

# The CEA Voice

Volume XLIV, No. 5

Columbus Education Association

September 16, 2013

## PLCs are TBTs

In 2012, ODE applied for and received a flexibility waiver from sanctions and reporting requirements previously mandated in ESEA (also known as NCLB). One of the requirements to fully implement the waiver is for the district to adopt the Ohio Improvement Process (OIP).

The OIP adoption was begun last year at Focus, Alert and Improvement schools. Because CCS is classified as a “High Support District,” all schools in CCS are required to implement OIP. This year, our work will build upon the work of our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) from last year.

This year, your PLC is now called a Teacher Based Team (TBT). The focus of the PLC and TBT is the same—work on our work to improve student achievement. The process TBTs will follow to improve student achievement is called the Ohio Five Step Process. The steps are: (1) collect and chart data; (2) analyze data; (3) establish shared expectations for implementing specific changes; (4) implement changes consistently; and (5) collect, chart and analyze post data.

As with PLCs, your TBT work should be job-embedded (during the contractual day). Your group’s efforts to improve student learning will be most effective when you are consistently looking at data with your one TBT.

To maximize the benefit of your collaborative efforts, TBTs should meet once a week. It will take your TBT more than one meeting to complete the Ohio Five Step Process.

TBTs are encouraged to use the “Five Step Process Meeting Agenda and Minutes Template” to document their group’s work. The document is located on the Intranet under “School Improvement” in the “Department” section.

Your principal may ask you sometime this year for a sample copy of your TBT agenda to illustrate the work being done at the building as part of the OIP reporting requirements. However, neither the district nor ODE requires TBTs or individual teachers to maintain a data notebook.

One member of your TBT should be on your Building Leadership Team (BLT) to report on your team’s progress and to relay information back to your TBT. Additionally, your group’s weekly attendance should be entered by one member of your team.

The OIP process is grassroots PD at its best. The work of your TBT guides the decisions of your BLT, which in turn guides the decisions of the Division and District teams.

For assistance in the implementation of the OIP, each school has been assigned a school improvement coach. These coaches will soon be attending building and staff meetings. They will also be holding help sessions to assist in the implementation of the OIP. The coaches are there to support you as you continue working to increase student achievement.

## Make strides with us

It’s time to get your team together for the “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” walk on Sunday, Oct. 27. Thousands will gather for the annual three-mile walk, which begins at 10 a.m. at COSI, 333 W. Broad St. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Breast cancer is a killer but it’s also one of the most treatable of cancers—and research is increasing hope all the time. You can help by raising funds for this life-saving effort.

Get involved by signing up to be a team leader or a walker! Our goal is to raise \$20,000. We want to show strong support for this event. Form a team at your school and raise funds for a future without breast cancer. Your team members do not have to be employees of the district. Encourage family members, friends, students and their parents to join your team. This is a great opportunity to involve the community in your school’s efforts. There is no fee to register. You can even register on the day of the event.

Go to [www.makingstrideswalk.org/columbus](http://www.makingstrideswalk.org/columbus). Be sure to add Columbus Education Association as your company so we get credit for the money you raise. We want to be the top fund-raising company this year. The first 30 CEA members to register online and notify Ezetta at the CEA office will receive a free CEA Making Strides T-shirt. Sizes are limited, so register early. For information, call Ezetta Murray at CEA (253-4731).



## Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month commemorates events of Sept. 16, 1810, when Mexico began its 11-year struggle for independence from Spain. The theme focuses on the contributions of Hispanics to our country. Hispanic Americans trace their roots to the cultures of the indigenous peoples of the Americas—including the Arawaks (Puerto Rico), the Aztecs (Mexico), the Incas (South America), the Maya (Central America) and the Tainos (in Cuba, Puerto Rico and other places). Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multiethnic and multicultural customs of their community.

Read about ideas to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in your classroom at [www.nea.org/tools/lessons/hispanic-heritage-month.html](http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/hispanic-heritage-month.html).



## More web content available

After carefully reviewing industry practices and considering the impact of the amazing tools available online to help our teachers and students learn better and faster, the district is streamlining its web-content filtering rules to provide students and staff with improved Internet access. With this change in rules, CCS teachers will have access to a vast array of resources, including educational, research and social media sites, through district computers. Teachers will be able to take advantage of the changes beginning Sept. 16; students, on Sept. 23.

The change comes in partnership with Kingswood and CEA. A work group of classroom teachers met this summer to recommend the streamlined web-filtering rules.

The rule change is also in alignment with the Columbus Education Commission's Columbus Plan—to implement a technology framework that provides effective technology and collaborative tools to support teachers and students.

"It's about changing the process of teaching and learning that takes place in our classrooms," said Dan Good, Ph.D., Superintendent/CEO. "It is about developing collaborators, communicators and critical thinkers, connecting students to customized, online learning and meeting their needs."

Today's learners are accustomed to learning on their own, being creative and collaborating with others. The changes CCS is making to its web-content filtering rules will continue to comply with the requirements of the FCC Children's Internet Protection Act.

Thanks to Susan Azad (Elem. Art.), Jimmie Beall (Counselors), Carla Davis (Forest Park ES), Claudia Eschelbach (Marion Franklin HS), Shelia Evans (CAHS), Charlene Gomer (Columbus Scioto), Kevin Jackson (Champion MS), CJ Jamison (Leawood ES), Jeanette Johnson (Berwick K-8), Johnny Merry (Ft. Hayes HS), Tanya Person (Innis ES), Joanna Porreca (Elem. Music), Amanda Raccaneli (Ft. Hayes CC) and Cary Williams (Clinton ES) for participating in the work group.

## Your lawyers, at your service

One key CEA benefit is reduced legal fees for matters such as estate planning, traffic violations, credit problems, real estate and domestic relations. While offering a basic program that provides all members a reduced rate for services, CEA's lawyers at Cloppert, Latanick, Sauter and Washburn also provide a more comprehensive program for \$500. The fee can be paid through payroll deduction, and the plan covers members during the contract year. It features more extensive coverage, including six hours of consultation for such matters as personal injury, business incorporation and minor criminal offenses. Members have until Oct. 31 to opt into the plan or Sept. 30 for payroll deduction. To enroll, ask CEA for an application. For additional questions about the plan, contact Cloppert, Latanick, Sauter and Washburn at 461-4455.

## Got your ABC?

By now, your Association Building Council, or ABC, should be established and meeting dates set for the entire school year. The ABC is comprised of the Senior Faculty Representative, two elected staff members, the principal and two members of the staff selected by the principal, plus one additional elected member and one appointed member selected for every additional twenty teachers on staff. Any staff member may address the ABC if allowed by a vote of the council. Please review Article 202 of your contract.



## Ingram Grant

The Ingram-White Castle Foundation again has provided funding for educational improvement grants for CCS teachers. These grants (from \$500 to \$1,000 each) offer teachers support for innovative ideas that lead to improvement of student academic achievement and social and emotional growth.

Applications for the Ingram Teacher Grant must be submitted online by Friday, Oct. 11, 4 p.m. A CCS email account is required. To submit your application, go to <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/ingramgrant>.

Because this is a district-sponsored grant, applicants will not need to submit a Grant Approval Form to apply but will need the principal's or supervisor's approval and support.

Contact Andrea Richardson (365-8993) at Northgate Center if you have questions.

## We need your emergency info

There may be times when an emergency arises and the district may need to contact someone on your behalf. Do not assume that the district's HR department has your correct emergency contact information. To make sure your information is correct, go to <http://columbus.munisselfservice.com>.

## Calamity days no more

The new Ohio budget eliminates the traditional calamity days policy. Effective July 1, 2014, the minimum number of days in a school year will be replaced by a minimum number of hours. House Bill 59 changes the minimum school year from 182 days to 910 hours for all day kindergarten and grades 1-6 and 1,001 hours for grades 7-12.

Makeup time will be based on hours. Subject to bargaining, the school day could be extended. Since CCS students already attend school for more hours than are required, we *may not* see makeup time added to the school year.

## Special notes

- Don't forget to join us at the **CEA Fall Fling**. This year it's **Friday, Sept. 20**, at the **Hilton Easton**. Join us from **4 to 8 p.m.** for **great music, food and beverages**. It's cheap, it's fun and it's a great way to meet your colleagues and let your hair down a little in a great venue. We love this party. You will, too!
- CEA Members Scholarships** are available for your **college senior**. Distributed through The Columbus Foundation, this fund provides **\$1,000 in tuition assistance**. Only CEA members who have taught in CCS for the past four years are eligible. Your student must have at least a 2.0 GPA in order to apply. The deadline is **5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 25**. To download an application, go to <http://bit.ly/ceascholarship2013>. Call Cora Miller at 253-4731, if you have questions.
- The **open enrollment period** for **joining the Sick Leave Bank** is the entire **month of September**. You can **download a form** at <http://bit.ly/ceaslb12>. Remember: The days you donate could be the ones you need.
- Donate days to the catastrophic sick leave bank for Roxanne Beard**. Make sure she does not have to choose between getting well and having a paycheck. Use a sick leave form to make your donation. Be sure that you and your principal/supervisor sign the form.

### 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.

Contact us today and allow our experience to work for you.

(614) 461-4455 • [www.clopperlaw.com](http://www.clopperlaw.com)

