

The CEA Voice

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Columbus Education Association

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School Funding a Broken System



It was in 1997 that the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that the way schools were funded in the state of Ohio was unconstitutional. Twenty years after the DeRolph decision, schools are still relying heavily on a property tax system and a school funding formula that no one seems to understand. Under the current system school districts like Columbus have lost millions of dollars, more than \$80 million per year over the next two years.

Ohio lawmakers were given until 1998 to fix the state's unconstitutional school-funding system but they have yet to do so. School districts continue to go to taxpayers begging for support of levies and hoping that lawmakers will not cut funding for schools in the state budget.

Nick Gurich, a Collective Bargaining and Research Consultant from the Ohio Education Association has provided some insight as to how Ohio's broken system of school funding continues to impact Columbus City Schools:

- Gains cap puts an arbitrary limit on state aid for CCS: Ohio's current school funding formula includes a "gains cap" for certain districts. In FY2017 the impact of this cap on CCS was an \$81 million reduction in the district's formula funding per year.
- Most recent state budget reduces the district's ability to grow their state aid funding: The 2016 – 2017 state budget, while still containing the artificial gains cap, allowed for CCS to grow their state aid by 7.5% per year. The 2018 – 2019 state budget further hinders the district's ability to grow their revenue by rolling the gains cap back to a limit of between 3% and 6% based on enrollment changes in the district.
- Unfair charter school deductions cost the district \$145 million last year: The district had \$145 million of their state aid redirected to charter schools in FY 2017. These unfair deductions require the district to reimburse charter schools at a much higher rate than what the district receives in state aid for each student that picks a charter school over CCS.

- Despite rising property values, CCS will see very little revenue growth from property taxes. Ohio tax law severely limits the ability of school districts to see an increase in levy revenue when property valuations increase, as is currently the case in Central Ohio. This law, often referred to as House Bill 920, forces many districts into a constant cycle of levy campaigns to remain financially solvent.
- The elimination of Tangible Personal Property tax (TPP) reimbursement cuts off a crucial funding source: In 2005 the Ohio General Assembly began a phase-out of the TPP tax. The legislature initially provided districts with replacement payments to compensate for the loss in revenue. The most recent state budget has eliminated the TPP tax supplement. CCS received about \$12 million in phase-out payments in FY2017. This figure is projected to drop by more than \$5 million in FY2018 to around \$6 million in reimbursement and be all but eliminated in FY2019 at a reimbursement of only about \$500,000.

On September 15, 2017 CEA President Tracey D. Johnson reached out to Governor Kasich's Office to set up a meeting with the Governor to discuss school funding in the state of Ohio and its impact on districts like Columbus. On September 22 she received the following message from the Governor's Director of Scheduling Trevor Johnson: "I apologize for not responding sooner. We are working with the Governor's calendar to see when he might be available for a meeting. In the meantime, someone from our office will be in touch to discuss the issue with you further." We will keep you abreast of any developments or conversations with Governor Kasich or his staff.

Open Enrollment - It's Required

During Open Enrollment (Oct. 9–31), all benefit-eligible bargaining unit members must do one of the following:

1. Reconfirm any current benefit elections.
2. Elect or make changes to benefits (add or delete dependents, update beneficiary information, etc.).
3. Waive coverage.

Employee Self Service (ESS) will be used for the 2018 enrollment process. Make sure you are able to log on to ESS PRIOR to the start of Open Enrollment. Benefit choices made during Open Enrollment will be effective Jan. 1, 2018. To participate in Open Enrollment, benefits-eligible bargaining unit members can:

1. Meet in person with a Benefits Counselor. To register for an in-person appointment, go to <https://bentecworkplace.com/columbus>. Please be advised that counselors will not be available to meet with every employee at every work location.

- Meet in person with a Benefits Counselor at the Kingswood Data Center or at Central Enrollment. To register for an appointment, go to: <https://bentecworkplace.com/columbus> and use your CCS email username and birthdate to sign in. The following dates and times are available at Kingswood: Oct. 12 and 24 from 3-6 p.m. The following dates and times are available at Central Enrollment: Oct. 13, 17, 19, 24 and 30 from 3-6 p.m. and Oct. 25 from 8-5 p.m.
- Meet online with a Benefits Counselor in a CoBrowsing session. To schedule your call center enrollment meeting ahead of time, visit <https://bentecworkplace.com/columbus> and use your CCS email username and birthdate to sign in. Scheduled Call Center appointments will be available from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. You must be able to access ESS and join the Benefits Counselor on a computer with the ability to print your confirmation statement. You will be responsible for entering your information into ESS with Counselor assistance.
- Use ESS to confirm, change or waive your benefit elections. No meeting with a Benefits Counselor is required if you do not wish to elect new or change current Voluntary Benefits. CCS must report health care coverage information for its employees and their dependents to the federal government. Please verify that the Social Security numbers entered into ESS for you and your dependents are correct.

You must meet with a Benefits Counselor in person or online to make or change elections for your Voluntary Benefits which include: Life Insurance with Long Term Care Benefits, Short Term Disability, Critical Illness Insurance, Accident Insurance and Pet Insurance and Term Life Insurance.

If you wish to terminate any of your Voluntary Benefits, you must:

- Complete a Supplemental Insurance Termination form (included in the Benefits Open Enrollment Guide materials).
- Submit the completed form to the Benefits Department. Your Association recommends hand-delivering the form and getting a time-stamped copy as your receipt.
- Contact your Voluntary Benefits provider to notify them of your cancellation.

If you have questions regarding the Open Enrollment Process, contact CCS Benefits Department at (614) 365-6475

2018 Employee Contributions for Benefits. Teachers and Administrators

Medical		
21 Pay Plan	Select	Choice
Employee only	48.01	56.17
Employee plus one (Spouse on CCS coverage before June 1, 2009, or Child)*	95.73	111.98
Employee plus one (Including Spouse)	268.01	284.26
Family (Spouse on CCS coverage before June 1, 2009, and/or Children)*	141.25	165.25
Family (Including Spouse)	395.42	419.42
Medical		
26 Pay Plan	Select	Choice
Employee only	38.77	45.36
Employee plus one (Spouse on CCS coverage before June 1, 2009, or Child)*	77.32	90.45
Employee plus one (Including Spouse)	216.47	229.60
Family (Spouse on CCS coverage before June 1, 2009, and/or Children)*	114.09	133.47
Family (Including Spouse)	319.38	338.76
Dental		
	21 Pay Plan	26 Pay Plan
Employee only	4.05	3.27
Family	4.05	3.27
Supplemental Life Insurance (\$50,000)		
21 Pay Plan		2.94
26 Pay Plan		2.38
Vision Care is fully paid for by Columbus City Schools		

Tutors

Medical		
21 Pay Plan	Select	Choice
Tutors (15-25 hours)		
Employee only	220.80	228.96
Employee plus one (Child or Spouse)	440.28	456.54
Family (Child or Spouse)	649.59	673.58
Tutors (Over 25 hours)	Select	Choice
Employee only	125.77	133.93
Employee plus one (Child or Spouse)	250.77	267.03
Family (Child or Spouse)	369.99	393.99
26 Pay Plan		
Tutors (15-25 hours)	Select	Choice
Employee only	178.34	184.93
Employee plus one (Child or Spouse)	355.61	368.74
Family (Child or Spouse)	524.67	544.05
Tutors (Over 25 hours)	Select	Choice
Employee only	101.58	108.17
Employee plus one (Child or Spouse)	202.55	215.68
Family (Child or Spouse)	298.84	318.22
Dental		
	21 Pay Plan	26 Pay Plan
Employee Only (15-25 hours)	20.22	16.33
Family (15-25 hours)	20.22	16.33
Employee Only (over 25 hours)	11.33	9.15
Family (over 25 hours)	11.33	9.15

Latchkey Teachers

Medical		
21 Pay Plan	Select	Choice
Employee only	125.77	133.93
Employee plus one (Child or Spouse)	250.77	267.03
Family (Child or Spouse)	369.99	393.99
Medical		
26 Pay Plan	Select	Choice
Employee only	101.58	108.17
Employee plus one (Child or Spouse)	202.55	215.68
Family (Child or Spouse)	298.84	318.22
Dental		
	21 Pay Plan	26 Pay Plan
Employee only	11.33	9.15
Family	11.33	9.15
Vision		
21 Pay Plan		1.31
26 Pay Plan		1.06

PAR Professional Development Fall 2017

The PAR Consulting Teachers will present sessions this fall open to all CCS educators. Sessions are held from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Hudson Center in the Professional Library, 737 E Hudson Ave. Register on CiMS—PD Planner for CEUs.

- **Lesson Planning: Plan to Succeed!** Tuesday, October 3rd
- **Lesson Delivery: Add Zip And Zest to Your Instruction,** Tuesday, October 17th
- **Resource Roadshow: Seek, Share & Swap!** Tuesday, November 14th
- **Feeling Not So Smart About Smartboard Technology? An Introduction to Smartboard Use for Beginners** Tuesday, November 28th
- **The Dangers of Social Media: How Does This Impact in the Classroom?** Tuesday, December 12th

Reminders:

- ☑ Have a college senior? Scholarships are available from the CEA Member Scholarship Fund. Each scholarship provides \$1,250 in tuition assistance per awardee. Eligible CEA members must have taught in CCS for the past four years. Your student must have a minimum 2.0 GPA to apply. The deadline to receive the application is 4:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 20. Go to www.ceahio.org to download an application. Call Kathy Wilkes at (614) 253-4731, if you have questions.
- ☑ Join CEA at The Making Strides Against Cancer 5k Walk. If you have not already done so, please form a team and register at www.makingstrideswalk.org/columbus. Remember to register the Columbus Education Association as your Team Company once you register your team. If your school or program does not form a team please feel free to sign up for the CEA Dream Team. The walk takes place Saturday, October 21, 2017 at Genoa Park and Amphitheater, 303 W. Broad Street. Registration is at 8:30 am and the walk starts at 9:30 am.