

The Voice

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www.ceaohio.org

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Columbus Education Association

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Get ready to prove health insurance eligibility

The district is taking a look at health-care policies to see if dependents claimed by policyholders are eligible for coverage.

The audit began after the State Auditor looked at district expenditures and found \$8,021 paid for ineligible dependents and identified several procedural and record-keeping concerns.

The district has contracted with an auditing firm, Chapman Kelly, to take a closer look at dependent eligibility.

Here's what the results mean for you: If your children or other dependents are part of your health-care plan, you need to start digging out birth certificates, marriage licenses, adoption records, divorce decrees, etc.

In May, you will receive a letter from the school district introducing Chapman Kelly and informing you of the process, criteria and timeline.

From May 26–July 27 you will be required to submit evidence of eligibility. Ineligible dependents will be dropped immediately from the plan.

If claims were paid after May 25 on ineligible dependents, the employee will be responsible for paying the claims.

Anybody who doesn't respond with evidence for their dependent(s) prior to July 27 will have claims suspended for the affected dependent(s). (Sept. 28 will be the deadline to provide evidence.)

There will be an appeal process at the end; but once a dependent is dropped, you won't be able to add them back until the open enrollment period, Oct. 15–Nov. 15, for a January 1 effective date—and only with evidence of eligibility.

The definition of an eligible dependent:

- ▶ wife or husband
- ▶ unmarried children who are under 19 years of age
- ▶ any other unmarried children over age 19, but under age 24 (if the child is not regularly employed on a full-time basis; and is primarily dependent upon the employee for support and maintenance).

Your children include:

- ▶ your natural children
- ▶ your adopted children, or children placed and approved for adoption
- ▶ your stepchildren

For further clarification, please call CEA.

1040 Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service 2006 (99) IRS																	
U.S. Individual Income Tax Return																	
For the year Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2006, or other tax year beginning _____, 2006, ending _____																	
Label (See instructions on page 16.) Use the IRS	1 Your first name and initial _____ Last name _____ 2 If a joint return, spouse's first name and initial _____ Last name _____																
Exemptions	6a <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse. If someone can claim you as a dependent, do not check box 6a. b <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse. If someone can claim you as a dependent, do not check box 6b. c Dependents: (1) First name Last name (2) Dependent's social security number (3) Dependence relationship you <table border="1"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> d Total number of exemptions claimed _____																

New elementary schedule inequitable

The proposed schedule for elementary schools next year has some serious flaws.

Many of you have seen a sample schedule. But look more closely. It does not show when students have library time or time for instrumental music.

Also, we believe that the number of teachers allocated for art, music and physical education are too few to serve the number of minutes required in the CEA contract (Article 307).

Consequently, the teachers just laid off will probably have to be recalled by the time school starts. Hopefully, the district will not have to spend its limited funds on unemployment compensation.

The schedule has another problem: The new math and science specialists are not provided any time for professional obligations such as team meetings and conferencing with colleagues. Once the students arrive, the only unencumbered time without students is their duty-free lunch. At least regular classroom teachers have time for other professional duties during art, music and physical education instruction. This has produced an inequitable schedule for teachers working in the same building.

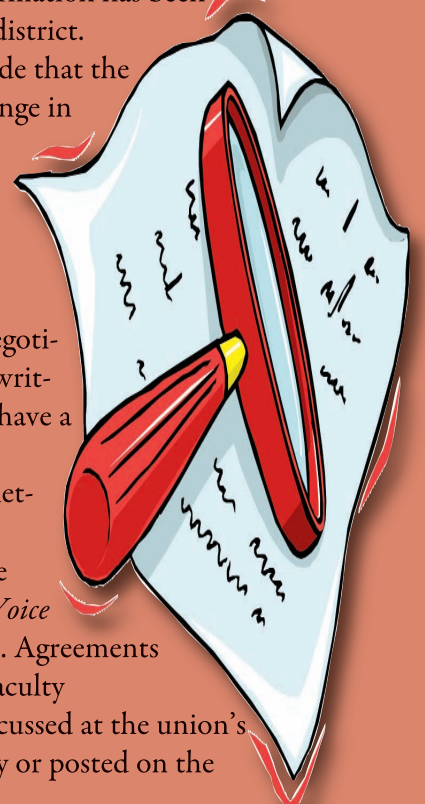
The persons who created the schedule are inexperienced in organizing the elementary school day. Now the building principals are being asked to make sense out of a situation they had no hand in creating.

Check the source

Some inaccurate information has been circulating in the school district.

Claims are frequently made that the union has agreed to a change in terms and conditions of employment in order to get you to acquiesce. We want to set the record straight on a few matters:

- CEA *always* puts negotiated agreements in writing. This is why we have a contract, memos of understanding and letters of agreement.
- CEA agreements are announced in *The Voice* for everyone to read. Agreements are distributed to Faculty Representatives, discussed at the union's Legislative Assembly or posted on the CEA Web site.
- Don't believe everything you hear. Check it out. We are always here, ready to answer your questions.



Gainsharing for next year

In 1997, CEA negotiated an alternative approach to compensation, known as gainsharing. Gainsharing is a method of distributing funds for improved education and student achievement in Columbus Public Schools. Last year, the Board awarded more than \$1,126,220 to teachers for increasing academic achievement for the 2005–06 school year.

A Joint Gainsharing Committee of CEA and administration representatives develops the criteria for allocating funds. Teachers assigned to buildings for at least 120 days are eligible to receive gainsharing if the school makes Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Teachers not assigned to school buildings full time who wish to attach themselves to a building for gainsharing purposes must have a *Service Plan* on file in the Labor Relations office by Apr. 30. Call the Labor Relations office 365-5636 to obtain a form.

The Director of Labor Relations recently sent to principals *Staff Control Reports* to verify individuals who may be eligible to receive gainsharing payments for next school year. Please make sure your name is on the roster your principal received from Labor Relations.

Gainsharing for the 2006–07 school year will be paid in the 2007–08 school year.

Tell your NCLB story

The Ohio Education Association wants to hear your stories about how the *No Child Left Behind Act* affects you, your classroom, your school and your community.

Your personal stories will go to Ohio congressional representatives as evidence during the ongoing reauthorization debate.

Be part of the NCLB stories project: With your words, demonstrate the facts instead of the fiction.

Across the country, NCLB's unfunded mandates and bureaucratic policies are placing burdens on educators and the students you serve. Make sure that politicians in Washington hear your voice by sharing your first-hand experiences about the impacts of NCLB with OEA and congressional leaders.

Here's the Web site to participate: <https://www.ohea.org>. Click on the "everyone needs to hear your stories" link.

Grants available for the arts

The Franklin County Neighborhood Arts program is a small grants program designed to assist neighborhood and community groups with arts projects in all disciplines.

Awards range from \$200–\$2,000. Entries for the next round of applications must be received by May 31, 2007.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one of two free grant workshops being offered. Workshops will be held Tuesday, May 1, at the King Arts Complex from 2–3 p.m.

and Thursday, May 3, at the Greater Columbus Arts Council from 6:30–7:30 p.m. Call GCAC at 221-8625 to register.

Download Franklin County Neighborhood Arts program guidelines and application materials from the Grants and Services for Organizations section of the Greater Columbus Arts Council's Web site at www.gcac.org, or contact GCAC for more information.

Special notes

- Application forms for **summer quarter fee waivers are in all buildings.** The completed fee waiver application is due back to Northgate by **Friday, May 4, at 5 p.m.** If you have **Priority I** or **Priority II** status, please be sure to **include the proper documentation** with your completed application. Without this important documentation, your priority status will change.
- On **Saturday, May 5, at 9 a.m.** volunteers are needed to clean up the **Workers' Memorial Park** and to plant flowers. Be at the park at Front and Long Streets. On **Saturday, May 12**, the **Central Ohio Labor Council, AFL-CIO** will observe **Workers' Memorial Day** to remember those who have been killed or injured on the job. This day should be more than a remembrance; it should be a time to renew our fight for a strong safety and health protection law. We encourage everyone to attend both days.
- There will be a **retirement party for Carol Losinske** from **Duxberry Park ES** on **May 19 at 3 p.m.** For details and to *RSVP*, call Marsha Weinbaum at 338-5192.
- A course at Northgate Saturday, May 5 and 12, will **prepare non-Somali-speaking staff to work with students, parents and visitors.** The course, *SOS-Education Edition*, will be held **9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.** on both days. **Space is limited** to 25 teachers. The **course is free** to teachers, and eligible participants will **earn 1.2 CEUs.** Upon completion, school staff members will be able to use Somali to monitor and control non-classroom school settings; greet and give basic instructions to parents or visitors; and identify student needs. For information, call Greg Mild at 365-5039.
- Robot-building team wins praise**—Congratulations to the student members of the **Whetstone HS Robotics Team** and their advisors, **William Kautz** and **Carolyn Lake.** The students, named **Team Lugnut**, won a number of awards at the **first Robotics Buckeye Regional Competition** held Mar. 9–11 in Cleveland. The team **finished fourth among 42 teams** competing. It also won several special awards given to them by other teams in the true spirit of sportsmanship. The object of the competition was to build a robot that could pick up and shoot balls into a 10-foot-high basket.
- Medina MS staff** has just completed *The Biggest Loser.* As a whole, the group of 14 who completed the program **lost 158.5 pounds!** The average weight loss was 11.32 pounds. The team (everyone had a partner) with the biggest loss was 32.5 pounds. The winning team lost 8.63 percent of the beginning total body weight. Congratulations!
- Alabama Civil Rights Tour, June 14–17**, gives an inside view of the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham and Montgomery. Ashland graduate credit is available. The package covers bus transportation, two nights lodging, all tours, breakfast daily, one lunch and tickets to the Blues-Music Fest. The cost is \$349 (based on double occupancy). For information contact Glo Kenley at 898-9505 or gloriabk@msn.com. For information, about graduate credit, contact JoAnnette Byas-Marston at jbmars@gmail.com.

Issues with the 211 process

If you have any concerns, suggestions or other issues that have arisen as a result of the Article 211 process, including postings, the interview process, communication issues or anything that you would like to convey to CEA concerning Article 211, please use this tear-off form and return it to CEA; or email us at jnelson@ceaohio.org.

Name _____

Email or phone _____

in case we need clarification

Nature of the concern and interview site _____