A victory

The first step was a success. With pressure from OEA, the Ohio Senate unanimously passed SB 229 on Dec. 4. If the House approves it as is, and if the governor signs it, the bill will take effect on July 1, 2014, to help make Ohio’s teacher evaluation system more effective, fair and efficient.

Let’s keep it up! Legislators in the House need to hear our collective voice on SB 229. To urge your representative to vote to send the bill to the governor, go to http://cap-wiz.com/nea/oh/mlm/signup/. Included in the SB 229 are the following provisions:

+ Academic growth factor: The value-added academic growth factor percentage required on teacher evaluations is lowered to 35 percent from the current 50 percent. School districts can add an additional 15 percent of value-added or substitute formal observations, reviews or other tools.
+ Frequency of evaluations: School boards will be authorized to reduce the frequency of evaluations for teachers who receive one of the top two ratings. Teachers who receive the rating of “Accomplished” could be evaluated every three years, and teachers who receive a rating of “Skilled” could be evaluated every other year.

This is BIG. We want teachers rated fairly. Evaluations should not be based on tests that were intended to help teachers improve classroom instruction. Tools, such as value-added, were never designed to be valid and reliable for high-stakes decisions like teacher evaluations.

Read more at www.ohea.org/legislative-watch-archive.

United Way prize winners

It’s great to win prizes. But it’s even better to help our families. The winners below exemplify our spirit of giving to United Way of Central Ohio. Without all of our dedication to this cause year after year, our families might not get services they need to help them survive. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity. This year’s prize winners are:

$500+ Leadership Grand Prize—$150 Target Cards
Janet Baird (South HS, CEA)
Olympia Williams (Ohio Avenue ES, CAA)

$60+ Level Payroll Deduction Prize—$100 Target Card
Christine Richards (Alpine ES, CEA)

$250+ Level Prizes—$50 Lowes Cards
Anthony Alston (Eastmoor Academy, CAA)
Deborah Huddleston (Maize Ave. ES, Classified)

$50 Best Buy Cards
Kirk Bardos (Wedgewood MS, CEA)
Christine Guzzon (Neil Avenue, CEA)

$125+ Level Prize—$30 Target Cards
Monica Brown (Olde Orchard ES, CAA)
Cheryl Cooper (Columbus Downtown HS, CEA)
Denise Doran (Gables ES, Classified)
Neil Moore (Marion-Franklin HS, CEA)
Terri Mullins (Wedgewood MS, CEA)
Cheryl Nuber (West Broad Street ES, Classified)
Lori Quier (Liberty ES, CEA)
Sherry Zinglemann (Devonshire ES, Classified)

$60+ Level Payroll Deduction Prize—$100 Target Card
Paul Bailey (Westmoor MS, CAA)
Jill Grimm (Ridgeview MS, CEA)
Dori Hein (Sullivant ES, Classified)
DeWayne Howard (CEC, CAA)
Caroline Walker (Fairwood ES, CEA)

The drawing for CEA-R will take place at the conclusion of their campaign.

Columbus City Schools Assessment Leaders Initiative

Research has shown that teachers spend from a quarter to a third of their professional time on assessment-related activities. Almost all do so without the benefit of having learned the principles of sound assessment (Stiggins, 1999). Columbus City Schools is supporting teacher effectiveness to have the largest impact on student learning. CCS has developed an 18-month teacher leadership initiative, Assessment Leaders, to cultivate understanding of assessment literacy and other initiatives. Assessment Leaders are teachers who will be jointly selected by the Building Principal and Senior Faculty Representative with each school.
identifying one Assessment Leader for each 10 classroom teachers on the staff. Additionally, Assessment Leaders will participate in professional development tailored to preparing them to review and approve Student Learning Objectives for the teachers in their respective buildings.

The professional development will include in-depth training on the following topics:
- Assessment Literacy
- Student Learning Objectives
- Student Growth Measures
- Formative Instructional Practices

Assessment Leaders will receive two semester hours of graduate credit this year as a part of their participation and learning through this initiative.

If you are interested in this opportunity, speak with your Senior Faculty Representative or Building Principal this week.

Know your Governor

Sanchez, who now teaches social studies at Northland HS, later became a faculty representative and today serves as a high school governor-at-large.

His service has yielded many proud moments, underscoring the value of both service and membership. "I felt proud to serve on the bargaining team that negotiated the extension of health insurance benefits to domestic partners," he said. "I am proud of my union and my district for being on the right side of history."

Sanchez firmly believes in the union value of equity and fair treatment of all members. To that end, he attended a job fair for a CEA member serving in Afghanistan so her job would be secure. "As a veteran, I understand the challenge of staying connected to family and friends while serving thousands of miles away from home," he said. He picked the job she wanted, and she knew that day where she would be teaching when she returned home.

FRs attend the Dec. 5 LA

Our Faculty Representatives and District Governors are tireless. Their latest work: representing you at the Legislative Assembly Dec. 5. They join CEA officers at these vital sessions to set our direction, stay up to date on governmental affairs and school board discussions and formulate endorsements of election candidates and ballot issues. If you work at one of these buildings, say “thanks” when you see your FR:


We cannot do this without you

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.

Each dollar donated helps fund early intervention for young children so they are prepared for school; job-skills training for displaced workers; personal financial management coaching; access to healthcare; food for Central Ohio pantries, where many of our families get their groceries, and so much more.

Continue to turn in your pledges so we can count all of them. The following buildings/sites completed their campaigns since the previous edition of The Voice was printed:


Special note:

- Elect your leaders. Get ready to vote for President and Vice President; Governors in Districts 1, 4, 5 and 10; as well as OEA and NEA Delegates. Declaration of candidacy ends Jan. 27, with campaigning Jan. 28–Mar. 3. Vote count is Mar. 4. Want to run? Declaration forms are available at the CEA office.

Relax, refresh

Our break is here! Enjoy yourself. You have earned this time to rest your brain, be with friends and family, take a trip, or just relax and finally finish that book you loaded onto your Kindle. You are one of the most important people in your students’ lives. We thank you for all you do.

I Love Winter Break!

Calinda Blair, ALA, FL
Carol Brown, ALA
Sue Brown
Melissa David
Judy Davis
Kellie Eric
Judy Davis