

The CEA Voice

Tracey D. Johnson, President

Volume XLVIII, No. 17

Columbus Education Association

December 19, 2016

Is Your License Expiring?



If your Five-Year Professional License expires in 2017, you should have received an email from Shervina Burrows in Human Resources after Thanksgiving Break. If your Resident Educator License expires in 2017, you should have already received an email from Greg Mild in Professional Learning and Licensure. Your teaching license is your most important credential. Read the email carefully. That detailed email contains specific instructions about the renewal process for this year, including how to complete the online application process through the Ohio Department of Education website. Failure to comply with renewal regulations could result in non-renewal from the district.

If your certificate/or license from the Ohio Department of Education is expiring June 30, 2017, and you have a limited contract, you must complete the required coursework or CEUs necessary for renewal and apply before Feb. 1 to be certified by the State of Ohio for the 2017–2018 school year. If you have a continuing contract, you have through June to complete your coursework and submit your application. Failure to renew your certificate/license may result in suspension of pay and initiation of termination/non-renewal proceedings.

In addition to the online application, you will need to complete a background check. All fingerprint results must be completed electronically through WebCheck, which allows the prints to be sent immediately to BCI. The Human Resources Department, located at 270 E. State Street, oversees this process. The CCS Fingerprint Office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. The fee is \$40. Accepted forms of payment are credit/debit card, or money order made payable to Columbus City Schools.

If you have any questions about coursework requirements, the date of your last background check or you do not plan to renew your certificate/license, contact Jean Slaughter, Human Resources, Teacher Certification/Licensure, (614) 365-5658. Any questions concerning CEU/university credits should be directed to Jennifer Meade with the LPDC, 6th Street Annex, at (614) 365-5039. Questions about your Resident Educator License should be directed to Greg Mild at (614) 365-5039.

You Are Not Alone: EAP is Here

From time to time we all feel stressed out. We have a tough job, and personal problems on top of everyday challenges can make even the strongest among us feel alone sometimes. Luckily, one of your negotiated benefits is the Employee Assistance Program, also known as EAP. It is a way for you to obtain help with no cost

to you for confidential and private counseling services. The program is run by ComPsych, which provides supportive resources via phone and website. When you call 800-774-6420, you can get a referral for matters related to work, family, health and other areas of your life, including free, short-term counseling for stress, depression, grief, substance abuse and other areas, family and caregiving consultation, legal and

financial issues, household matters and personal and family safety. It is a good idea to consider counseling if you:

- Feel overly preoccupied with a problem
- Fail repeatedly to solve it by yourself
- Find yourself denying that a problem exists or hoping it will go away
- Feel that you don't have the resources to solve it
- Feel unhappy most of the time
- Experience problems with family or friends because of it or get tired or sick from it.

ComPsych's website, www.guidanceresources.com, features articles, assessments, webinars, financial calculators, searchable databases, skill builders and more. When you go to the website, use CCS as the company ID to register.

SB 3 Passes Legislature

Senate Bill 3, which makes multiple changes to education law, passed the House by a vote of 56-29 and was sent to the Governor for his signature. The bill would allow certain districts to be exempt from some policies such as hiring licensed teachers, class size restrictions and mentoring new teachers. OEA opposed these provisions of the bill.

To qualify for the exemptions, a school district must have received all the following on the most recent report cards: at least 85% of the total possible points for the performance index score; a grade of "A" for performance indicators met; a four-year graduation rate of at least 93% and a five-year graduation rate of at least 95%. Since the bill was passed last year by the Senate, the number of qualifying districts has dropped substantially from around 120 to 18 based on the latest report cards. The bill also contains a cap of 2% of the school year on the amount of time spent on the administration of state and district-wide assessments and limits the amount of time on practice tests to 1% of the school year.

On Wednesday, December 7, the House Education Committee adopted additional amendments before voting out the bill on a party-line vote. One amendment restored "blizzard bag" language that had been deleted by the committee two days earlier, but clarified that schools no longer had to submit such plans to ODE. Notably, the committee refrained from including provisions that would have weakened charter school accountability.

Legislation to Address Student Truancy

On Thursday, Dec. 8, the Ohio House of Representatives concurred with Senate amendments to House Bill 410. The bill prohibits the use of suspensions and expulsions as penalties solely because of unexcused absences, requires schools to establish individualized absence intervention teams for habitually truant students and requires school districts to provide data to ODE on truancy. Having passed both houses, the bill was sent to the Governor for his signature.

During the week, the bill was amended in committee and on the Senate floor to include the following provisions:

- Exempt schools with rates of chronically absent students below five percent
- Bars suspensions from being carried over the summer into the next school year
- Allow school districts to adopt a policy that permits students to makeup work due to a suspension

Congratulations United Way Prize Winners

The district's United Way campaign ended on Friday, Dec. 2. Your Association would like to congratulate the following individuals who gave generously and were the United Way Prize Winners for 2016:

\$500-Leadership Grand Prize (2) \$150 Target Gift Card

Kevin Hainer, Shady Lane ES (Administration)
Brian Hamilton, Centennial HS (Teacher)

\$60+ Level Payroll Deduction Prize (1) \$100 Target Gift Card

Patricia Johnson, Huy/A.G. Bell ES (Teacher)

\$250 Level Prizes (4) \$50 Amazon.com Gift Card

Roxanne Ritchey, Berwick K-8 (Teacher)
Marisol Rodriguez, Cols. Span. Imm. Acad. (Teacher)
Tina Wallace, Colerain ES (Classified)
Betty Monahan (CEA-R)

\$125 Level Prizes (8) \$30 Target Card

Elizabeth Connell, Georgian Heights ES (Teacher)
Angela Sweeny, Westgate ES (Administration)
Norma Oldham, Sixth St. Annex (Classified)
Marilyn Allen (CEA-R)
Iva Stewart, Devonshire ES (Classified)
Jacqueline Holliman, Berwick K-8 (Classified)
Barbara Carraway (CEA-R)
Rhonda Stewart, PAR (Teacher)

\$60 Level Prizes (5) \$10 Gas Cards

Jeff Corbin (CEA-R)
Jesus Fabregas, West HS (Teacher)
Kathryn Marcum, Watkins ES (Teacher)
Florence Kinkadk, Maize ES (Classified)
Jomika Jackson, W. Mound ES (Teacher)

Spring Election Season Starts Jan. 4

Candidates for CEA Spring Elections may declare their intention to run for CEA office beginning Jan. 4. Consider running for one of the following positions: Governors for Districts 1, 4, 5, 10 and Middle School Governor At-Large (three-year terms); 2017 NEA delegates, 2017 NEA State Delegates At-Large and 2017-2018 OEA Delegates. Members may declare their candidacy from Jan. 4 to Feb. 3. Campaigning begins Jan. 4 and ends Mar. 7. Voting begins Feb. 22 and ends Mar. 7; votes will be tallied Mar. 8. In the event of a spring run-off election, campaigning will begin Mar. 9 and end Apr. 11. Voting begins Mar. 29 and ends Apr. 11. Votes will be tallied Apr. 12.

Job Sharing Applications Due Jan. 6

The deadline for completed job-sharing applications is 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6. Note that each job-sharing partner (if you are interested, you should have received a list) must complete a separate application, and the documents must be signed by both job-share partners, as well as the principal or supervisor where the job share is to occur. Once the job-sharing request is approved, the job share cannot be dissolved unless all parties agree (teachers, principals or supervisors and HR). We recommend that you hand deliver

these documents and obtain a time-stamped copy for your records. If you have further questions, contact Ezzetta Murray at CEA at (614) 253-4731.

Running For Positive Youth Development

Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based positive youth development program for girls in third through eighth grade. The goal of the program is to unleash confidence through accomplishment while establishing a lifetime appreciation of health and fitness.

The program teaches life skills through dynamic interactive lessons and running games. It culminates with the girls being physically and emotionally prepared to complete a celebratory 5k running event.

The 24-lesson Girls on the Run curriculum combines training for a 5K (3.1 miles) running event with lessons that inspire girls to become independent thinkers, enhance their problem solving skills and make healthy decisions. All of this is accomplished through an active collaboration with girls and their parents, schools, volunteers and the community. Girls on the Run of Franklin County is an independent council of Girls on the Run International, which has a network of over 200 councils across the United States and Canada.

We salute the more than 40 CEA members and other CCS staff whose commitment and passion allowed our students to experience Girls on the Run: Rebecca Bailey (Parkmoor ES), Laurie Batdorf (Hilltonia MS), Barbara Buckley (Westmoor MS), Tina Cegala (Ridgeview MS), Mercedes Chomos (Ridgeview MS), Jen Clark (Siebert ES), Angela Clarke (Hilltonia MS), Emma Corbin (Ecole Kenwood K-6), Christine Doty (Salem ES), Suzanna Duggan (Ecole Kenwood K-6), Stephanie Flood (Parkmoor ES), Lisa Gasser (Huy/A.G. Bell Program), Renee Grice (Huy/A.G. Bell Program), Melanie Hartle (Westmoor MS), Jeri Hensley (Woodcrest ES), Laurie Hewitt (Ridgeview MS), Rachel Hunter (Maize ES), Tiari Ivory (Woodcrest ES), Jeannette Johnson (Berwick K-8), Sarah King (Woodcrest ES), Erika Lamm (Maize ES), Maria Lentz (Valley Forge ES), Lisa McDowell (Valley Forge ES), Aline McMahan (Ecole Kenwood K-6), Misty McVay (Hilltonia MS), Jennifer Milia (Salem ES), Alexandra Miller (Ecole Kenwood K-6), Barbara Mounts (Salem ES), Nikki Myers (Salem ES), Danielle Orr (Westmoor MS), Diamond Powell (Westmoor MS), Katharine Rex (Westmoor MS), Rebekah Sargent (Huy/A.G. Bell Program), Alene Schattschneider (Parkmoor ES), Brittany Seigneur (Huy/A.G. Bell Program), Zendra Stamm (Berwick K-8), Marleigh Vaccaro (Ridgeview MS), Dara VanEngelenhoven (Ridgeview MS), Kathy Ward (Siebert ES), Jessica Whisler (Valley Forge ES), Paula Yarbrough (Siebert ES) and Meghan Zornes (Clinton ES).

If you are interested in volunteering for the spring 2017 season, visit <http://bit.ly/GOTRCCS>.

