when this issue of *The Voice* went to press, but we will keep you informed.

## Article 211 is here. Finally.

We finally have a calendar. Take note of these dates. Remember that we told the school board we would push back the dates in exchange for their reserving our middle- and high-school class periods.

April 11–15:

Staff members are notified of administrative reductions

Apr. 11: 211

training for district offices,

8–10 a.m.; and Regions I and II elementary and middle schools, 1–3 p.m.; Northgate Center, Room G

Apr. 12: 211 training for high schools, 8–10 a.m.; and

Regions III, IV and V elementary and middle schools, 1–3 p.m.; Northgate Center, Room G

Apr. 19–24: Round 1 postings

Apr. 25–30: Round 1 interviews

May 10–14: Round 2 postings

May 15–20: Round 2 interviews

May 29–30: Job fairs

ARTICLE 211 – 2012-13 CALENDAR	
DATE	DESCRIPTION
<b>MARCH 2013</b>	
Tuesday-Thursday 26-28	Year Round Schools administrative staff reduction notification
<b>MAR 29 – APR 5</b>	
APR 8 – APR 19	SPRING BREAK (NO ACTIVITY)
<b>APRIL 2013</b>	
Thursday 11	Article 211 Training: Departmental @ Northgate: Room G, 8:00 – 10:00 Region I, II Elementary & Middle @ Northgate: Room G, 1:00 – 3:00
Friday 12	Article 211 Training: All High School @ Northgate: Room C, 8:00 – 10:00 Region III, IV, V Elementary & Middle @ Northgate: Room G, 1:00 – 3:00
Thursday-Monday 11-15	Notification to any staff member of an administrative staff reduction
<b>ROUND 1</b>	
Friday 19	Round 1 Postings OPEN Schools & Departments (All known openings)
Wednesday 24	Round 1 Postings CLOSE Schools & Departments Applications no longer accepted
Thursday 25	Round 1 Interviews OPEN Schools & Departments
Tuesday 30	Round 1 Interviews CLOSE Schools & Departments Selection Agreement Forms and rosters sent at 5:00 PM
<b>MAY 2013</b>	
<b>ROUND 2</b>	
Friday 10	Round 2 Postings OPEN Schools & Departments (All openings left unfilled in Round 1 and any new openings created from selections made in Round 1)
Tuesday 14	Round 2 Postings CLOSE Schools & Departments Applications no longer accepted
Wednesday 15	Round 2 Interviews OPEN Schools & Departments
Monday 20	Round 2 Interviews CLOSE Schools & Departments Selection Agreement Forms and rosters sent at 5:00 PM
<b>JOB FAIR</b>	
Wednesday-Thursday 29-30	Job Fairs (by schools) Positions requiring ALL Certificates (7-12 and 4-6 Regular, Special K-12 Certificates (Gen. Music, PE, etc.), Elementary Certificates K-6, 1-6 PreK-3 at Northgate Center, Room G

## CEA Awards Banquet

Information about the 37th Annual Awards & Retirement Banquet will be in buildings this week. If you plan to attend, see your FR or call the CEA office at 253-4731. This is an important time of year for us when we honor retirees, members and friends for their service to CCS and CEA. The banquet is Saturday, May 18, at the Columbus Downtown Hilton. Social hour begins at 6 p.m.; dinner begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30; tables of 10 are \$300. Senior FRs, honorees and retirees attend for free. Make your reservations by Friday, May 3.

Don't forget about the deadline to apply for CEA scholarships for high school seniors attending college in the fall. These scholarships will be awarded at the banquet. To download the application, go to <http://bit.ly/ceascholaraward>. Submit completed application materials by Friday, Apr. 26, at 5 p.m.

## Healthcare deductibles

We have received a list of services from Medical Mutual of Ohio (MMO) that are subject to the deductible. Those services include, *but are not limited to*, maternity, inpatient services, allergy testing and treatment, diagnostic labs, x-rays, medical tests, home health care, oral surgery, outpatient surgery, chemotherapy, dialysis, therapy done in a facility (physical, speech and occupational), radiation therapy, abortions, acupuncture, ambulance, durable medical equipment, private duty nursing and services billed with an office visit.

Services *not* subject to a deductible are: emergency room charge, office visit (the office visit procedure code), urgent care, therapy done in the office (physical, speech and occupational), preventive services, hospice, organ transplant, immunizations, diabetic education and training.

If you have a question about a service not mentioned here, please contact MMO Customer Service (800-382-5729) or the CCS Benefits Department (365-6475).

## Alternative assessment training mania

Scores of teachers have received notices from their principals that they have been scheduled for disciplinary hearings because they failed to attend training for administering alternative assessments for special needs students. The principals were reluctant, but they complied and held the hearings with their teachers and their CEA representatives. The directive for holding the hearings came from the director of educational services and resources who required alternative assessment training for all special education teachers.

CEA has filed a class-action grievance. Here is what the state requires: All special education teachers who administer alternative assessments must attend the training. All second readers for alternative assessments must attend the training. Teachers who do not administer alternative assessments do not have to attend the training. For example, pre-school special needs teachers who will never give an alternative assessment do not have to attend the training.

CEA understands what the state is mandating. However, this is clearly a case of misinformation and power gone awry.

## Special notes

- ❑ The following buildings/units completed their **United Negro College Fund campaign** since the last issue of *The CEA Voice*: Berwick K–8, Broadleigh ES, Columbus City Prep. School for Boys, Columbus City Prep. School for Girls, Dominion MS, Eastgate ES, Linden STEM Academy K–6, Northland HS, Oakmont ES and Southwood ES.
- ❑ Apply for the **Columbus Area Writing Project Summer Institute** today. To **download an application**, go to <http://cawp.ehe.osu.edu/summer-programs/summer-institute>. You also may contact **Melissa Wilson**, Program Manager, at: [mwilson@ehe.osu.edu](mailto:mwilson@ehe.osu.edu) or **Robin Holland**, Co-Director, at [rholl10554@aol.com](mailto:rholl10554@aol.com).
- ❑ The **CEA Reach Out and Read Book Drive** wrapped up on Mar. 28. **FRs can still drop off their books** to CEA at 929 E. Broad Street, Apr. 8–12 between the hours of 9 a.m.–5 p.m. **All entry forms for the Kindle Fire must be submitted to Tracey Johnson no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, Apr. 11.** Thank you for your support of this worthy cause.
- ❑ **2012 dues deductions** for CEA members: **Full Dues, Plan A** (21 Pays) **\$824.33**, **Plan B** (26 Pays) **\$825.83**. **If you switched from Plan A to B: \$765.83** or went from **Plan B to A: \$884.33**. **Half Dues** are **\$460.42** and **Quarter Dues** are **\$250.71**.