

# The Voice

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cea

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## State report card data

It's easy to become discouraged when you look at the numbers. The latest release of state report card data gathered in 2005–06 shows that as a whole, CPS is missing the mark on meeting state and federal goals.

Test score data show a shortfall in two major categories: Ohio's Performance Index, which measures the rate of improvement, and federal AYP.

The CPS index score was 79.2. It's the highest score we have achieved. But it is a hair's breadth—just eight-tenths of a point— from getting to 80 and reaching the Continuous Improvement category.

And because students' test scores did not rise enough (and in fact fell in many areas), CPS missed making AYP. Of 42 categories measured, CPS met AYP or achieved Safe Harbor status in only 32 of them.

Superintendent Gene Harris recently addressed teachers and parents with this news, acknowledging that a major goal of the last school year was to be a Continuous Improvement district. She acknowledged that Columbus is a special district, with students capable of achieving; and she highlighted many of the past year's successes. But she also pointed out that students must overcome many challenges to get there.

Chief among them is their struggle with English. CPS has the largest number of Limited English Proficiency students in the state. We also have a high poverty rate, with 70 percent of our students qualifying for a free or reduced-price lunch (which is an indicator of poverty).

Dr. Harris announced several paths designed to help meet standards:

- 1 Establishing a Curriculum Instructional Management System, including quarterly assessments teachers can design from a test-item bank;
- 2 Improving the continuity of instructional time, including reducing the number of professional development days during the school day and requiring elementary and middle-school teachers to submit their master schedules;
- 3 Enhancing reading, writing and math intervention strategies, offering more students support after school with specific goals for these sessions;
- 4 Channeling more resources to schools along with specific guidance on how those resources should be used for improvement efforts. Elementary schools will receive \$10,000 for reading, writing and math intervention. Middle and high schools will conduct after-school tutoring as part of their Extended Learning Opportunities.

## Mixed news

CPS students have made progress in many areas.

Passage rates improved from 2005–06:

- Grade four writing, 13 percentage points
- Grade seven math, 8.9 percentage points
- Grade eight math, 10.2 percentage points
- Grade 10 writing improved, 16.3 percentage points.

No high schools were rated in Academic Emergency.

Since 2002–03, we have:

- Decreased the number of students not taking the tests from 0.8 percent to 0.2 percent.
- Increased the number of students scoring at Accelerated or Advanced levels from 6.7 percent to 21.7 percent.

But progress slipped in many areas, too. For instance, passage rates on the reading test decreased in grades three, five, eight and 10. CPS met only five of 25 test indicators. For more information about the results, visit [www.ode.state.oh.us](http://www.ode.state.oh.us). Type *local reports cards* in the search box at the top right.

## Legal services open enrollment

The open enrollment period for participating in the Comprehensive Plan covering legal services ends Oct. 30. You must enroll by Sept. 30 to have the cost payroll-deducted.

The Basic Plan is a benefit for all CEA members. But but the Comprehensive Plan provides extra services. It is \$400 per year and provides six hours of consultation services with a \$100 deductible for the first hour. Hours beyond six will cost \$100 each. Consult your *CEA Membership Handbook* (p. 87) for more details.

## Transplant needed

Jeff Corbin, a member of CEA's Board of Governors, is in need of a kidney donation from a living donor.



Corbin, who teaches at South High School, has been ill since February and on extended leave.

Such donations are typically very successful and ideal when made by living donors. Eligible donors have matching blood types and are free of diseases including high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, kidney and heart disease. Donors recover completely and are able to lead normal lives.

Anyone interested in being tested for a possible match for donation please contact Rick Logan at the CEA office. To read up on transplants, visit [www.unos.org](http://www.unos.org), [www.kidney.org](http://www.kidney.org) or [www.living-donors.org](http://www.living-donors.org).

## Professional leave rules

CPS educators are committed to attending valuable professional development activities that may take us away from the classroom temporarily. The district is happy to consider paying for these opportunities. But remember to follow the special procedures in place to ensure we can spend the time on this important endeavor.

Here is a rundown of the requirements, which also can be found in Section 706.16 of your CEA contract.

You must:

- ➔ Submit an activity description and explain its educational merit. (Preference is given to workshops in Columbus and elsewhere in Ohio.)
- ➔ Get advance approval.
- ➔ Limit your request to one per year.
- ➔ Fill out a professional leave form and attached to a conference registration form.

Also:

- ➔ Avoid applying for the same activity two years in a row.
- ➔ A maximum of two teachers per building will be approved for one activity.
- ➔ A maximum of five teachers will be approved for out-of-state travel.
- ➔ Requests that dovetail personal leave will not be approved.
- ➔ Professional membership fees are not included as part of this plan.
- ➔ Workshops costing more than \$200 will be approved only every two calendar years.
- ➔ Air travel will not be approved for any trip that is closer than 300 miles away.
- ➔ Super-Saver fares must be utilized. (Check with Uniglobe Travel Designers at 237-4488 or Kenley Konnection at 898-9505.)
- ➔ If your activity does not require funding or a substitute, approval comes from your immediate supervisor.

The CPS Professional Leave Committee will approve requests at its monthly meeting held after each of these request deadline dates. Applications are due at 4 p.m. on each of these dates according to this schedule:

### Travel request deadlines

Nov. 2006	.....request due Sept. 21
Dec. 2006	.....request due Oct. 26
Jan. 2007	.....request due Nov. 22
Feb. 2007	.....request due Dec. 18
Mar. 2007	.....request due Jan. 18
Apr. 2007	.....request due Feb. 25
May 2007	.....request due Mar. 22
June-Aug. 2007	.....request due Apr. 19

## Earn money for classroom research

Representatives from the joint CEA/CPS **Performance Advancement System (PAS)** committee will explain how to participate in PAS in an informational session at Northgate from 4:30–5:30 p.m. on Sept. 19 in Room D, Oct. 4 in Room F and Oct. 17 in Room D.

This joint initiative encourages all members of the bargaining unit to conduct classroom action research. Over the past five years more than 1,000 members have participated and nearly \$1.5 million has been awarded in cash bonuses.

The Oct. 17 session will focus on information pertinent to Year II dissemination projects. Participants can receive \$2,500 based on student achievement results. PAS applications are due by 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 19. Call 365-8861 for details.



## Implement comprehensive wellness

Healthy workers mean a lot to an organization. A recent survey conducted by one corporation of its 27,000 employees found the following:

- ✦ People who smoke, have poor nutrition or are overweight incur higher health care costs, longer hospital stays, miss work more and get less done when they are there.
- ✦ Smokers cost the company 25 percent more in health benefits
- ✦ Overweight people incur 7 percent more in health care costs than those who aren't.

In addition:

- ✦ New York Telephone reduced its absenteeism and treatment costs by \$2.7 million annually when it implemented nine modular health programs.
- ✦ IBM conducted a health screening and found previously undiagnosed diseases in 41 percent of its employees.

CEA urges CPS to implement a comprehensive health and wellness program. Such activities as Weight Watchers at Work, screening, fitness center discounts and nutrition education classes will have lasting benefits for employees and the district's bottom line. For more information, visit [www.simplestepslife.com](http://www.simplestepslife.com) and [www.healthyohioans.org](http://www.healthyohioans.org).

## Cruise coming up

The school year is almost a month old, but it's not too early to look ahead to an opportunity being offered for Spring Break. CEA will be organizing a cruise to the eastern Caribbean. The voyage aboard the Norwegian liner *Jewel* begins Apr. 8 from Florida and returns Apr. 15. The ship has 10 restaurants, 13 bars, a health spa and a casino. Here is the itinerary:

Saturday, Apr. 7	.....Depart for Florida
Sunday, Apr. 8	.....Leave from Miami
Monday, Apr. 9	.....At sea
Tuesday, Apr. 10	.....San Juan, Puerto Rico
Wednesday, Apr. 11	.....St. John, Antigua
Thursday, Apr. 12	.....St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands
Friday, Apr. 13	.....At sea
Saturday, Apr. 14	.....Great Stirrup Cay, Bahamas
Sunday, Apr. 15	.....Miami, fly back to Columbus

To register, call CEA and ask for a packet.

## Special notes

- ❑ On **Saturday, Sept. 30 Project GRAD** will hold its seventh annual **Walk for Success**, visiting about 2,500 homes of students in the first, sixth and ninth grades in the Linden-McKinley and Marion-Franklin high school feeder areas. The walk begins at 9 a.m. at both high schools. To participate, contact Elizabeth Garrett at 233-9510, Ext. 111 or [egarrett@projectgradcolumbus.org](mailto:egarrett@projectgradcolumbus.org).
- ❑ Pre-service teachers and those new to science instruction are invited to see some lesson plans in action at a **COSI Overnight for Teachers**, being conducted from **noon to 10 p.m., Sept. 29, and 8:30 a.m., to noon, Sept. 30**. Presentations are led by instructors from local classrooms, The Ohio State University, Otterbein College and COSI. For details, visit [www.cosi.org/educators](http://www.cosi.org/educators). The registration fee is \$70. A graduate credit is available for \$157.

### CEA Pre-Paid Legal Services Plan

#### OEA/NEA Attorney Referral Program

At Cloppert, Latanick, Sauter and Washburn, we have dedicated ourselves to teachers in and out of the classroom. Our experienced personal injury, divorce, dissolution, criminal, probate and real estate attorneys are available to you at moderate rates which are lower than we normally charge our private clients.

Please contact us today and allow our experience to work for you.

(614) 461-4455 or [www.cloppertlaw.com](http://www.cloppertlaw.com)