Your Dues Dollars at Work

Our members work hard, and your Association is proud to assist their children who are college seniors attending universities or other post-secondary institutions. The CEA Members Scholarship Fund provides each recipient with a $1,500 scholarship, funded by a $10 dues assessment from each member, invested and paid through The Columbus Foundation. This year we have 45 recipients. Since 1995, this fund has awarded $1,026,250 in scholarships. The students listed below will receive CEA Members Scholarships for the 2020–2021 school year:

Member
- Carrie Arpethoe
- Natasha Baker
- Regina Bagman
- Carissa O'Connor
- Amy Page
- Susan Canto
- Nora Claypool
- Kerin Daberkow
- Melissa Davis
- Mary Hart
- Wendy Duhl
- Cindy Gunn
- Phillip Hawkins
- Rod Hanksy
- Skiba Harel
- Courtney Ingram
- Thresa Isguehbra
- Peggy Jenkins
- Kimberly Kile
- Laura Mannan
- Janet Maranga
- Tracey McCarthy

CEA Unit
- Binns ES
- Special Ed
- Special Ed
- CAHS
- Alpine ES
- Scottwood ES
- Clinton ES
- Swifthood ES
- Buechert HS
- Avalon ES
- Psychologist
- Indigenous Informal K-8
- Buckley MS
- Medina MS
- Indianna Springs ES
- Oakland Park ES
- South HS
- Berwick Alternative ES
- Sherwood MS
- Columbus Scioto 6-12
- Special Ed
- Columbus Scioto 6-12
- Indigenous Informal K-8

Student
- Skyler Arpethoe
- Seth Baker
- John Bagman
- Abigail Broussard
- Jack Campbell
- Melanie Canto
- Maria Claypool
- Kayla Daberkow
- Nora Davis
- Clare Discuzzo
- Madison Duhl
- Kya Gunn
- Lynsayde Hawkins
- Emily Hanbery
- Hannah Hed
- Connor Ingram
- Alexander Isguehbra
- Taylor James
- Athish Kile
- Michelle Mannan
- Elijah Maranga
- Gary McCarthy

College
- Wittmann University
- Salt Lake College of Mines & Tech
- Purdue University
- Bowling Green State
- Mount Carmel College of Nursing
- Miami University
- Madonna University
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Dayton
- Ashland University
- Miami University
- Hampton University
- Saint Leo University
- Ohio Wesleyan University
- Mount Carmel College of Nursing
- Denison University

Member
- Judith McCormick
- Katherine McKeel
- Jody Minner
- Diana Moore
- Kelly O'Brien
- Michelle O'Sullivan
- Robert Paiz
- Angela Ryriebik Place
- Tafanie Rose
- Marie Sais
- April Salter
- Pamela Soedy
- Steven Schmidt
- Carla Scott
- Angela Stokes
- Julie Thomas
- Laura Valentine
- Mary Welch
- Carla Phillips
- Clayton Wrighter

CEA Unit
- Marion-Franklin HS
- Indian Springs ES
- Forest Park ES
- Cedarwood ES
- Ridgeway MS
- Seiber ES
- Northland HS
- West Broad ES
- Special Ed
- Ohio Avenue ES
- Eakin ES
- Columbus Downtown HS
- Ridgeway MS
- Whetstone HS
- Ridgeway MS
- Indigenous Informal K-8
- Colby Creek
- Columbus Scioto 6-12
- Columbus Scioto 6-12

Student
- Katherine McCormick
- Indian Springs ES
- Erin Moore
- Kathryn O'Sullivan
- Courtney Pea
- Aidan Place
- Madison Rose
- Antonio Sais
- Megan Salter
- Makenna Soedy
- Bryan Schmidt
- Haley Scott
- Zoke Strokes
- Zoke Thomas
- Abigail Valentine
- Tyler Welch
- Colby Creek
- Columbus Scioto 6-12

College
- The Ohio State University
- The Ohio State University
- The Ohio State University
- The Ohio State University
- The Ohio State University
- The Ohio State University
- The Ohio State University
- Capital University
- Capital University
- Capital University
- Capital University
- Capital University

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Q&A: Ohio School Funding Reforms with OEA President Scott DiMauro

Starting with the landmark DeRolph decision in 1993, the Ohio Supreme Court has ruled four times that the state’s school funding formula, with its reliance on property taxes, is unconstitutional. Now it appears state legislators may finally be doing something about that, with bills in both the House and Senate proposing major school funding reforms. Jenny Hamel, with ideastream® spoke with Scott DiMauro, President of OEA, about how the legislation will help fix a long-broken system.

How do the school funding reforms compare with the model Ohio is using now?

I think it takes some very important steps towards addressing the issues that the Supreme Court raised when ruling our current state constitutional system unconstitutionally in four times through the door of decision, starting back in 1997.

For one, it reduces the over-reliance on property taxes as the primary means of funding schools. Property taxes will still play an important role, but you’re not going to have the over-reliance on property wealth that you see in the current system. When looking at what the state is providing in terms of funding to schools, they’ll look at a variety of factors, starting with what’s the actual cost of providing a high-quality education to students to address the needs of the whole student. And in deciding how to allocate that cost between the state and local communities, they’ll look not only at property wealth but also at the income level of residents of those communities when determining how much the community can reasonably bear as its share of the cost and what the state needs to provide for its responsibility.

I’d like to hone in on the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District. I recently spoke with Superintendent Liz Kirby and she was really lamenting the financial impact. EdChoice private school vouchers are having on the district. So, what impact will the legislation in Columbus have on districts like those?

Currently, when there are students in a district that take advantage of the state’s private options, whether it’s to attend a charter school, or as we’re seeing increasingly, take state tax dollars [from the local schools] and use that for tuition at a private school – and Cleveland Heights-University Heights has been hit by that more than any other district in the state of Ohio – proportionately, currently, what happens is that the funding gets deducted from the state’s aid to the public school district. So, that means that effectively that the local property taxpayers are subsidizing private schools and charter schools. That’s wrong.

And the good news about this proposal that’s coming from legislators in Columbus is that any private options that the state wants to provide will be paid for directly by the state. No longer will districts have their funding covered to the cost of students that aren’t attending those local public schools.

Is this a long time coming?

People have been saying for years that something must be done to change how education funding is allocated in Ohio.

So why is it finally happening now?

It took a bipartisan group of legislators, led by now House Speaker Bob Cupp, a Republican, and state Rep. John Patterson, who happens to be a teacher and an OEA member from Ashtabula County who have been working on this for years. And now, fortunately, we have a bipartisan group of [state] senators led by Sens. Peggy Lehner and Vernon Sykes, who are taking up this charge so that it’s happening in both the House and the Senate. All of these things, I think, are just a testament to persistence.
**Grievance Update**

Your Association works hard to protect your rights and maintain the integrity of the negotiated contract. While we advise bargaining unit members to work out problems at the building level first, we know this isn’t always possible. We will regularly inform you of the grievances on which CEA is working.

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**So we have both a Senate and House bill in Columbus. What should we all be watching for?**

What I expect to see happen is that both the House and the Senate will conduct hearings on their respective bills, but they are essentially identical bills. There may be some tweaks that are made along the way. And then after each chamber passes its version of the bill, which again, we hope happens over the course of the next few weeks, before the legislature wraps up its work for 2020 and takes off for the holidays and essentially dissolves because the new legislature is going to be coming in, that they’ll reconcile their differences. And we will have this new formula in place. And then that will be the basis for the state budget process that will begin next winter.

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**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 that 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, at no cost to you, for confidential and private counseling services. The program is run by ComPsych, which provides support resources via phone and website.

You can get a referral for matters related to work, family, health, and other areas of your life when you call 800-774-6420. Referrals include free, short-term counseling for stress, depression, grief, substance abuse, 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 a problem by yourself
- Find yourself denying that a problem exists or hoping it will go away
- Feel that you don’t have the resources to resolve an issue
- Feel unhappy most of the time
- Experience problems with family or friends

Visit ComPsych’s website, www.guidanceresources.com, for 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.

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**Paid Holidays: Know Your Leave Balance**

Section 1501.03 of our contract provides for certain paid holidays throughout the school year, including Thanksgiving and the day after. However, pay for holidays is not a given. Members who are not in a “paid” status the day immediately preceding the holiday and the day immediately following the holiday will not receive holiday pay. If you are absent and you are not on paid sick leave or personal leave, you will forfeit the pay for those holidays. Call the CEA office if you have questions.

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**Grants For New Teachers**

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. Each year, Gamma Chapter, one of the local chapters in the central Ohio area, provides grants to new teachers to buy materials and supplies for their classrooms. These grants are given in the form of gift certificates. Interested teachers should go to https://bit.ly/GGfirstyear20 to download the application form. Grant applications can be emailed...
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 CEUs. Course materials will be provided.

Dec. 1  Books Bring Balance-High School (Session 1)  (0.1 CEUs)
Dec. 8  Reset, Refine, & Refresh Your Classroom Environment  (0.2 CEUs)
Dec. 15 Books Bring Balance-High School (Session 2)  (0.1 CEUs)

Register today on PD Planner for any or all of these sessions. All classes will begin at 4:30 p.m. Call the PAR Office at (614) 365-5110 for more information or ask your PAR CT if you have questions.

Special Notes

- Catastrophic Leave Donation Request: Michelle A. Innis-Dorsey has been approved for Catastrophic Leave and is 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 to whom you are donating the sick time.

- Professional Leave: There is $200,000 available to bargaining unit members each year to pursue professional development opportunities outside the school district. These include taking a course or attending a conference or workshop. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all district-related travel has been prohibited, however, professional leave is available for online conferences. Forms to apply for professional leave are available in the “Forms” section of the CEA website or the CCS Intranet, along with the full leave guidelines and the deadline schedule for applications based on the activity date. The fund is usually depleted before winter break, so if you have been thinking about some special training activity, apply as early as possible.

- Save the Date: CEA December LA – One of the many duties of Faculty Representatives is to attend the CEA Legislative Assembly (LA). Held on the first Thursday of nearly every month of the school year, the LA is the policy-making body of your Association. Your elected faculty representatives receive vital updates from CEA officers and staff and vote on important issues affecting your Association and its members. Any CEA member is welcome to attend the LA. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec. 3, at 4:30 p.m.