

# The CEA Voice

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## Student “Safe Harbor” bill has legs

House Bill 7 was unanimously passed by the Senate Education Committee the week of Feb. 23. The bill had been approved unanimously by the Ohio House. OEA supports House Bill 7 which contains student “safe harbor” provisions related to state assessments and also provides school districts “safe harbor” from a funding penalty if a student does not take all of the assessments required by the state.

HB 7 would provide students “safe harbor” from scores on certain state assessments taken in the 2014–15 school year. These tests include the achievement assessments for grades 3–8 and the end-of-course exams for grades 9–12, which could not be used as a factor in high-stakes decisions for such things as grade promotion, retention or the granting of course credit for the 2014–15 school year. Providing students this “safe harbor” will help ensure that the implementation of Ohio’s New Learning Standards and related assessments do not unfairly impact students during this transition period. This legislation, however, does not have any impact on the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

The bill also establishes more flexibility to retake the grades 9–12 end-of-course exams, which could provide some students the extra opportunity they need to graduate under the End-of-Course Exam pathway for a high school diploma. Further, the flexibility to retake an exam if a student misses a testing date may limit some of the negative consequences for students and school districts if a student fails to take a state assessment.

The Senate Education Committee included an important amendment regarding a “safe harbor” for school funding. Offered by Sen. Gayle Manning, R-North Ridgeville, the amendment ensures that schools will not lose state per-pupil funding for a student who does not take all of the required state assessments in the 2014–15 school year. Under current law, a school district may not include, for funding purposes, any student who did not take all of the required statewide tests during the previous school year, unless the student was granted a waiver for good cause by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

## Make a difference and vote for a school

NBC4 (WCMH-TV) is giving \$10,000 to each of three local schools to help fund projects, and more than twenty CCS schools are in the running for these monies. Vote online now through Monday, Mar. 23, to help our schools win. You may vote as often as you like for a particular school, but only once each day. To vote, first register by going to <http://bit.ly/1M1tCLN>.

Here are the CCS schools in the running:



**Avalon ES:** The Eagles Landing–Renovate a playground.  
Soar Technology Enhancement–Buy tablets to improve reading and math skills.

**Cedarwood ES:** Project Adventure–Develop space at Spruce Run Education Center for outdoor activities and camp.

**Clinton ES:** Clinton Elementary Performing Arts–Improve the school’s lighting, sound and storage systems for the school’s many performances.

**Cols. North International HS:** CONNECT 2 (Countries, Colleges, Careers): Expand technology to improve student access to countries, colleges and careers.

**Eakin ES:** Reading Matters–Institute a program that will support the implementation of Interactive Read-Aloud and Literature Discussion.

**Georgian Heights ES:** Environmental Studies Lab–Equipment for study in the school’s indoor/outdoor investigation zones.

**Hubbard Mastery School PreK–6:** Hubbard Shines–Build an educational playground. Think Fun–Equip an educational playground for active learning.

**Leewood ES:** Read to Succeed–Alleviate book shortage and increase access for all the students.

**Linden STEM Academy PreK–6:** Culture and Service in Ecuador 2016–Help fund student trip focusing on ecosystems and service learning.

**Livingston ES:** Intervention Technology Lab–Help teachers use adaptive lessons to differentiate reading/writing instruction.

**Marion-Franklin HS:** Alternate Energy Micro-Grid–Support construction of a student-built power grid.

**Moler ES:** Blessings in a Backpack–Provide portable, take-home snacks for the weekends.

**North Linden ES:** Leopards Learn with Technology–Purchase updated Chromebooks to increase student access.

**Ohio ES:** Ohio Avenue University–Enhance volunteer after-school enrichment activities.

**Parkmoor ES:** Technology to the Core–Promote active, self-directed learning with iPads/Apple TV.

**Salem ES:** Flexible Learning Space–Renovate atrium space for gathering, study and planning.

**Sherwood MS:** Digital Makeover–Create a “360-degree classroom” to support multiple strategies.

**Starling K–8:** Maker’s Space–Outfit five carts and a dedicated space for student exploration. Memorial Field–Complete construction of a softball diamond.

**Ridgeview MS:** Project Connect–Install Wi-Fi to enhance teaching/learning.

**Walnut Ridge HS:** Athletics–Provide updated training equipment.

**Whetstone HS:** Music Department–Buy instruments and update the sound system.

## Scholarship Opportunities

Your high school senior may be eligible to receive a CEA scholarship. The deadline for submitting applications for CEA scholarships is Friday, Apr. 17, 5 p.m. Two of the scholarships available are the \$1,500 Christa McAuliffe Scholarship, awarded to a student pursuing a degree in education, and the \$1,000 CEA General Scholarship. Both are renewable for up to four years at a reduced level from the first-year award. Also, one-year scholarships are awarded by CEA-R and the Rhonda Johnson Scholarship Fund. A senior at South HS will be awarded the Grossman Memorial Scholarship. Applicants must be children of CEA or CEA-R members.

The Christa McAuliffe Memorial Scholarship is granted each year to a student majoring in education unless no applicants indicate they are majoring in education. This scholarship will be one and one half times the amount of any other scholarships awarded.

Applicants must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or above which must be verified by an official high school transcript.

Applicants must:

- ▶ Be graduating high school seniors
- ▶ Include a copy of the Student Aid Report from FAFSA
- ▶ Indicate all financial aid (other than student loans) which they expect to receive
- ▶ Provide statement of their personal philosophies and goals
- ▶ Include a personal reference from someone other than a family member and an academic reference
- ▶ Include verification of GPA by official transcript

Visit <http://bit.ly/2015ScholGuidlines> to download an application or call the CEA office at 253-4731.

## Congratulations to our NBCTs

It's hard work becoming a National Board Certified teacher. This advanced teaching credential is selectively awarded by the National Board for Professional



Teaching Standards after a long list of requirements centering on deep reflection and demonstration of educational excellence. It's a mechanism for recognizing and rewarding the impact these master teachers have on improving student learning. Since the 1993 inception of the program in Ohio, 3,338 teachers have achieved National Board Certification. Join CEA in congratulating the following new National Board Certified Teachers: **Courtney Johnson**, Adolescence and Young Adult–English Language Arts; **Beth Mikesell**, Early Middle Childhood–Literacy: Reading-Language Arts; **Catherine Miller**, Early Childhood–Generalist; **Carolyn Willis**, Early Middle Childhood–Literacy: Reading-Language Arts.

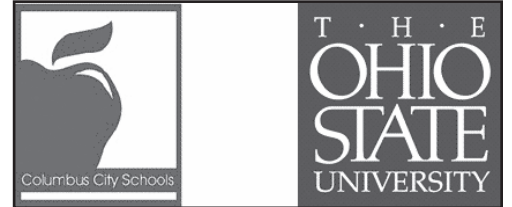
The teachers listed below are renewed NBCTs: **Alan D'Aurora**, Early Adolescence–Science; **Julia DeGarmo**, Early Childhood through Young Adult–Exceptional Needs Specialist; **Kelly O'Brien**, Early Childhood through Young Adult–Physical Education; **Georgia O'Hara**, Adolescence and Young Adult–Science.

Learn more about how you can apply for this certification by visiting <http://www.nbpts.org/national-board-certification>.

## Pre-register for CCS/OSU Outreach Courses

The CCS/OSU Outreach Courses for Summer Term 2015 will be open for online pre-registration Mar. 2–15.

Available courses are:



- READING ENDORSEMENT–Assessment and Instruction for Struggling Readers (EDUTL 5470)
- READING ENDORSEMENT–Reading Complex Texts for Comprehension and Interpretation (EDUTL 7429)
- READING ENDORSEMENT–Understanding Phonics and Its Role in Instruction (EDUTL 5469)
- SPECIAL EDUCATION–Classroom Behavior Management (ESSPED 5750)
- TESOL and READING–Language Arts in the Bilingual/Multicultural Classroom (EDUTL 5610)
- TESOL–Second Language Acquisition (EDUTL 5620)

For more information about these classes and to pre-register, go to <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/osu> (you may need to use Internet Explorer), click on “Summer 2015 Courses,” then read through the information pages to get to the list of courses.

## Special Notes

- ❑ **Campaigning for CEA Elections is underway through Mar. 30. Voting will take place from Mar. 17–30. Votes will be tabulated Mar. 31.** In the event of run-offs, voting will take place from Apr. 21–May 4, with votes tallied on May 5. Take the time to vote for **Governors for Districts 3 and 6 and 2015 NEA Delegates, 2015 NEA State Delegates At-Large and 2015–2016 OEA Delegates.** The races for both High School Governor At-Large and the race for the District 10 Governor position were uncontested, and they were elected by acclamation.
- ❑ **The following schools/units have approved alternate interview panels:** Alpine ES, AIMS, Avalon ES, Beechcroft HS, Berwick K–8, Buckeye MS; CAHS, Clinton ES, Columbus Africentric Early College, Columbus City Prep. For Girls, Columbus Hearing Impaired Program, Duxberry Park Arts Impact, Eastgate ES, Easthaven ES, East Linden ES, Highland ES, Huy/A.G. Bell ES, Johnson Park MS, Juvenile Detention Center, Lindbergh ES, Livingston ES, Medina MS, Mifflin MS, North Linden ES, Oakland Park ES, Oakmont ES, Olde Orchard ES, South Mifflin STEM Academy, Special Needs Preschool, Starling STEM K–8, Transition/Work-Study, Unified Arts, Wedgewood MS, Windsor STEM Acad. PreK–6, Westmoor MS and Woodcrest ES.
- ❑ Application information for the **Teachers' Dream Grant** was sent to buildings in February. The grant provides an opportunity for all teachers to apply for individual school-based grants from **\$500–\$5,000** focusing on academic enrichment, increasing student achievement, closing the achievement gap, improving school/community relations and improving classroom learning climate. **Submit your application online by Apr. 17, 4 p.m.** Call **Andrea Richardson** at 365-5733 with questions.
- ❑ Here are the **2014 dues deductions** for CEA members: **Full Dues, Plan A** (21 Pays) **\$831.53**, **Plan B** (26 Pays) **\$831.79**. **If you switched from: Plan A to B: \$774.63** or went from **Plan B to A: \$888.79**. **Half Dues** are **\$466.49** and **Quarter Dues** are **\$275.19**.
- ❑ Teacher applications for **summer school** are now posted on the **CCS Intranet** under the “Staff” page.