

The Voice

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Columbus Education Association

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Ohio's State Tests (AIR)–Spring Administration

The CCS windows for Ohio's State Tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies are quickly approaching.



American Institutes for Research (AIR), the vendor for Science and Social Studies in the 2014–15 school year, is now the vendor for all subject areas in the State of Ohio. CCS provided the opportunity for individual schools to choose their testing format (paper and/or online). The following are the Columbus City Schools' testing windows for spring 2016:

English Language Arts (ELA)

Paper Testing: Tuesday, Apr. 5–Monday, Apr. 18

Online Testing: Tuesday, Apr. 5–Monday, Apr. 25

Math, Science, and Social Studies

Paper Testing: Monday, Apr. 25–Friday, May 6

Online Testing: Monday, Apr. 25–Friday, May 13

There are several important things to remember if you are administering state tests:

- DO read your *Directions for Administration Manual* prior to your testing session.
- DO make sure that you are aware of the allotted time for each of the state tests. (This varies depending on the test.)
- DO make sure that IEPs are updated and reflect the correct accommodations for students prior to testing.
- DO review the information from your spring testing training provided by your principal and School Testing Facilitator prior to testing.
- DON'T use your cell phone during testing. (The need for technical assistance for an online test is the only reason a cell phone should be used.)

We know that you have prepared our students for success and are thankful that the State of Ohio has eliminated the Performance Based Assessment (PBA); thereby, reducing testing by over one half. Feel free to contact Anissa Holtsberry at (614) 365-5050 if you have any questions or need additional guidance.

Roster Verification

Along with warmer weather and spring flowers blooming, Roster Verification season is fast approaching. Roster Verification, also referred to as "Linkage," is the process that allows teachers to verify the student rosters that will be connected to them when value-added teacher level reports are created. Value-added teacher level reports highlight a

teacher's level of effectiveness based on the growth or progress of their students. Teachers can use these reports to reflect on their teaching practices and determine how effective they have been toward improving students' academic growth. At this time, these reports are not a part of the student growth measure in the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) due to the change from OAA and PARCC testing to AIR testing, but they will be in the future.

All licensed/certified teachers planning and/or providing instruction for students in the following areas are required to participate in the roster verification process and will receive teacher-level value-added reports for the 2015–2016 school year:

- 4th grade ELA and Math
- 5th grade ELA, Math and Science
- 6th grade ELA, Math and Social Studies
- 7th grade ELA and Math
- 8th grade ELA, Math and Science
- Integrated Math I and Integrated Math II
- English I (English 9) and English II (English 10)
- Biology
- American History

There are three phases to the roster verification process: School Set Up, Teacher Roster Verification and Principal Review and Approval. After the principal and the school support team finish the School Set Up phase, verifying which teachers teach which classes, the teacher will have the opportunity to complete the Roster Verification Phase. Teachers must verify what subjects they taught, which students they taught, which months they taught them and what percent of time they were responsible for their instruction. These are the rosters that are submitted for the teacher level value-added reports; therefore, it is very important that teachers are given the opportunity to confirm that the students connected to them are accurate. If you are a teacher who instructs one of the courses listed above, you should be completing the roster verification process during the Apr. 27–May 17 window.



If you would like to know more about roster verification and/or value-added reports, there are a number of resources available on the Battelle for Kids Ohio Student Progress Portal at portal.battelleforkids.org/ohio.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Shannon Clemons at (614) 365-7641 or sclemons5483@columbus.k12.oh.us.

Your Librarian: Guide and Inspiration

Every April, the American Association of School Librarians and the American Library Association honor school librarians across the country. During School Library Month, we pay tribute to some of our most trusted educational guides—those who teach our children to love reading. The celebratory theme this year is, “School Libraries Transform Learning.” And they truly do! The school library media specialist provides learning opportunities that help students become efficient researchers. Library Media Specialists encourage critical thinking and encourage students to examine the authority of authors and the bias of sponsors and to assess the importance of currency of information to the topic at hand.



Library Media Specialists help students feed their curiosity. They provide leadership, instructing students and staff in the safe, ethical use of information technologies and instruction. Take some time to stop in and say, “Thanks!” to your school Library Media Specialist.

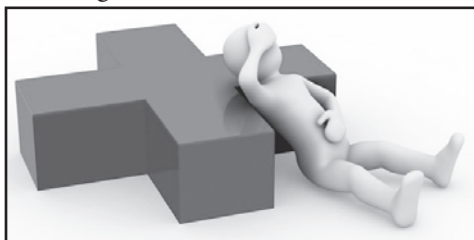
A Tribute To Our Retirees

Each year, CEA honors retiring members with a moving tribute to their service. This is one of the most memorable occasions of the year. This year, the Annual CEA Awards & Retirement Banquet will be held Saturday, May 21, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 N. High St. The social hour will begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. CEA will present several awards: Innovator in Education, Outstanding Faculty Representatives and Outstanding Member and Friend of Education. In addition, we will award scholarships to children of members, including the CEA General Scholarship, John E. Grossman Memorial Scholarship for a South HS graduating senior and the CEA-R and Rhonda Johnson Scholarships.

We would love to see you at this year’s banquet. If you are retiring, your ticket is free. Additional guests are \$35. Retirees will be getting a letter soon with more information, so save the date.

Sick Leave: Follow the Rules

CEA has been representing a number of members whose leave has been questioned. We do not want our members to put themselves at risk for disciplinary action (or termination) because they failed to follow the rules. Review Article 701 of the contract. Help us stay true to our negotiated agreement by following these rules:



- If you are to be absent for one full school day or more, you must report your absence to the principal or to the district’s Substitute Employee Management System at least 1.5 hours prior to your normal report time.
- If you are absent on a Monday through Thursday, you must inform your principal or school clerk before 2 p.m. on the day before you wish to return.

- Sick leave is for personal illness, absence due to illness in the immediate family or for death in the immediate family of the teacher. When you return to work, you must complete an absence form within three days. It is your responsibility to make sure this gets done.
- Absences longer than ten continuous school days require an Application for Leave. Before you return from leave, you must have a doctor’s statement and district pre-approval.

If your supervisor has a concern about your use of sick leave, he or she can hold a conference with you at your school. You may be represented by your Senior Faculty Representative or a designee of the Association. Following this conference, if your administrator continues to have concerns about your use of sick leave, you may be called for a pre-disciplinary hearing.

We bargained sick leave use rules for our members in good faith. It is up to us to make sure we live up to the rules.

Get Involved

CEA has two very important upcoming events you should attend. On Thursday, Apr. 7, the CEA Social and Economic Justice Committee (SEJC) is sponsoring a workshop on the *Every Student Succeeds* Act (ESSA) from 4:30–6:30 p.m. at East HS. This workshop is in conjunction with the Faculty Representative Workshop but is open to all members. Come learn about ESSA, its impact on our work and how we can help shape local and state decisions.

On Saturday, Apr. 30, CEA and Capital District is sponsoring our first CEA/Capital Leadership Academy at the Hyatt Regency from 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Members can select from four strands: Emerging Leader, Organizing, Social Justice and Cultural Competency. Lunch will be provided and CEUs will be awarded. We will also raffle off some great door prizes. To register, go to the Eventbrite link www.eventbrite.com/e/cea-capital-district-leadership-academy-tickets-23175160529. This event is free for CEA members.

Article 211: Round 2

Round 2 postings will open on Monday, Apr. 18, and will close on Friday, Apr. 22. Interviews for Round 2 are from Monday, Apr. 25, through Thursday, Apr. 28. The Job Fair will take place on Wednesday, May 11, at the Hudson Distribution Center.

Special Notes

- Catastrophic Leave Donation Request: Anita Allen and Jill Harrington** are in need of donated days. To donate, enter your name at the top of the CCS “Report of Employee Absence” form. In the “Comments” section write the words, “Catastrophic Sick Leave Donation.” Be sure that you and your principal or supervisor sign the form. **Indicate on the form which individual you would like your donation directed toward.**
- The **deadline for CEA Scholarship Application is Friday, Apr. 22, 5 p.m.** Eligible high school seniors must have a proven cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5, be children or grandchildren of CEA or CEA-R members and be full-time students while enrolled in college. Go to <http://bit.ly/1mYfh3I> to download an application or call CEA at (614) 253-4731.
- The **UNCF campaign** has been completed by the following buildings/units: Columbus Downtown HS, East Linden ES and Sullivant ES.