Ohio Ranking Slips

Ohio’s schools rank 23rd in the nation. In 2008, we ranked 5th. This change in ranking was big news during the past week or so, and some observers are blaming our governor. During John Kasich’s tenure, unemployment has decreased—but child poverty has increased. Progress Ohio notes that nearly 1 in 4 of our children live in poverty.

The ranking from Education Week, which released its annual Quality Counts report on Jan. 6, stated Ohio’s score was 74.9, a grade of C. Last year things did not look great, either. Ohio ranked 18th with a score of 75.8. The report notes that Ohio has some of the largest achievement gaps between students living in poverty and peers with higher incomes. On national test scores, our state ranks 43rd in the nation.

In Columbus schools, 91 percent of last year’s third-graders and 86 percent of last year’s seventh-graders passed reading and math state tests. In Columbus schools, 62 percent of students passed third-grade math and 60 percent passed reading. These percentages have declined since the 2011-12 school year. Ohio has allocated $100 million over the last several years to improve student achievement, including new Common Core academic standards, online testing, the third-grade reading guarantee, and teacher evaluations that include student performance. Ohio has allocated $100 million over the last several years towards improving access to early childhood education and improving third-grade reading levels.

Ohio Sen. Peggy Lehner, who chairs the Senate’s Education Committee, has told news media outlets that the state has a lot of work to do. She noted that Ohio has eight large cities with escalating poverty rates. She told one newspaper, “We took our eye off the ball of education during the recession.”

CDFO outlined policy changes that must include pro-work tax credits, more SNAP benefits, better housing subsidies and expanded funding for quality childcare. Lehner noted that the state has been working on a plan to improve student achievement, including new Common Core academic standards, online testing, the third-grade reading guarantee, and teacher evaluations that include student performance. Ohio has allocated $100 million over the last several years towards improving access to early childhood education and improving third-grade reading levels.

CFA continues to participate in reform efforts, advocating for strong support for teachers at all levels and for appropriate measurement of teacher and student progress.

In Columbus schools, 91 percent of last year’s third-graders passed the state reading test. But so much more work is needed. Read more about the report at http://www.edweek.org/media/ew/qc/2016/sh/16shr.ohl.h35.pdf.

STOP and Tell Your Principal: I Would Like Representation

When your administrator pressures you to quickly provide a written or verbal statement about an incident that you witnessed or were involved in, CALL CEA.

This is NOT insubordination. It is YOUR RIGHT to have representation before making any statements.

A number of our members have needlessly incriminated themselves because of statements they provided to their administrators. If you get called into a meeting with your principal, supervisor or district investigator for an unspecified reason, take a moment to step back. It is your right under the law (NLRB v. Weingarten) to:

- Ask the principal or supervisor to clarify the reason for the meeting. Don’t refuse to attend, but ask why.
- Get representation. If the meeting becomes disciplinary in nature, you are entitled to call CEA, even if your prin-
NEA, OEA and CEA dues for the 2015 tax year.


percent of your adjusted gross income. Consult IRS Publication subject to a minimum which

21. This type of deduction is

Schedule A (Form 1040) Line

and may be deducted on

reimbursed employee expenses

turns. These are considered un-

deduct a portion of their union

So many of us dip into our own pockets for classroom sup-

plies for our students and many teachers pay for their own pro-

fessional workshops and classes. During the 2012–2013 school

year, you are a K–12:

Teacher

Instructor

Counselor

Principal

Aide

You work at least 900 hours a school year in a school that

provides elementary or secondary education as deter-

mined under state law.


PAR CEU Classes

The Peer Assistance and Review (PAR) office will be offering a series of professional growth opportunities for teachers of all skill and grade levels. Participants will receive 0.2 CEUs and materials will be provided.

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 19</td>
<td>Educating Homeless Children and Youth (Project Connect)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>Parent and Student Engagement Strategies that Work</td>
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| Feb. 16  | Special Education/E.D: Identification and In-

tervention |
| Mar. 1   | Mentoring African American Males                 |
| Mar. 15  | Learning for All: Differentiating in the Class-

room |
| Apr 5    | Getting to Know our ESL Students: Back-

ground Information & Strategies that Work |
| Apr 19   | Using Technology in the Classroom                |

Register today on PD Planner for any or all of these sessions. Classes will be held Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 4:30–6:30 p.m. at Columbus Downtown HS, 364 S. Fourth St. Call the PAR office at 365-5110 for more information.

Special Notes

• If you are retiring, you have until Feb. 1 to apply for en-

hanced, or super, severance pay. If you are retiring this school year, you must notify the district of your retirement intentions by Feb. 1, 2016, or risk losing some of your benefits. Notification letters go to the CCS Human Resources Department. The letter should include your name, your employee ID and your last day of service. You should hand deliver the letter and ask for a copy to be time stamped for your records.

• Feb. 1 is the deadline to request a preferred teaching position for the 2016–2017 school year. Make your request in writing to your building principal, per Section 211.05 of the CEA Master Agreement. There are no guarantees, but our Agreement gives members this opportunity.

• Declare your candidacy through Feb. 16 for association positions: CEA President; CEA Vice President; Governors in Districts 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9; High School Governor-At-Large; 2016 NEA Delegates, 2016 NEA State Delegates At-Large and 2016–2017 OEA Delegates. Campaigning ends Mar. 14. Members will vote from Mar. 1–14, with votes tabulated on Mar. 15. If necessary, run-off campaigning will be from Apr. 4–25, with voting from Apr. 12–25. Candidacy Forms will be available at www.ceaohio.org under the “forms” tab, or from Judy Nelson at (614) 253-4731. For questions, contact CEA Elections Committee Chair Neil Moore at (614) 264-2188.

• Mar. 5 is the deadline to apply for a continuing contract for the 2016–2017 school year. The form is located on the CCS Intranet under Human Resources/HR Administration/Mira Wright or can be downloaded at www.cscoh.ac/HR.Administra

tion.aspx under Licensing/Contract. We recommend you hand deliver to Human Resources and receive a time-stamped re-

ceipt.

Three Work Days for 190 Return

One of the new provisions that was collectively bargained in the 2015–2017 CEA Master Agreement includes a timely return of 190s. Article 208.12 requires principals to “return all 190 Corrective Measure forms to the originating staff member with the corrective action noted within three (3) work days of receiving it unless there are extenuating circumstances, in which case it shall be returned reasonably promptly.”

When you turn in a completed 190, make sure you sign and date the document. Your administrator is required to return the signed and dated 190 with the corrective action noted on the form three work days from the date it was turned in. If you are not receiving your 190 back within three work days after you’ve turned it in to your administrator, please call the CEA office at (614) 253-4731.

Dues Deductions 2015

Tax time is coming. Some CEA members may be able to
deduct a portion of their union dues on their income tax re-
turns. These are considered unreimbursed employee expenses and may be deducted on Schedule A (Form 1040) Line 21. This type of deduction is subject to a minimum which must amount to more than 2 percent of your adjusted gross income. Consult IRS Publication 529 for more details. Visit www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p529.pdf. Search for “union dues.” The table above shows your deduction for NEA, OEA and CEA dues for the 2015 tax year.

Educator Tax Deduction Made Permanent

It is tax time, and we have some good news. Congress has
made the educator tax deduction permanent. It allows you to
deduct eligible unreimbursed classroom spending up to $250. Now the deduction is indexed to inflation and includes profes-
sional development as an eligible expense.

So many of us dip into our own pockets for classroom sup-
plies for our students and many teachers pay for their own pro-
fessional workshops and classes. During the 2012–2013 school
year, the National School Supply and Equipment Association found that educators spent a total of $1.6 billion of their own money to help meet their students’ needs. The average teacher spent $485, and 10 percent spent $1,000 or more. As you file your tax return, keep this in mind: You may be able to deduct personal expenses related to your teaching job. Qualifying expenses include books, supplies, computers, soft-
ware and supplemental materials. According to the IRS, you are an eligible educator if, for the tax year, you are a K–12:

Teacher

Instructor

Counselor

Principal

Aide

You work at least 900 hours a school year in a school that

provides elementary or secondary education as deter-

mined under state law.