

# The Voice

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cea

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## Brown for U.S. Senate

CEA has been following Democrat Sherrod Brown's campaign for U.S. Senate against Republican incumbent Mike DeWine.

Brown has a pro-teacher/pro-child agenda. He favors funding for Pell Grants, student loans, work-study, technology training, and college assistance programs. He agrees with the goals of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) but believes teachers need adequate resources to carry out those goals.

Because of his stance, CEA endorses him. "Brown has his priorities in the right place," said CEA President Rhonda Johnson. "He's always working to make sure all Americans have opportunities to improve themselves, including in the classroom."

Brown, a Mansfield native who now lives in Avon, holds master's degrees in education and public administration from OSU. He has served as Ohio's 13th Congressional District representative since 1993. But he also has firsthand classroom experience. After earning his education degree, he taught at the OSU Mansfield campus.

Brown has stated that he favors more spending for higher education, noting that tuition costs at Ohio's four-year public universities have risen faster in Ohio during the past six years than in many other parts of the country. He notes that the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education recently gave Ohio an *F* for college affordability, while pointing out that the percentage of Ohioans with college degrees is below the national average.

Brown writes in his campaign materials: "Cuts in higher education are further squeezing Ohio families, who are finding a college degree increasingly out of reach. Since 2000, tuition at Ohio's public colleges and universities has increased 68.3 percent."

Brown voted yes on \$84 million in grants for Black and Hispanic colleges and no on giving school vouchers for private and parochial schools. He supports vocational-education programs, loan programs and the work of the nation's Head Start programs.

In the case of NCLB, Brown has written: "The goal of No Child Left Behind was to improve student performance by requiring higher accountability from failing schools while the federal government provided resources to improve student performance."

Brown stated "Unfortunately, Republican leaders in Congress haven't kept up their part of the bargain. No Child Left Behind, established in 2001, remains underfunded by \$40 billion—far short of the promise made to Ohio teachers and students."

CEA, as well as OEA and NEA, are supporting Sherrod Brown for U.S. Senate.

Read more about Brown at [www.sherrodbrown.com](http://www.sherrodbrown.com) and [www.house.gov/sherrodbrown](http://www.house.gov/sherrodbrown).



Sherrod Brown

## Support United Way

Last Thursday, CPS kicked off its United Way campaign. CEA President Rhonda Johnson and Superintendent Gene Harris joined key United Way staff in addressing CEA faculty representatives, stressing how important this effort is for the community. Bruce Green is coordinating our local campaign.

CEA strongly supports United Way because it is a responsible, accountable organization. It always has been closely monitored, and nearly 90 percent of the money collected pays for direct services for those in need. That means funds raised locally stay here to meet local needs. This makes the United Way the most important charity for our local community. Those of us who work in the Columbus Public Schools see the many areas of need daily. United Way is crucial for our children. Please do your part to support this annual effort.



## PAR Conference

CEA will host a national conference on Peer Assistance and Review from Thursday, Oct. 12–Saturday, Oct. 14 at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. This is the third time in the past 15 years that CEA has held such an event.

Educators from across the country are expected to attend. So will representatives from similar programs found in other cities such as Toledo, Chicago and Rochester.

The conference represents the on-going collaboration between CEA, CPS and The Ohio State University College of Education and Human Ecology.

We particularly encourage faculty representatives, building principals and other educators who deal directly with PAR to sign up for the conference. Some space remains for local participants, particularly for the special Saturday morning session for faculty representatives and building principals. For more information, call CEA at 253-4731.



## Help Available

In times of crisis, opportunities can appear. No one doubts that the loss of many students has created a number of problems for our school system. Many teachers have had to move, to change grade levels, to teach new subjects and to return to the classroom from other positions. It would be a blessing if special support were made available. Since hiring is down, the caseload of the PAR Program has been reduced. As a result, CEA and the Administration have created a special program this year called Peer Assistance. This program is available to provide help, ideas and resources. There will be no review or evaluation

involved. Peer Assistance is being offered to the following members:

1. A teacher recently transitioned to another teaching level (elementary, middle or high school)
2. A teacher transitioned from a non-classroom setting to a classroom setting
3. A teacher recently changing his or her teaching area
4. A teacher recently released from PAR (either intern or intervention) who would like some additional assistance
5. A teacher requesting refresher support

This is a positive addition to the services of the school district. It is jointly supported by CEA and the Administration. If you are interested or need more information, call the Director of Human Resources Administration Mira Wright at 365-8307.

Peer Assistance is a voluntary program. It is great to see support being made available. A crisis can show us positive ways to improve the Columbus Public Schools.

## Principals not to conduct voting

A number of members have reported to the CEA that principals are conducting voting for staffs to give up their rights under the collective bargaining agreement.

For example, some elementary principals have asked staffs to vote to give up their contractually guaranteed 10–15 minute break that is scheduled to occur either mid-morning or mid-afternoon.

First, any voting or elections involving members of the CEA bargaining unit must be conducted by the senior faculty representative or a CEA designee. The principal should not initiate, conduct, tally, count or be involved in any manner whatsoever in the voting process of CEA bargaining unit members. To do so would be considered interfering in union business, an unfair labor practice and a violation of the Ohio collective bargaining laws. If principals have conducted any voting in buildings, the results cannot stand.

Second, a member or members cannot simply choose to give up their rights under the collective bargaining agreement. However, the Reform Panel (Article 1403 of the Master Agreement) does allow individuals or school staffs to ask for waivers from the contract, administrative practice or Board of Education policy. The Reform Panel has the authority to grant variances with the approval of the Superintendent and the CEA President.

The CEA has brought this information to the attention of the PLD Executive Directors and the Executive Director of Human Resources. Violations of Article 1403 or any other section of the Agreement should be brought to the attention of CEA.

## Ingram Grants for teachers

Each year, the Ingram-White Castle Foundation contributes funds to the Columbus Public Schools to support educational improvement grants for teachers. Grants ranging from \$100 to \$1,500 are awarded for a variety of projects. Two or more teachers may propose to work jointly on the same project. In the last few years, successful projects have had one common quality—they supported the district's goal of increased academic achievement for students.

Application materials are available from your administrator or from the senior faculty representative. Additional copies can be obtained by calling the Grants Office at 365-8733. Be sure to read the *Suggestions for Ingram Grant Writers*, which will help applicants prepare proposals.

Completed applications are due to the Grants Office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 17. All applications must be originals. No faxes will be accepted. Additional information can be found on the CPS website under the grants section.

## Speak out for Ohio schools

A unique event took place on the evening of Sept. 28.

Nearly 50 friends of public schools gathered in the library of the Fort Hayes



**speak out for  
OHIO SCHOOLS**

Metropolitan Education Center. Included in the group were parents, school board members, superintendents, administrators and union leaders from throughout Franklin County. The concept of the meeting was to provide guidance to the gubernatorial candidates on what needs to be the educational priorities for the next four years.

Similar meetings are taking place throughout Ohio. Many ideas were brought forward during a very in-depth discussion. Consensus developed around five top education priorities:

1. Make public education the top priority by ensuring and funding a high-quality, comprehensive education for all children.
2. Invest in early childhood education.
3. Increase parental involvement in new, innovative ways.
4. Stop funding charter schools and vouchers with taxpayer dollars.
5. Ensure equitable facilities for all of Ohio's children.

A number of CEA members participated in this process. CEA thanks everyone for speaking out for Ohio schools. All of the surveys tell us that the public wants education to be the state's top priority. It is time for the candidates to listen and to be held accountable.

## Special notes

- ❑ **A consolidation issues survey** will be sent to buildings that were affected by the school closings and moves to new buildings and swing spaces. Staff will have the opportunity to share their opinions about the processes and procedures that were used to accomplish school closings and moves. Please take the time to fill it out and return it to Evaluation Services at Kingswood Data Center. Your responses will provide guidance for upcoming closings and moves. The survey is a joint effort of CEA, CSEA and the CPS Administration.
- ❑ Once again, CEA is offering **tickets to the Columbus Blue Jackets home games**. These are great seats in the lower level right behind the goal. They are for sale (\$50 each) on a first-come, first-served basis. The following dates are available: Oct. 9, against Phoenix (4) and Oct. 20, against Toronto (4). Call CEA to purchase tickets.
- ❑ Information packets for upcoming **CEA-organized trips** are available from the CEA office. Please call 253-4731 for information. The first trip, during spring break, is a **cruise of the eastern Caribbean** from April 8–15. Airfare, accommodations and most meals are included. The second trip early next summer will center on the **Aegean Sea** and include visits to both Greece and Turkey. Again, this trip includes airfare, accommodations and most meals.
- ❑ **Capital Day** is coming soon (Friday, Oct. 20). Please take advantage of this day for your personal professional development. This is your day, so use it well. No specific activity is mandatory (except those required by a grant), but we know that all of our members will find opportunities for professional growth.
- ❑ **Annenberg Media** has developed a series of 14 videos on the *Art of Teaching Art*. It is a primer on how K–5 teachers can introduce art into their classrooms. Examples of successful implementation are included along with descriptions of how teachers know when the methods are working. Go to the following site for more information: [www.learner.org/resources/series165.html](http://www.learner.org/resources/series165.html).

### 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)