

# The CEA Voice

Rhonda Johnson, President

[www.ceaohio.org](http://www.ceaohio.org)

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## CEA MEMBERS AND GOV. TED STRICKLAND



Gov. Ted Strickland rallies Columbus teachers and guests to support his budget as introduced.

### Rallying for change

Hundreds of CPS teachers from across the district converged at the Aladdin Shrine Center on May 25 to participate in the CEA Spring Fling and Rally for Public Education.

Teachers and their colleagues participated in grassroots political action signing of the Ohio Fair Funding Amendment petition.

Members also joined Teachers for Better Schools (TBS), the political action arm of CEA. Ongoing financial support provided by TBS members allows us to screen and support candidates who have the best interests of teachers, students and public education at heart.

Teachers also signed letters to be sent to Ohio Senators Goodman, Harris and Stivers in support of the Governor's budget as originally introduced. The letters asked for support in reintroducing Gov. Strickland's proposed charter school moratorium and his suggested elimination of the EdChoice voucher program and calling for the removal of a recently added Special Education Voucher amendment.

Columbus Public Schools PTA President Robyn Taylor and East HS student Veronica Rhoades spoke at the rally to affirm their support for strong schools in our district.

In his speech to the Columbus teachers, Gov. Strickland said, "Public education cannot work with more charter schools. It cannot work with more money being taken out of the system. I support a moratorium on charter schools and the elimination of the EdChoice voucher program." Gov. Strickland who went on to note his lack of support for STEM schools.

CEA President Rhonda Johnson thanked the Governor, noting "Public schools should not be demonized, privatized or voucherized. They should not be sold to the highest bidder. We need to invest in our public schools." She added "The next step is to call your state legislators and tell them to support Governor Strickland."

## Oppose voucher expansion now

Your state representatives will soon vote on a bill to expand the school voucher program.

House Bill 26 creates Urban Homestead Zones in cities with declining populations (meaning the "Ohio 8" urban school districts—Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown). It would allow homeowners in these cities who spend at least \$120,000 on residential improvements or construction to obtain school vouchers for their children and a private security force for their protection.

OEA opposes this bill. We urge you to contact your legislators and join the effort to stop this proposal. Go to [http://ga1.org/ohea/alert-description.tcl?alert\\_id=4756282](http://ga1.org/ohea/alert-description.tcl?alert_id=4756282) and follow the instructions.

At the same time, you can show support for Gov. Ted Strickland's budget by contacting your Ohio Senators.

Strickland's budget includes a moratorium on charter schools. It also would eliminate the EdChoice and the Special Education Voucher programs.

Bring accountability back where it belongs—to your classroom. Help eliminate spending on schools that aren't producing results. Help put dollars back into our public school system.

For more information in our "Support the Governor" campaign, call CEA.



## Supt. Harris commits to joint labor-management committee

CEA President Rhonda Johnson and Supt. Gene Harris are forming a joint labor-management committee. The goal will be to improve trust and respect, so that everyone can focus on the main objective: improving teaching and learning. The committee will consist of 12 members with equal representation from administration and CEA leadership.

The superintendent and deputy superintendent met with the CEA President and Vice President on Apr. 24 and compiled a list of the concerns everyone has in common.

The main challenges are trust, inclusion of all parties at key meetings, avoiding assumptions and sharing concerns before they become out of control. Key issues identified for discussion include items such as school closings, math/science intervention, proposed changes in programming, charter schools, adoption of reading materials, shortening of the school day and school funding.

The parties agreed that certain expectations should become standard if the relationship between the administration and the Association is to remain strong. These include establishing a vehicle for regular communications, producing meeting minutes that can be shared, including teachers and principals in the process and summarizing action steps, assignments and agreements so everyone knows what's expected.

An agreement was also made to keep parents informed of school decisions and to include them as appropriate.

**SES tutoring program update**  
Plans are moving forward on the Supplemental Education Services (SES) tutoring program that the CEA Foundation hopes to offer next school year. The Foundation was approved by ODE to offer SES mandated by the *No Child Left Behind Act*.  
High standards and high expectations will make the CEA Foundation program exceptional. CPS will benefit from a solid after-school tutoring effort from a high quality SES provider. At this time, a number of questions remain unanswered. These include even the basic information of which schools will be eligible for service. More details will be available in an upcoming issue of *The Voice*.

### CEA scholarship recipients

For more than two decades, CEA has honored and supported students with scholarships at the CEA Annual Awards & Retirement Banquet. We congratulate this year’s winners and salute their parents.

**Jake Weisman, son of Myra Weisman**  
(Trevitt ES)  
**CEA Christa McAuliffe Scholarship**  
*(named in memory of the late teacher-astronaut and awarded for pursuing a degree in education)*

**Laishiya Munshi, daughter of Nirja Munshi**  
(Southwood @Reeb ES)  
**CEA General Scholarship**  
*(awarded for pursuing a degree in higher education)*

**Mark Smith, son of Ardelia Young**  
(Northland HS)  
**CEA-R Scholarship**  
*(funded by retired teachers through fund-raising efforts)*

**Cory Winland, son of Betty Winland**  
(Northland HS)  
**Joan Donley CEA-R Scholarship**  
*(awarded in honor of the first CEA-R President)*

**Francisca Fournier**  
(South HS)  
**John E. Grossman Scholarship**  
*(awarded in honor of the long-time CEA President to a student leader at South HS)*

**Standards-based report card for all elementary schools 2007**  
CPS plans to implement the Standards Based Report Card in all elementary schools in the 2007–2008 school year. The report card is the product of a joint CEA/Administration committee.

Teachers are in the process of receiving training on the new card, including how to complete the card electronically. They are being trained on factors and criteria for grading, student assessments, knowledge of standards and scoring and providing effective feedback for students, parents and administrators. Teachers will receive grade books, pacing guides and other resources to assist in this grading transition.  
Professional development will be provided this summer, as well as during the 2007–2008 school year. This training will include additional opportunities to support the Standards Based Report Card, such as effectively using curriculum guides and developing and using checklists and rubrics.  
While there have been some challenges, positive feedback has been received from teachers piloting the new card.

- ### Special notes
- ❑ Celebrate the **retirement** of **Dorothy Gelane Wilson** at the **Confluence Park** on **Friday, June 8, from 5–9 p.m.** *RSVP* and send \$30 checks payable to CEA.
  - ❑ CEA congratulates **Patricia Morris (Cassady ES)** on becoming a published author.
  - ❑ **Formula Response training** will be held from **9 a.m– 3 p.m. at Mifflin HS** this summer as follows: **Aug. 6, 9 and 16:** Grades 3–5; **Aug. 7 and 14:** MS/HS math; **Aug. 8 and 15:** MS/HS science; **Aug. 22:** MS/HS social studies; **Aug. 23:** MS/HS language arts. The Formula Response training has been very popular among teachers. To register, contact Judy Wright at 365-5039.
  - ❑ The equivalent of an FTE was lost when a group of **Franklin MS** staff completed **The Biggest Loser** and lost a total of **130.5 pounds**. The 14 two-member teams were vying for a \$300 winner’s pot. The group lost more than 21percent of body fat. The winning team lost 41 pounds and took 6 percent off their BMI. Congratulations to participants for their valiant efforts.
  - ❑ Bring your gently used school supplies and equipment to the annual **Teacher-to-Teacher Garage Sale**, 8 a.m.–noon, on **Saturday, Aug. 18**, at **Northeast Career Center**, 3871 Stelzer Rd. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. for setup. The event is **sponsored by CEA-R. Tables are \$10**. Send checks to Jeanne Stoll, 1680 Carriage Rd., Powell, OH 43065. Materials from all grades are welcome.
  - ❑ **Rachel Little** was named **School Nurse of the Year** by the Central Ohio Association of School Nurses. Little has worked in public health since 1974. Her school service began two decades ago, and she has worked at the elementary and high school levels, the last four at Brookhaven HS. Little is retiring but will continue her work with the American Red Cross and the Helping Hands Free Clinic.
  - ❑ On **Oct. 19, 2007**, the **Children’s Literature Takes You Places** conference will be held at the OSU-Marion campus. Featured authors are Dr. Asma Mobin-Uddin, author of *My Name is Bilal* and *The Best Eid Ever* and winner of the 2006 Patterson Prize for Books for Young People; and Matthew Zbaracki, author of *Books and Beyond* and *Listen Hear!* Course credit is available. **Registration begins Aug. 1**. For more information visit the P–12 Project online at *www.p12.osu.edu* or contact Mary Jo Fresch at fresch.1@osu.edu.
  - ❑ **Experience Korea** this summer free as part of the Hallym Institute of Advanced International Studies in Seoul. The English day camp runs **July 23–Aug. 22**. All working U.S. teachers are eligible. Round-trip airfare is provided by the institute, and amenities include housing and a modest stipend (approximately \$1,000). For more information, visit *http://hiais.hallym.ac.kr/camp* or email rmekorea@gmail.com. Registration deadline is June 30.
  - ❑ **Tickets for amusement parks**, such as Cedar Point and King’s Island, **are not being provided** by COESRA for sale by CEA this summer. We apologize for any inconvenience. AMC movie tickets are still available for \$6 each.
  - ❑ CEA is available all summer to assist members. Our **summer hours** are **9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday** . Check out the CEA Website regularly for member updates. **Have a great summer!**

## cea-r Membership Form

**Join CEA-R now.** Your interests help CEA-R determine the activities we offer. CEA-R Life Membership is \$100. Yearly membership is \$10. Return this form with your check to CEA.

First Name	MI	Last Name	Home Phone
Address	City	ST	ZIP
Email Address			